

before attaining the first or second year of their age. Sometimes they strangled their children, but more frequently buried them alive. Mr. Williams of the South Sea Islands writes :—“ I may say I never conversed with a woman belonging to the group of the Society Islands who had children before the introduction of Christianity, who had not destroyed several, some as many as ten. I was mentioning this one day to a brother Missionary, who expressed some doubts as to the extent of the evil—in the next room three native women, who were converts to Christianity were sitting, making European garments under Mrs. Williams’ direction. I proposed to ask these women, with whose former history I was unacquainted, what had been their practice in this respect. Addressing the first, I said to her, “ Friend, how many children have you destroyed? She was at first startled at the question, but when she found the reason for which it was put, she replied with a faltering voice, I have destroyed *nine*; the second, with eyes filled with tears, said, “ I have destroyed *seven* ;” the third informed us she had destroyed *five*. Thus three persons accidentally thrown together, had killed one and twenty children !” Does any one now ask what have children to do with Missions? Have not the thousands of little ones rescued, by Christian Missions, good reason to make the Missionary cause their own, and have not you, dear children, who are shuddering at such horrid cruelties, cause to rejoice that the Gospel of Jesus gives light to your native land, and His Missionaries have an abiding place among you.

But secondly, children have much to do with Missions, because it is to their happy influence, they owe almost all that renders life a blessing. Mr. Moffatt, in speaking of the Bushmen of South Africa, says, “ If a mother dies and leaves a little child not old enough to take care of itself, it is without any ceremony, buried alive with the corpse of