

the white pillars supporting the tiled roof, is really an inviting spectacle. Altogether we are proud of our place, which is as strong as when it was first built.

Instead of pews, we have a few cane-bottomed forms, which are used as "reserved" seats for ladies, and plenty of chairs; and as they have been mostly presents, given at different times, we can show you as great a variety of Dutch and other kinds as can be met with in, perhaps, any building in Ceylon.

We have service in Portuguese once, English twice, and Singhalese once, on the Sunday, in addition to the English Sunday school, which, however, is a very small affair.

Though this is the only chapel we can boast of in the Galle circuit, we have twelve other preaching-places, and, as in most of these we have two or three week-night services, there is always plenty of work for the two ministers, the three local preachers, and the students, who have also open-air preaching as well.

The Portuguese are the most unsatisfactory of our congregations as to numbers; and yet there are hundreds in Galle who understand no other language. They are, most of them, very poor and degraded; but until another Missionary can be sent us from England, there seems no hope of doing anything for them.

The sad part is, ours is the only Missionary Society occupying Galle and its neighbourhood; so if we do nothing for them, no one else will.

#### A GAMIN.

*(Concluded from our last.)*

**H**OW to get up was the next question, but Jim made light work of this. His sharp eyes detected the well-worn marks by which the lads ascended and descended—little spaces between the bricks, whence the mortar had fallen or had been picked away. Jim rapidly climbed up, and then, by the aid of a stick which he grasped above, we too, made our ascent. The roof was dome-shaped, and adjoining and communicating with it was a large loft, used by dealers in china for packing their wares. This loft was closed, but a good deal of straw had dropped from it into the gutter, and was put into use by the lads, whom we saw lying there asleep.

With their heads upon the higher part of the roof, and their feet somewhat in the gutter, but in a great variety of postures, lay eleven boys huddled together for warmth. No roof or covering of any kind was over them, and the clothes they had were rags, which seemed to be even worse than Jim's. One big lad lay there who looked about eighteen years old, but the ages of the remainder varied from nine to fourteen.

"Shall I wake 'em, sir?" said Jim.

Horror-struck, and with our hearts almost bursting with compassion at this our first sight of so much misery and want, we said:

"Hush! let us not attempt to disturb them."

We felt so powerless that we did not dare to interrupt their slumbers. Already we felt oppressed with the tremendous charge of one poor little fellow, but to awaken these eleven, and to hear their cries for food and help, was more than we could bear; so taking another hurried glance at the boys, looking once again at the eleven upturned faces, white with cold and hunger, we hastened away, just as one of the sleepers gave an uneasy moan, as though he was about to awake.

Scarce a word was said as we descended the wall, and returned towards home; our heart was full, and Jim seemed to guess that we did not desire conversation.

Once he offered to lead us to another haunt, where, he said, even more boys would be found herded together for shelter out of doors; but we had seen enough, and did not venture to add to the sorrowful knowledge which already overwhelmed us.

We took our young charge into our own lodgings that night, and comfortably housed him. The next day some whole garments were procured, and he was arrayed therein, to his intense satisfaction and delight; and at our recommendation a tradesman in the neighbourhood gave him work at a few shillings per week, a Christian widow whom we knew consenting for a small sum to receive him as a lodger.

Two years passed quickly away, during which James Jervis earned golden opinions for honesty, truthfulness, and attention to business. He had learned to read and write, and above all to love