

of immortal souls, and of the possibility that some of the culprits might be for ever lost in consequence of their ignorance of Christ. I availed myself, therefore, of the first opportunity of going back again. After various discouragements I obtained admission, and immediately began to address a young man in irons. Others heard and flocked about me. I trembled through anxiety and fear. While I was musing the fire kindled, and truly I wanted no sermon to read. Several appropriate scriptures came powerfully to my mind. I therefore took my bible from my pocket and read them. While I was endeavouring to explain them, others in abundance were brought to my recollection. I felt a desire that all the world should be present, that I might have preached unto them salvation by Jesus Christ. I made the prisoners a promise that I would pray to the God of mercy on their behalf; and O, may He hearken to the voice of my cry."

JAMES HARRIS.

Essays.

DANCING DISCIPLES.

WE have been requested by several to express our views on the subject of dancing, in its relation to Christian character. Our first thought is, that the whole matter ought to be self-adjusting; that while those who have no higher object may naturally be expected to fritter away life in vain amusements, Christians, who have waked up to the claims of God and the solemnities of eternity, can have no possible relish for such hilarity, and hence hardly need any counsel in the case. In other words, people ought to be so thoroughly converted to God as to make it safe to throw out this sweeping challenge: Now commit as many murders, steal as much money, tell as many lies, use as much profane language, practise as much adultery, cheat as many people, drink as much whiskey, use as much tobacco, wear as much jewellery, and attend as many dancing parties, as you desire! We ought to be saved from all desire for such "fruits of the flesh," so that a positive prohibition would impose no galling yoke and constitute no painful constraint upon our liberties. Alas, that current Christianity does not always turn out such excellent work as is here indicated! Many who profess to have turned their backs upon the world, are greatly troubled with intermittent longings after "the flesh-pots of Egypt." Not really satisfied with gospel "manna," their mouth sometimes waters for the "leeks and onions" of this vain world.