

the True God should be so perverted, and that rational beings should presume to offer before Him such a parade of solemn mockery. The service being ended, they return to travelling and intemperance.—*Cor. of Ch. Miss. Record.*

BURNING OF WIDOWS IN INDIA.

The case was that of a widow named Hoomalte, a girl about 14 years of age, whose husband, a brahman, died when absent from his family, and a fortnight after the event, her father being absent and unacquainted with what was passing, she proceeded to burn herself upon a pile prepared by other near relatives, and fired by her uncle. She soon leaped from the flame, was seized, taken up by the hands and feet, and again thrown upon it much burned: she again sprang from the pile, and running to a well hard by, laid herself down in the water course, weeping bitterly. A sheet was then offered, and she was desired by her uncle to place herself upon it; she refused, saying he would carry her again to the fire, and she would rather quit the family and live by beggary or anything, if they would have mercy on her. At length, on her uncle swearing by the Ganges, that if she would seat herself on the cloth he would carry her home—she did so—was bound up in it—carried to the pile—now fiercely burning—and again thrown into the flames. The wretched victim once more tried to save herself, when, at the instigation of the rest, a Mussulman approached near enough to reach her with his sword, and cutting her through the head she fell back, and was rescued from further sufferings by death. Burned in 1820, 597; in 1821, 654; in 1822, 573; in 1823, 575; and 1824, 572. *Statistics, 1820-4.*

THE EYE OF A NEEDLE.

The practice of insulting the religion of such persons as profess a faith different from their own, has ever been characteristic of the Oriental nations, and is illustrative of a passage in the New Testament which I have not seen explained by any of the commentators—I mean the expression of our Saviour, where he denounces the votaries of avarice, by declaring that "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." For a long time previous to Christ's appearance, it had been usual for the "sons of Ishmael," or pagan Arabs of Asia Minor, to make hostile incursions into the towns of Judea, and riding their dromedaries into the synagogues to desecrate the altar, (whenever the Osmanlis take possession of a Greek village, they invariably ride into its Christian church, and endeavor to force their horses to defile their altar) in the manner here described. In order to put a stop to these enormities, the Jews hit upon the expedient of constructing the doors of their churches, &c., so low, that an ordinary sized man could only enter by stooping; and thus they completely foiled their persecutors; for the disinclination of the Arabs to dismount, even on the most pressing occasion, is well known to such as have travelled among these sons of the desert. In the hyperbolical phraseology of the East, these diminished apertures were compared to the eye of a needle; and the impossibility of a camel making his way through them became at length a proverbial expression for any impracticable undertaking.—*Auldjo's Journal.*

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

FAMILY WORSHIP.

A HOUSEHOLD in which family prayer is devoutly attended to, conjoined with the reading of the Scriptures, is a school of religious instruction. The whole contents of the sacred volume are in due course laid open before its members. They are continually reminded of their relation to God and the Redeemer, of their sins, and their wants, and of the method they must take to procure pardon for the one, and relief of the other. Every day they are receiving "line upon line, and precept upon precept." A fresh accession is continually making to their stock of knowledge; new truths are gradually opened to their view, and the impressions of old truths revived. A judicious parent will naturally notice the most striking incidents in his family in his devotional addresses; such as the sickness, or death, or removal for a longer or shorter time, of the members of which it is composed. His addresses will be varied according to circumstan-

ces. Has a pleasing event spread joy and cheerfulness through the household? it will be noticed with becoming expressions of fervent gratitude. Has some calamity overwhelmed the domestic circle? it will give occasion to an acknowledgment of the divine equity; the justice of God's proceedings will be vindicated, and grace implored through the blood of the Redeemer, to sustain and sanctify the stroke.

When the most powerful feelings, and the most interesting circumstances, are thus connected with religion, it is not unreasonable to hope that, through Divine grace, some lasting and useful impressions will be made. Is not some part of the good seed thus sown, and thus nurtured, likely to take root and to become fruitful? Deeply as we are convinced of the deplorable corruption of the human heart, and the necessity consequent on this, of Divine agency to accomplish a saving purpose, we must not forget that God is accustomed to work by means; and surely none can be conceived more likely to meet the end. What can be so likely to impress a child with a dread of sin, as to hear his parents constantly deprecating the wrath of God as justly due to it; or to induce him to seek an interest in the mediation and intercession of the Saviour, as to hear them imploring it for him, day by day, with an importunity proportioned to the magnitude of the subject? By a daily attention on such exercises, children and servants are taught most effectually how to pray. Suitable topics are suggested to their mind; suitable petitions are put into their mouths; while their growing acquaintance with the Scriptures furnishes the arguments by which they may plead with God.—*Robert Hall.*

THE CHRISTIAN'S WORK.—The proper work of Christians is the extension of Christianity; the adding to the cloud of witnesses; the diminution of the sons of darkness; the accession of glory to the Redeemer's Crown. It is to be imbued with holy, untiring anxieties to rescue beings like themselves from going down to the pit; and, because time is short, to devote every power, to consecrate every talent, devise every means, employ every resource, to "save souls from death,"—constantly to remember, that men are always perishing; that therefore, we should be always labouring; that the season for activity is circumscribed—and that, ere long, the night will come—it is coming—when our tongues shall be silent, our hands motionless, and our hearts pulseless:—"For there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."—*John Aley.*

ZEAL WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE.—Blind zeal causeth poor deceived souls to think themselves zealously affected towards Christ, when they are stubbornly set for Antichrist. It is not true zeal, but rather a brain-sick giddiness, which causeth many to forsake their natural house, and wander to Jerusalem, there to worship God; as if they thought with Benhadad, King of Syria, that God was the God of the hills, and not of the valleys. (How much better are they who think that God is the God of consecrated grounds, more than of other places?)—*Archbishop Sandys.*

PEACE.—We know not who is the author of the following thoughts, but they seem to us eminently just, and very happily expressed:

"Certainly, God abides none but charitable dissensions; those that are well grounded and well governed; grounded upon just causes, and governed with Christian charity and wise moderation; those, whose beginning is equity, and whose end is peace. If we must differ, let these be the conditions. Let every one of God's ministers be ambitious of that praise, which Gregory Nazianzen gives to Athanasius, to be an adamant to those that strike him, and a loadstone to those that dissent from him; the one, not to be moved with wrongs; the other to draw those hearts which disagree. So, 'the fruit of righteousness' shall be 'sown in peace of them that make peace'; James iii. 18. So, the God of peace shall have glory, the Church of God rest, and our souls unspeakable consolation and joy, in the day of the appearing of our Lord Jesus."

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

THE SPIRIT OF A MISSIONARY.

THE Bishop of Calcutta is well known in this country by his labours in India. In a recently published letter from him is the following passage, which breathes a devotedness to the cause of Christ among the perishing heathen, which cannot but excite admiration, and, we trust, imitation also:

"I have renounced the prospect of visiting you once more in England before I die. No; unless His Grace the Archbishop should lay his orders upon me, India is my scene of duty, delight, and usefulness. The excitement of a short visit would unsettle me at my time of life; if I can but finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the grace of God, I shall have enough. Already have I to bless God for nine years and ten months' health in my residence in this land of disease and death. The climate of England would, most probably, not suit me; the joy of my family would break my heart; the voyage to and fro would exhaust my remains of strength. I must not, therefore, tempt God, but be content with the intercourse of letters and the communion of the saints in prayer and intercession. Three years ago, I was set upon going home; but my feelings have been subdued by a sense of duty gradually since. Where should a Bishop die, but in his diocese?"

Several correspondents have of late suggested that the frequent return of missionaries to their native country operates against the cause, and we have no doubt that if such return is not manifestly in obedience to the call of divine Providence, it is injurious in its influence.—*N. Y. Observer.*

REVIVAL IN SCOTLAND.—The Dundee Warder contains an account of a remarkable revival at Charlinch. Almost the whole parish were brought under deep conviction of sin, and about one hundred cases of conversion had occurred. Mr. Price, the curate of the Established Church in that place is said to be distinguished for eminent and fervent piety. The Warder says: "The marvellous blessing attending his ministry, as usual in such cases, stirred up against him the fierce opposition and enmity of worldly men, and—our readers will hardly credit the fact—he was actually deprived of his license by his bishop, for no other offence than that of having been the instrument, in the hand of God, for the conversion of so many souls. The interest of friends secured him license in another diocese, but he is necessarily removed from the scene of his former labors."

CHILDREN LISTENING TO THE MISSIONARY.—In November last, 3,250 Sabbath School children, besides a number of adults, were addressed by the Rev. Robert Moffat, missionary from Southern Africa, in one of the large churches in Edinburgh. About 1,000 children were obliged to go away for want of room in the church to receive them. This led to another meeting, when 1500 children attended, and were addressed by the same missionary.

ROMANISM IN IRELAND.—It is undoubtedly true that the renunciation of Romanism is more frequent in Ireland than in many years past. Here indeed and in Italy, is the true missionary ground for the opponents of Popery. The sources from which this and other countries have most reason to fear corruption, ought themselves to be purified. We noticed lately the renunciation of the heresies of Rome by one hundred Irish teachers, and the admission of these teachers into an Episcopal Church within a single month. Other instances of such changes are by no means rare, although not in so large numbers at one time.

IDOLATRY IN INDIA.—I have seen their temples ornamented (if I may so speak) with all the orders of infernal architecture; displaying all the sins of the cities of the plain in human figures, and exhibiting evil spirits under the significant emblems of loads, serpents, alligators and other destructive and abominable reptiles! Such are the gods of these deluded people; and they are precisely such as Paul describes, (Rom. i.) "Vile affections, four-footed beasts, creeping things."—*Maj. Gen. Poole after 25 years service in India.*