

more than that they have passed certain examinations, and have an outwardly decent, respectable, moral character? Even supposing that, numerically, ministers were to fail by so doing, and there were not sufficient ministers to supply the churches, it would set the people to pray for godly ministers. Brethren, bear with me. I do not presume upon my position; but this is an opportunity which no man can tell if I shall ever have the like again. I asked God this morning to bless me, that good might be done. The best of us have been guilty of neglecting Paul's solemn charge to Timothy,—“I exhort thee, before God the Father, and before his Son Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead, that thou be instant in season and out of season.” There are masses of good men preaching the gospel in seasons, but we need more of out-of-season work,—more of talking to people apart in private, as to the state of their souls. Mr. North concluded, amidst applause, by thanking the Assembly for the honour done him, and expressing his hope that he might never give them any reason to regret it.

AFRICAN ATROCITIES.

One of our French Protestant missionaries, who had laboured many years among the Bassutos in South Africa, in an address to Sabbath school children in France, spoke of many things in his missionary field. Here are a few of the things he said :

“We find there are many very cruel practices among the Bassutos. They treat the women as slaves, and often drive them away most shamefully from their homes. Another wicked practice with them is, that they murder all children who are born with any natural defect of body, and that, when there are twins, only one is allowed to live. If they are a boy and a girl, the girl is killed; if both are of the same sex, the weaker one is put to death. Sometimes it happens that a mother dies at the birth of a child. Among us, in such a case, the poor little orphan is treated with the greatest care and tenderness; but these cruel people bury it alive with its mother.

“In South Africa there have been many cannibals, I have sought them out and passed a night among them; but this was after they had given up their horrible manner of life. Still I was constantly seeing holes filled with the remains of their dreadful feasts. During the time they used to devour men, a poor woman, who had been preserved alive in a war, together with her little child was taken prisoner by them. They were brought to a village, and there she was received into one of their houses and kindly treated. She thought she had found friends; but one day, when she was in the garden, a cannibal came into the house of her host, and said to him; ‘I will buy your prisoners: my oxen have been taken away and I feel a strong desire for some flesh to eat.’ Two or three hundred weight of maize was asked as the price, and the bargain was concluded. The unhappy woman, not knowing what had happened, came cheerfully into the house, and then the barbarian who had bought her seized and bound her, and led her away. On reaching the next village, she was tied to a post, and her child was snatched out of her arms and murdered before her eyes, for the man's horrible meal. The wretched creature, more dead than alive, expected to be killed herself next. But God did not permit that. She had heard that, at some distance off, powerful people were living, and in the night she managed to escape, and to reach the mission station at Morija, where she was converted, and is still living.

“At our stations, the Lord has already done great things. Many have been converted, and have given up their frightful practices. Now, too, among the heathen natives, the little children are no longer thrown away in a time of war; those who have bodily defects are allowed to live, and new born children are no longer buried with their dead mothers. For all this we have to thank the Gospel. Through its influence schools have been built, and the children delight in them. They are anxious to learn to read, and they know very well that it is God who has saved them and preserved them in life.”—*Youth's Dayspring*.