

the conviction that Christian consistency and devotedness to the world's recovery, are one and the same thing; that without such intense devotedness to that one object nothing morally great has ever been achieved; men who feel that they are not their own as intensely as if their persons were marked and sprinkled with the blood of Christ; and who in the spirit of that self-consecration should resolve, that by God's help, the world should feel their influence before they die. O, for such an instrumentality! The Church would be converted and the world too.

"The constitution of the Christian Church supposes that every individual member is prepared to take his post as an agent for Christ. It does not allow the indolent to fold his arms and transfer his duty to another. It does not permit the fashionable professor to wait till Christian labour becomes genteel. It does not permit the wealthy to buy off his personal services by the bribe of large donations. It requires both his activity and his donations. It contains a post for every man; and hence the first inquiry which some Christian communities make of a newly admitted member is, 'What shall your post be?'

"Were the writer to be asked to what it was owing chiefly, that the early triumphs of the Gospel were arrested; how it was that Christian usefulness died out of the world, and piety out of the Church? He would suggest that it was to be ascribed principally to that master device of Satan, by which the Christian professor was led to suppose that he could do every thing by proxy; that there was an order of men on whom for a certain consideration, he could devolve his duties both to God and man. Now, *this is substantial Popery!* The very essence of that system consists in undertaking to exempt its votaries from their personal responsibility, in finding a price for every duty, and a discharge from every claim of personal accountableness. We pride ourselves, indeed, on our Protestantism; but if this representation of Popery be correct, it is high time to inquire from how much of that enormous system we have been rescued. For just as so much of it still cleaves to us; by just so much are we effectually disabled from doing the first works, and emulating the first days of the Christian Church. Now judging from the first, we should say that the Reformation rescued us from only one half of the evil; from that part which blinded men to a sense of their own personal concern in the affairs of their own salvation. But while the Protestant wonders at the insatiation, of the Papist, in imagining that any thing can exempt him from the necessity of personal diligence in seeking his own salvation, are we not the objects of equal wonder, in acting so generally as if we thought any thing could exempt us from the duty of personal activity in seeking the salvation of others? If the one is essential Popery, equally so in spirit is the other. Glorious therefore as the Reformation was for the Church, in rescuing its members from

the grasp of a spiritual despotism, and making each one feel the necessity of personal holiness, as glorious will that reformation be for the world, which shall complete the work of deliverance, by rescuing them also from the grasp of selfishness, and making each one feel his accountability to God for personal activity in the work of human salvation."

## MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

RAROTONGA, September 1, 1841.

Our last communications to the Committee of your noble Institution expressed our heartfelt thanks for the magnificent and invaluable gift of 5,000 copies of the New Testament in this dialect, for the use of the Hervey-Island Mission. Such a treasure was never before put into the possession of the people: placed by the side of which, gold, silver, and precious stones, sink into insignificance. The joy we felt in receiving such a boon, cannot be expressed; and we could not but hail it as one of Rarotonga's brightest days. It will, we are persuaded, afford the Committee of the Bible Society no small pleasure to be informed, that it has been received by the people with the liveliest demonstrations of joy, and by very many read with feelings of great delight, and, we doubt not, lasting profit. Not a few who have been received into the Saviour's fold, in relating the way in which they were brought to a saving acquaintance with the method of salvation through a Crucified Redeemer, have pointed out various portions of Scripture which first impressed their minds, and convinced them of the evil of sin, and which ultimately led to an unreserved surrender of body and soul to Christ. For this last few years this island has been visited with a disease which has swept into eternity hundreds of the inhabitants. In our visits to the sick and dying, it is a very rare thing not to see by their side some portion of the Sacred Scriptures, which they read as their pains subside or their weakness will allow; and it is cheering to our spirits to know, that, as they passed through "the valley of the shadow of death," the word of God has been their support and comfort. Many, we doubt not, will, through eternity, bless God for this inestimable gift.

Bible Classes are formed; and a great desire is manifested to understand the meaning of the inspired writers. Great portions of it are committed to memory by the people;—some, whole chapters; others, a whole Gospel; and some, all the Gospels. One young woman, by repeating a few verses every night at family prayer, has proceeded as far as the Second Epistle to the Thessalonians, and will, we expect, should her life be spared, ere this reaches you, have committed to memory the whole of the New Testament.

What results may we not expect from the perusal of the blessed volume of inspiration! Gentlemen, "pray for us, that the word of God may have free course and be glorified, even as it is with you;" and that the Holy Spirit may "open the eyes" of the people, that they may see wondrous things out of His Law.

We have the pleasure to inform the Committee, that the Translation of the Old Testament is now completed in the Rarotongan Dialect: which we are revising with all possible care, and earnest prayer to God for Divine assistance in this great work. The Book of Genesis is in the hands of the