

**A KING OF THE GILBERT ISLANDS PROFESSING CHRIST.**

That is always effective preaching which is backed by earnest and consistent example. Instances of this often occur on the Missionfields, as, for example, Kamia, the Christian chief of the Keffirs, or the Pomares, of Tahiti. In the same honourable line stands the recently converted king of Apomama, Gilbert Islands. On a visit paid by him recently to the neighboring island of Maiana he declined the heathenish dances proposed in his honour, in such a speech as would have done credit to other kings of a lighter complexion:—

"I have come to your island without arms, for I have given up war. I cannot accept your drinks and games, for they are wrong. I have learned that these things are sinful. There is another life after this, and if we do not prepare for it in this world we shall be lost. I have heard of Christ, the King of all, and I have taken him for my king. I have put my wives away, for it is sinful to have more than one. I have put away all I know to be sin, and made up my mind to live a Christian life and stand on the Lord's side. Now I advise you all to do the same."

So great was the effect produced by his words and by his life while on the island, that the chiefs and people of Maiana forsook their fighting, drinking and heathen dancing, and made laws to abolish them, while they went to teacher and trader, asking, "What must we do to be saved?" —*W. Miss. News.*

**RESOLUTIONS.**

That admirable man, James W Alexander, D. D., once remarked to a dear friend, "I used to make resolutions at the New Year, but now I am disheartened. The most despondent thought I have is a fear of never being much better in this world." And yet, no doubt, those who know him would have said that he was constantly growing better and more ripe, and those very resolutions of improvement were part of the process of improvement. Like other earnest people who aim high, desiring holiness of heart and life, he saw how far short of his ideal he fell, and was disappointed. But if the man who resolves to fight sin and to cultivate piety comes short of the mark, how much greater will be the

shortcoming of one who does not solve to fight the flesh, the world, the devil! The trouble is not that resolutions are not worth the making, but that they are worth making—but the sight of them. A resolution rarely carries itself into effect. The resolutionist of to-day must be the striver of to-day again, the resolver and striver to-morrow, and next day, and every day. "Patient perseverance in well doing" is the means of growth in all good things. If, then, the closing year finds us discouraged by past failures, and almost afraid to try again, let us rise with fresh determination that we will do better and look to God with cheerful expectation. A capital text is found in these words of Paul (Phil. iii. 13, 14): "Forgetting those which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

**ANSWERED.**

An Infidel Jew in the east of London not long ago interrupted an open-air preacher with the remark that "no such a man as Jesus Christ ever lived." A workingman in the audience turned to the objector and said:

"You brought me a bill for some things I bought of you the other day?"

"Yes, I did."

"At the top of it you wrote, after the month, 1881?"

"Yes."

"What did you mean by 1881?"

There was silence. The Jew did not know what to say.

"What does 1881 mean? You go back till you come at once to the year 1. What happened then? It is the year of what?"

"The Jew had to confess:

"It was the birth of Him you call Christ."

"Then," replied the workingman, "don't say that such a man never lived. If he never lived you have no business to put 1881 on the bill."

*Wanted*—Fresh air in churches. Ventilate! O ye sextons! Many of our sanctuaries are like to the church in which Dudley Warner says that he attempted to worship, and of which he testifies that the reproduction of the old Gothic is so complete that the builders even seem to have brought over the ancient air from the churches of the middle ages. You would declare it hadn't changed in two centuries."