

A NEW HEART.

HOW IS IT TO BE OBTAINED?

It is evident that this command :—" make you a new heart,"— was originally given by God to those who had *wrong thoughts* about His character. Hence it is directly applicable to all at the present day who, like the Israelites, think or say that God's way is not equal, and that He has pleasure in the death of the wicked. But, among the unconverted, there are not only some who have wrong thoughts of God, there are also a great many who are characterized by thoughtlessness. This latter class have, we might say, dismissed God from their thoughts almost altogether. The words which we have been considering, in this short series of papers, contain a solemn warning to the individuals in this latter class, as well as to those in the former. For if the Searcher of hearts takes notice of those who have beclouded their minds by receiving and retaining wrong thoughts about Him, instead of coming to His own word that their thoughts might be rectified, how much more shall He take notice of those whose thoughts are so much occupied with the perishable things of time, that He is almost, or altogether forgotten? Whether then, dear reader, you are in the one class or in the other, " come now, and let us reason together."

Do you think little, or not at all, about God? Do you rise in the morning and spend the entire day without thinking of God? Are you only brought, by necessity as it were, to think of God now and again on the Sabbath-day, when the preacher's voice is ringing in your ears? And do you pass forth from hearing a sermon, and speedily banish the whole matter from your mind? This is the position of many a youth, of not a few who are in middle age, and of some whose grey hairs betoken a speedy descent to the grave. Well may the prayer be uttered for them :—" Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." Is there a dark story of ingratitude recorded on history's page which shall faintly, though fairly, illustrate the position of those who thus treat their God and Redeemer. There is one in sacred history, dear reader, which, perhaps, is known to us both. Let us travel, in thought, back through the years of many generations, and let us suppose that we are walking to Jerusalem, by the way of Mount Olivet. The city is in view. Beautiful is the scene which lies before us, as a burning eastern sun sheds a golden lustre upon the gleaming minarets of