

about fifty years ago, began to send Bibles and missionaries to heathen lands. "The labourers were few," and often feeble; but the results have been astonishing. In every quarter of the globe the sound of the Gospel is now heard. New Zealand, forty years ago the abode of bloodthirsty cannibals, has now its twenty Christian churches, and its tens of thousands of native worshippers. Africa, on its western coast and in its southern territory, has hundreds of communities of Christian men and women, living the lives of faithful followers of Christ. Burmah has more than a hundred native preachers of the Gospel; Madagascar more than half that number; while in India between 100,000 and 200,000 Protestant Christians already reward the labourer's toil.

These are the fruits of a few feeble efforts, put forth only within the last fifty or sixty years, by some of the sincere followers of Christ in England and in America. Hundreds of peaceful and happy Christian villages are now dotted over the earth's surface, in lands where, at the opening of the present century, lust and cruelty, oppression and all manner of abominations, reigned alone. These hopes for the future the world owes to the Bible; but they are, as yet, only the first-fruits of a great and glorious harvest. But, in every one of these homes of Christian civilisation, whether in a peaceful English village, or in one equally happy in Burmah or in Sierra Leone, the father of a family who can look around on a loving wife and children, free, happy, intelligent, obedient, knowing neither crime nor fear, must, if he rightly appreciates these blessings, exclaim, with a grateful heart, "All this, under God's mercy, I owe to the Bible."—*The Quiver*.

DECISION AND DESTINY.

Indecision ruins souls by millions. Truth and conscience and the Spirit plead for duty and right; pleasure, and riches, and ambition tempt to sin and ruin. Thousands know the better path of happiness and peace, but follow the road that leads to death.

Prescott, the eminent historian, relates that Pizarro the conqueror of Peru, in one of his reverses, was cast upon the island of Gallo, with a few of his followers. When in a starving condition, two vessels arrived from Panama for his relief, and to induce him to abandon his object. Now came the test of his decision of character, and the determination of his earthly destiny. "Drawing his sword, he traced a line with it in the sand from east to west. Then turning towards the south, 'Friends and comrades,' he said, 'on that side

are toil, hunger, nakedness, the dreddening storm, desolation, and death; on this side, ease and pleasure. There lies Peru, with its riches; here, Panama and its poverty.—Choose, each man, what becomes a brave Castilian. For my part I go to the south.'—So saying, he stepped across the line. He was followed by eleven others," and Peru was conquered.

Could we encircle each impenitent reader with a line drawn by the sword of the Spirit, we would say, "Dying man, there are self-denial, and providential discipline, and fearful conflicts, and ceaseless toils, and ultimate victory and reward; here are present ease, and fleeting joys, and empty honours. There is heaven and its glories; here is earth, with its pleasures; and yonder, hell, with its destiny of misery. 'Choose you this day whom ye will serve,' and where you will go. Eternity hinges on your decision—an eternity of bliss or woe!"—*Herald of Mercy*.

PRAY MORE—TALK LESS.

A lady, who had been a sincere follower of Christ, but whose husband was still unconverted was much afflicted on his account, one day told a clergyman that she had done all in her power in persuading and beseeching him to turn from his evil practices, but to no effect. "Madam," said he, "Talk more to God about your husband, and less to your husband about God." A few weeks after, the lady called upon him, full of joy that her prayers to God had been heard, and that a change was wrought, by Divine grace, upon her husband's mind.—*Band of Hope Review*.

COMPOUND INTEREST GIVEN.

I knew a rich merchant in Petersburg, Russia, who, at his own cost, supported a number of native missionaries in India, and gave like a prince to the cause of God at home. I asked him, one day, how he could do it? He replied, "When I served the devil, I did it on a large scale, and at princely expense; and when, by his grace, God called me out of darkness, I resolved Christ should have more than the devil had had. But how I can give so much, you must ask God, who enables me to give it. At my conversion I told the Lord his cause should have a part of all that my business brought me; and every year since I made him that promise it has brought me in about double that it did the year before, so that I can and do double my gifts to his cause." How true what Bunyan said:

"A man there was, so he called him mad;
The more he cast away, the more he had."

"There is," saith God, "that giveth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than he meet, and it tendeth to poverty." God will be debtor to no one. He pays compound interest for all that by faith, is put into his hand.