

"In India, many heathen mothers murder their infants as soon as they are born. Some murder only the girls, and save the boys. Sometimes, when the children have grown a little older, their fathers drown them in the Ganges, which is considered to be a holy river, and which many worship as a god! Some are taken to an island beset with tigers, and there left to be devoured. Some are thrown to alligators and crocodiles. In these ways, year after year, many thousands are murdered.

"In China, it is said, the murder of infants prevails to a dreadful extent. In some places these poor babes are put into baskets, and hung up in trees, where they are starved to death, or devoured by birds of prey.

"In some of the South Sea Islands, it appears more children have been destroyed, than have been suffered to live."

"Yes!—the gospel, faithfully and perseveringly preached, is the great and only sovereign cure for these, and for many other evils which afflict the human race. It has banished such abominations from our own dear country, where, in former times, similar idolatries and cruelties awfully prevailed. Send it to heathen lands, and there—as it has already done, in a considerable degree, both in Britain and in other lands—it will sooner or later, by the blessing of God, realize the description of its effects which is given in the song of the blessed angels at our Saviour's birth, 'Glory to God in the highest;—on earth peace, good-will to men.' Myriads of lives will be snatched from the jaws of death; and, what is better still, multitudes of souls, immortal as your own, will be saved from sin and hell, and taught the way to Christ and heaven."

## RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

### GREAT AWAKENING AT THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

The Lord is still at work among the Islands of the Sea; the heathen rage, and the people, the papal people, imagine vain things, but the Lord will carry out his purposes of mercy and bring the world to his feet. The Rev. J. D. Paris, a very judicious and devoted missionary, writes from *Hawaii* Aug. 1, 1842.

"During the last three months a great change has taken place among this people. The Papists have entered the field with all the forces they can to convert or exterminate every Protestant on this end of *Hawaii*. For a time, with their parade and noise, ransacking every part of the field, and establishing their teachers and sub-preachers in every village, vast numbers were drawn after them; and we feared that multitudes might be given up to believe a lie and be lost. But God, who is rich in mercy, and oftentimes destroys the counsel of the wicked, was lifting up a standard against the *Beast* and his image: the still small voice of his Spirit was at work among the people, leading them to inquire with earnestness after the way of life. This spirit of inquiry has gradually increased and spread abroad, until there is now a general awakening throughout the whole field.

"Vast numbers come to us every week, and some every day, with the anxious and solemn inquiry, 'What must we do to be saved?' Some days I am compelled to spend five or six hours at one sitting with the inquirers, endeavoring to lead them to the 'Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world!'"

"At other times I am three or four days in the week, from morning until evening, examining those who wish to be admitted to the church. This is a solemn and trying business, especially to one who has not a perfect command of the language; but there is no way to avoid it consistent with duty. Many of the candidates appear very well, and give as good evidence of a change of heart as we could ask. Some cases of conviction and conversion are very striking; but there are others less decided.

"It is exceedingly interesting and affecting to see these poor creatures come some thirty, forty, and even fifty miles; the aged and the young; the blind, the sick, and the lame, all enquiring after the way of salvation. The great desire seems to be to know, love, and serve Christ. When I ask them to give me an account of their views and feelings, or ask them what they desire; the answer in most cases is—(makemake

\* For details of this inhuman practice, see first page.

an Jesus Christo)—I desire Jesus Christ, or I desire to come to Jesus Christ.

"At our last communion we admitted to the church about two hundred persons on examination, and we have now pronounced upwards of two hundred and fifty to be received at some future time. The work of grace still continues, and is silent and progressive. It is evident by the Spirit of Almighty God moving upon the hearts of this heathen people, and subduing them to himself. 'Tis the work of God, and not ours; to his great name be all the glory! In the meantime the novelty of popery has worn off, and its attractions are lost, so that they are at a stand, or rather many of their converts are among the anxious."

CHRISTIAN UNION.—Very gratifying indications of union are beginning to present themselves on the part of the various evangelical denominations in Scotland. We noticed lately, in the *Witness*, that Dr. John Brown, well known as a leading Dissenting minister, who took an active part a few years since against the principles of Ecclesiastical Establishments, had preached in the pulpit of Dr. Caullish, of St. George's; and we perceive, in a late number of the same paper, that a course of lectures on Christian Union has been commenced in Edinburgh; while, in the lists of those who have agreed to take part in the arrangement, we observe the names of the principal ministers in the Established, Secession, Independent, and Methodist churches.

## THE CHRISTIAN MIRROR.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1843.

### IMPORTANCE OF DECISION OF CHARACTER.

—In every Christian congregation there are two classes of character, Believers and Unbelievers. By the latter class we do not mean sceptics and infidels, who deny the truth of revelation, scoff at religion, and set their Maker at defiance; but we mean those whose historical belief of the Scriptures, whose speculative faith (if it may be so termed) leads to no practical and saving result. So far as they are concerned, the great truths of our holy religion make no deeper impression than would be produced by a perusal of Rollin's *Ancient History*, or the *Khoran* of Mohammed. Such persons having never felt the force of Divine truth, their faith is a mere negation—practically, it is no faith at all.

We admire those public teachers of religion, who earnestly press this fact on the attention of their hearers, and urge them either to be on the Lord's side, or professedly the servants of sin.

Vast numbers attend on a Christian ministry for years, and in the end are unable to determine whether they will comply with the requirements of the Gospel or not; forgetting that their indecision is virtually a decision in the negative—while, at the same time, the enemy of men is soothing them with the too often delusive hope, that at some indefinite time they will begin to think more seriously on these matters, and in the end all will be well.

Persons such as these may be blameless in their external deportment, and, in fulfilling most of the relative duties of life, may be exemplary;—one thing only they lack, but that is the *one thing needful*.

Want of feeling, or inability to comply with the requirements of the Gospel, cannot be made a satisfactory plea why *repentance* towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ are not exercised. This we are positively commanded to do; hence our ability is implied, and it is manifestly as much our duty to obey these as any command in the decalogue. See Acts xvii. 30, and 1 John iii. 23.

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve."—Joshua xxiv. 15.

### THE SUPINENESS OF CHRISTIANS IN REFERENCE

TO POPERY.—It is oppressive to the very soul, to observe Christians of all denominations, supine, languid, and indifferent, in the cause of Christ. Talk to them of gold—who so anxious, who so energetic; talk to them of science—who so delighted, who so active; talk to them of domestic enjoyments—it would be *criminal* (say they) to neglect them. But, while we would by no means urge to the neglect of one or all of these, it is really awful to see Christians of every name, careless and indifferent to the spread of the Gospel of their Saviour. Oh, Christian professor, talk not of your self denial, your prayers, your activity, your unwearied labours. Where are they? We see them not, the world does not behold them, and you yourselves would be perfectly ashamed of them did you see them in their true character, and mixed with selfish motives.

Popery, the enemy of the Saviour, the patron of the Virgin Mary, the "mystery of iniquity," is making rapid strides; but you heed it not—you care not for its triumphs. Ah, see to it that the curse does not overwhelm you—"Curse ye meroz, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof, because they come not up to the help the Lord against the mighty."

SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHERS.—The pious Sabbath School Teacher, labouring from Sabbath to Sabbath, is unwearied in his efforts for the cause of the Saviour. This really useful band of efficient agents in the Redeemer's cause, are too often neglected or coldly treated by those to whom they have a right to look for sympathy and encouragement. But their reward is in heaven, and God their Father will own them in that day, when they that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars for ever and ever. Oh, my esteemed friends, you who toil, agonize, labor, pant to be useful—labor still with earnest prayer, much faith, and your work shall, at length, be crowned with abundant success.

YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATIONS.—We beg to call the attention of our readers to two useful societies in this city, specially for the improvement of young men. That in St. Maurice street is intended more particularly for members of the church connected with the Congregational body of Christians; the other is open to all denominations, certainly *by far* the most suitable.

We would remind our friends, the young men of these societies, that to them is committed a great, an awful trust; and we would hope they will be prepared to use every effort, every power of body and of mind, for the promotion of the moral and spiritual welfare of each other.

Be not high-minded, young men, but remember that humility is the very essence of all true and vital religion. The act of speaking before others is too apt to engender pride, arrogance and self-sufficiency; but we hope better things of our dear Christian friends, through we thus write. We wish both societies an enlarged success.

SIR CHARLES METCALFE.—We have devoted a considerable space in our present number to details respecting the character and history of the present Governor General of Canada, (whose arrival is just announced (which cannot fail to prove highly interesting to our readers. The Address of the London Missionary Society in Jamaica, presented to His Excellency on his departure from the West Indies, with his answer thereto, will be read with much pleasure—as furnishing satisfactory evidence of his decidedly religious character, exemplified in a liberal and friendly feeling towards Christians of different denominations.