

brown skins, their eyes lustreless from the mortification of self-imposed penances, and close beside them sat a young Novitiate, in whose unnaturally smooth face you could see the struggles of an agonized heart. I gave to the chief of the priests a present consisting of one of the Bible Society's Bibles in Arabic, and he was delighted with that token of my esteem, and not only he but the whole multitude spontaneously rose and uttered a most fervent prayer that God would please to keep and preserve me during my journey in Abyssinia. It was an affecting sight to see such a vast multitude with uplifted hands and uncovered heads, standing before us with deep earnestness and true devotion imploring God's blessing on the lowly and humble missionaries of God's Word. When the whole of the congregation had reseated themselves every one expressed a desire that we should give some explanation of the faith which had been brought from a distant land. We gladly complied with their request and gave them a full account of the religion of the blessed Gospel, showing them from Moses and the Prophets that Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. These people, simple and ignorant as they were, saw at once how the Christian religion was adapted to the hearts, how adapted it was to give confidence and hope to the agonized conscience of sinners. The old high priest himself, who had been silent for a considerable time, rose and said, "Either you will become one of us or I shall become one of you." And, in order to convince us of the deep interest he took in the work and of the sincerity of his friendship, he ordered one of his companions, a very learned Jew, to accompany us to the various settlements inhabited by Jews and in his name to tell the people to receive us with kindness and to welcome us as teachers sent by himself, and that kindness was truly not misemployed, for wherever we went, as soon as it was announced that we had been sent by the high priest of the Jews every one came to us and inquired what the religion could be which had made such an impression on their own head. In some places where they had been staying, such as at Gondar where our missionaries lived some time, some of the most influential Falashas expressed their conviction that Christ was the Saviour of souls, and their deep anxiety to be received into the Christian Church. This I solemnly declare, that notwithstanding the troubles and difficulties which we had to encounter—notwithstanding the many dangers and trials we had continually to submit to—notwithstanding we were often reduced to circumstances which, I believe, would have excited the compassion and sympathy of a guardian of your work-houses, or of the superintendent of one of your refuges, so much were we reduced as regards external appearances—yet the journey, from the causes I have specified, was one of uninterrupted delight and continual joy. Sometimes we visited three or four places in one day : and, whenever we came, there the peasant left his plough, the poor woman left her grinding-stone, and all the people left their various occupations, and with the greatest anxiety and interest hastened to hear what the white minister had to say of Christ. But the desire of the people for the written Word was quite equal to the desire which