

astonished some of the most learned men of his nation. Yet, so anxious was he to be a good Missionary, that he spent thirty years in preparing for his work. There never was a missionary so well qualified as he; he knew not only all languages, but all thoughts. There was not a false religion in the world which he had not studied, nor a wicked man whom he had not observed. Every text in the Old Testament was perfectly understood by him, and he was intent on explaining it better than it ever had been explained, and to *all* the people in the world. He was as pious and good as he was wise and learned, and loved and did the will of God *perfectly*. He had a noble heart, far above all meanness, and yet the sweetest temper and the most ardent love to all mankind. Never did any other missionary love men as he did, or take such affectionate interest in children.

Before he became a missionary he was with his Father, who is King of the most honourable empire in the universe. He himself possessed riches, and honour, and power, and all the distinguished servants of the palace were commanded to worship him. He knew, too, that the people of the country to which he was going as a missionary, so far from desiring his services, would dislike, and abuse, and murder him. Yet, notwithstanding his knowledge of all this, he so pitied, so loved these ignorant and naughty people, that he determined to live and die among them, and try to do them the greatest good. They differed from each other in colour, language, custom, pretended religion, district, and politics; but they all agreed to despise this holy Missionary, and to take away his life.

When he came among the people, it is said the most distinguished

of his servants, in liveries of pure white,—so pure and bright that the people could not see them,—brought him with their splendid chariots.—So that his coming to the scene of his labours was far more remarkable than if he had sailed in the vessel “whose sign was Castor and Pollux,” or in the ship “Duff,” or in “The Camden,” or “John Williams.” These shining beings attended him through all his labours and trials. He spoke as never man spoke; and his whole appearance was so dignified and humble, so kind and faithful, so full of grace and truth, and he performed so many wonderful cures on the diseased, and conferred such benefits on the poor and miserable, that it is strange that the most barbarous, and, still more strange, that the most civilized people to whom he went did not honour and love him. His manner of teaching was admirable. At one time he reproved the people severely for their wickedness, and then sat down and wept. Often, after reproaching the rich and great for their hypocrisy, would he turn with all tenderness to the poor and distressed, and say, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden.” Sometimes he taught on a mountain, at others, in a boat; then, by the way-side; again, in a stately temple. He made things so plain, that he would teach the way to heaven by pointing to a door; or to a poor ragged youth returning to his father. He made a little child, and even a sheep, show what a real Christian is, and a large house what are heavenly mansions.

Then, how he prayed! You might have seen him lift up his eyes to heaven, while he fervently uttered prayers for those who stood around him; you might have followed him into his favourite garden,