

The Beggar and the Guinea.

A beggar asking Dr. Smollet for a shilling, by a mistake he gave him a guinea. The poor fellow perceiving it, hobbled after him to return the money ; upon which Smollet

returned it to him with a second guinea, as a reward for his honesty, exclaiming, " What a lodging honesty has taken up with ! I would rather be that man than a dishonest king."

MISSIONARY.

Eighty Thousand Idols.

An American missionary, travelling in the ancient kingdom of Aracan, heard an old temple spoken of which was said to contain 80,000 idols.

" This appeared to me," said he, " strange and remarkable ; for how can it be imagined that a people can have so many gods, and that one temple can contain these images ? Athens, in the highest days of its paganism and its glory, certainly had not half the number. However, I had the curiosity to go to see with my own eyes how many there were ; and, as soon as I entered the court, I soon saw, not that the number of 80,000 was quite correct, but at least that it could not be far below the fact. All this court, more than five and twenty feet square, was filled with idols, heaped one upon another, but almost all overthrown or broken, although they were generally of a man's height, and made of very hard solid stone.

" It was the same in the inside of the temple. Three of its sides presented to the sight long rows of vaulted niches, forming several stages, and completely filled with the idols pressed together. It is impossible to give an idea of this singular mass of idol-gods ; but what

may be said, and what confirms the sentence pronounced against false gods in holy writ is, that they have no longer any worshipers. The ancient renown of this temple has passed away, with the importance of the city around it. It is now only visited by the curious, like myself, and hundreds of bats, which have taken up their dwelling there, and who are the only living creatures interrupting, with the sound of their wings, the dead silence of this desolate place—a singular and striking fulfillment of the prophecy, Isaiah, ii, 20."

Heathen Ignorance.

" I have adorned the walls of my rooms," says a missionary in India, " with pictures, portraits, and views, birds and animals ; and on my tables I have placed a variety of curiosities, such as little mummy figures from Egypt, chimney ornaments from England, a small globe, &c. These form grand attractions to my visitors, who are so delighted to see them as a child is with a rare show. Besides, fame has made known that I possess some magnetic fish and ducks, a camera obscura, and other wonderful things from Europe.

" I often find, after a long conversation on matters of a higher kind, that I have been honoured