

THE GOOD NEWS.

A SEMI-MONTHLY PERIODICAL:

DEVOTED to the RELIGIOUS EDUCATION of the OLD AND YOUNG

LIVING FOR JESUS.

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"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."—PHIL. I. 21.

I would like at present to say a few words to those of you who are believers.—Perhaps every one present would say, if I asked, "I am a believer;" but, as I do not wish to be misunderstood, let me say that I wish to speak to those who are *really saved*—to those happy ransomed ones, who are now "in Christ Jesus," and who, were they to die this moment, would go to heaven, and on entering its pearly gates would be greeted with the Saviour's approving welcome, "Come ye blessed of my Father:"—not to those who, being "without Christ," are exposed to the wrath of God, and who, were they now to die, would go right down to the pit that's bottomless!

Let me then entreat you, dear Christian friends, to be of good courage, and fight the good fight of faith, that ye may glorify your God and Saviour, and lay ho'd of eternal life. Think over the record of the lively faith, and courageous deeds performed by that noble band of worthies of the olden time, mentioned by the pen of inspiration, in the 11th chapter of Hebrews. By faith they were enabled to take hold of Him who is invisible, and to live to the praise of His glory. Their faith and deeds are recorded "for our learning." If they lived such lives under the comparatively dark dispensation of old times, what manner of persons ought we to be, upon whom the Sun of Righteousness has arisen with healing under His wings!

There are some devoted followers of Christ in our own day, who appear to be living lives worthy of their high calling, and whose faith and works we might almost venture to place side by side with those of the believers of the ancient Church "of whom the world was not worthy."

As an illustration of this, I may tell you that, in reading of the progress of religion in Burmah, I find that, within the last twenty-five years, about twenty-thousand souls have become communicants—perhaps the great majority of them being really saved ones, who leaving their heathenism, have embraced Christianity at the rate of about a thousand a year, and all, through God's blessing, accompanying the labours of believing, devoted men, who, taking their lives in their hands, had gone forth to that heathen land under the constraining influence of the love of Christ, and animated with fervent zeal for the salvation of souls. They found the country most unhealthy. They died at the rate of one every year, so that, in the space of forty years, there were forty deaths amongst the missionaries. Death ever stared them in the face, and Jesus at God's right hand stood beckoning them to glory as He did His first martyr, Stephen. But they continued to labour with undaunted faith, and the Lord crowned their labours with success. It is by such men that the world and the Church are taught the value of