

MEETING AT THE TOP.

In one of his inimitable sketches Norman Macleod presents us with a story of the members of two rival Scottish sects, which is as full of meaning as an ancient parable.

"I mind," said David, "twa neighbors of ours, and ye'll mind them too, gude wife; that was Johnnie Horton and Andrew Gebbie. The one was a keen Burgher, and the tither was an anti-burgher. Baith lived in the same house, though at different ends, and it was the bargain that each should keep his ain side of the house aye well thatched. But they happened to dispute sae keenly about the principles or their kirks that at last they quarrelled and didn't speak at a'. So one day, after this, as they were on the roof thatching, each on his ain side, they reached the top, and looked over face to face. What could they do? They could nae flee. So, at last Andrew took aff his Kilmarnock cap, and scratching his head, said: 'Johnnie, you and me, I think, hae been very foolish to dispute as we hae done about our kirks, until we hae almost forgot His will about ourselves; and so we hae fought so bitterly for what we ca' the truth that it has ended in spite. Whatever is wrang, it is perfectly certain that it can never be right to be uncevil, unneighborly, unkind; in fact, to hate ane another. Na, na, that's the devil's wark, and na God's. Noo it strikes me, that it's wi' the kirk as wi' this house. Ye are working on ane side, and me on tither, but if we only do our work well we will meet at the top at last. *Gi'e us your han', auid neighbor.*"

THE SLAVE TRADE IN AFRICA.

One of the results of British Intervention of the Soudan we trust will be the destruction of the slave-trade. Against the terrible scourge of Africa, so long carried on by the Arabs, Mohammedanism offers no protests, or even ameliorations. And here some statements made by Mr. H. M. Stanley at the recent great anti-slavery demonstration at Manchester, and which was attended by some 5000 persons, are in point.

He described in the course of his remarks a scene on the Upper Congo, and which, it is to be presumed, is at least of yearly occurrence. Many miles of what had been on a former visit a fertile and populous country, now only presented marks of fire and ruined villages. There were only a few survivors, who told him that a band of men, clothed as he w

in white cloth—and carrying hollow tubes that vomited fire, had come down from the north, shot down all the men that could not escape, and carried into captivity the women and children. Mr. Stanley supposed from the description that they must be Arab slave-hunters from the neighborhood of Khartoum, and this proved to be true.

A day or two afterwards he reached the spot where they were encamped. Boldly approaching the camp, he found there a body of 300 fighting men, keeping in manacles and fetters 2300 naked women and children, their bodies emaciated and encrusted with dirt, having for food but a bunch of bananas, or a load of cassava roots, such as a farmer's wife might throw into a pig-trough. It was like a ravening human kennel; a raucous effluvium of unwashed humanity filled the air, a rancid chatter of wretched mortals filled the ears, and the eyes were saturated with extreme misery.

Mr. Stanley calculated that the waters of the Congo would receive the corpses of very many, and that only some 800, certainly not 900, would reach their destination. Now for weary years and ages even, these cruelties have cried to heaven for redress. We trust the day of Arab sway in all that country is very near its end.—*N. Y. Evangelist.*

THE LORD'S TIME.

The Lord is never in a hurry. His promises all stand sure, but they have to wait his time for their fulfilling. They come to pass just as soon as is necessary, but not always so soon as his people expect or desire. When haste was a necessity, the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt in a single night, even though he had to make a path through the Red Sea to compass it. But after he had promised to set his name in a chosen place in Canaan, he waited well-nigh five hundred years before he permitted the first stone of the temple at Jerusalem to be put in its place. Yet he delayed not an hour beyond the time of his own good pleasure. And this is a truth which every Christian believer has reason to bear in mind, while waiting the fulfilment of God's promises: "Forget not this one thing, beloved, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness;" but some of the best things in the promises of God must be waited for in patience by his loved ones.