

fants, is dreadfully common in heathen countries. In China numbers are every night thrown out into the streets to perish. In India the people have an awful familiarity with this crime, and the means of committing it. In the South Seas there were women who had destroyed ten, eleven, and some even as many as seventeen children with their own hands! This is what heathenism does for a mother's heart; it turns it into a heart of stone; that heart, which should be full of love and pity for its little one, it makes to be more cruel and more pitiless than the heart of a savage beast of prey,—for even a tiger will not destroy, but will suckle and cherish its young. You, perhaps, saw the little girl which our devoted African Missionary, Mr. Moffat, brought with him from Africa, and which he lifted out of a pit, from under a stone, where it had been left to die by its cruel mother. Dear young friends, you will pity these infants whom their mothers will not pity; you will pray for them; you will entreat the gracious Saviour of the world to soften their mothers' hearts, and to bless his servants who are gone among them to teach them His religion of love, and gentleness, and pity. Oh, if some of those South Sea or African mothers, who have killed so many of their own children, but whose hearts have been since changed by the grace of God,—if they were now here, if they were sitting by me while I write, if I could put this paper into their hands, and ask them to write something on this subject to the dear children of England,—with what words would they write to you, and how

would their burning tears fall upon the paper, and almost blot out the words as they wrote them, while they thought of you, your health, your freshness, your vigour, and remembered their own little ones, whom they can never, never, see in this world! Oh, I say, with what words, words that I do not know, would they entreat you to pity and to pray for the poor heathen, and help to send them the blessed Gospel of Christ!

W. H. D.

A LETTER TO YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT SOME CHILDREN IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE following letter will be read with the deeper interest when our young friends learn that the writer of it, who, a few weeks ago, put it into the hands of the Editor, has since gone into eternity. He was a good and faithful Missionary, belonging to the London Missionary Society. He was delighted with the idea of this new little Magazine, and wished to write some pieces for its pages. He wrote the following: he was ill at the time; he soon after became much worse, and died; but died most happily and triumphantly, exclaiming just before his death, "I see heaven opened, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God!"

Oh the blessedness of living to serve the Saviour, and then of dying so happy a death!

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

I am very glad to see you so zealous and active in the Missionary work. Your exertions to buy a new

Missionary Ship have filled the friends of Missions with delight. This shews what you *can* do when you set to work in earnest.

I have spent some years among the black children of Africa. There are many good children in Africa, and who, like yourselves, are active in the great Missionary cause. You would like to read something about what they have done for it. I shall try to give you an interesting little story about the commencement of a "Children's Auxiliary Society" at my station. We had had an adult auxiliary for some time; but the children did not seem to think that they had anything to do with *it*. So, I and my beloved fellow labourer called a meeting of all the children, and we addressed them. We told them of the great things the Missionary Society had done for them, and that *they* ought to do something, though ever so little, in return. They asked, "What *can* we do?" We said, "We are not going to give you any instructions about it at present: we wish you to think of some plans yourselves, and if you can fix upon anything, come to us, and we shall give you the best advice we can." Several came to me soon after, and said, "Sir, we think that it would be a very good thing for us to have a little society of our *own*, and we shall collect as much money as we can for it, as the great people do for theirs." This pleased me much; and I said, "That is very good; you shall have a little society called 'The Children's Auxiliary;' but I should like to hear how you expect to get money to support it; remember," said I, "your parents and friends are poor, and they subscribe to the other society: it would be good, if you could get your subscriptions without begging from them."

Now, children in England often get money from their parents and friends, but the black children in Africa

scarcely ever knew what it was to possess a penny. It was then a great undertaking for them to form a society for themselves. At our next meeting, we asked them, "Have you thought of any means to get money to support your little society?" Several answered, very cheerfully, "Yes, Sir, and without begging too." One said, "We bigger boys are going to beat off the *bark* of the thorn-tree, and the tanner will give us twelve shillings a load for it." Another said, "A party of us is going to gather *gum*, and the shop-keepers will give us two-pence a pound for it." A third said, "The little children are going to burn ashes for soap-makers, for which they will get some pence." And, lastly, that the girls were going to pick wool at the spinning-house, and to keep hens for sale. We were much pleased to find that they had formed such excellent plans without interfering with their school or being burdensome to their friends. A society was established; they paid in that year by their *own* industry 8*l.* 8*s.*! This was for them a great effort indeed! Would not *you* like to have Auxiliary Societies for yourselves? It would be well, if there were a Children's Society in every Christian congregation. Do consult your parents and pastors on this subject, and try to get their consent and assistance. You will be happy when you think that you have given what was *your own* to the Missionary cause. You will, no doubt, be able, like the black children, to find out some means of getting money by your own industry. I like little children to do all their own work, if possible. I hope soon to hear of many flourishing "Children's Auxiliaries." Wishing you every blessing,

I remain your sincere friend,

EDWARD WILLIAMS.

CHILDREN OF HEATHEN PARENTS.

You British children remember, for you have often *sung* it, that nice verse in Dr. Watts's "Divine Songs"—

“ Lord, I ascribe it to Thy GRACE,
And not to *chance*, as others do,
That I was born of Christian race,
And not a *heathen*, nor a Jew!”

Now, I want you to understand this verse *better* than children did when Dr. Watts wrote it; which is more than a hundred years ago. Then very little was known about the *misery* of HEATHEN boys or girls, except just that they had no Bibles nor any Sabbaths, and only ugly idols for gods. That was *sad* enough, to make British children *thank* God that they were born in a Christian land! But a great deal more is known now about them. Could all their sins and sufferings be told you, you would *weep* for them, whilst *rejoicing* for yourselves. I will tell as much as I can in a few lines.

It was *always* a sad thing to be a heathen child. It was so in the time of Moses and Joshua. Then heathen parents, in Canaan, *burnt* some of their children as sacrifices to MOLOCH, and made them all “pass through the fire” of that idol’s altar. This horrid cruelty was one chief cause why God commanded the Jews to destroy the Canaanites; and yet, soon afterwards, even the Jews, and some of their kings too, sacrificed some of their children, and scorched others in the fires of Moloch. (Jer. xix. 5; Ezek. xvi. 20). The Jews do nothing of

this kind now, and never *have* done so since the Babylonian captivity. But they confess that their fathers did so in the time of wicked Manasseh; and tell us that the image of Moloch was a great brazen idol, made hot by a great fire, and then had little children thrown into its burning arms, whilst drums and trumpets drowned their shrieks.

Many heathen parents *still* sacrifice some of their children to idols. Hindoos, who would think it a great sin to kill a bird or a fly, will yet drown their children in the river Ganges, which they worship as a goddess; and others will hang up a *live* child in a basket, upon the tree of some vile god, to be devoured by vultures or ants. Hindoo parents who do this think that their innocent child's blood will *atone* for their own sins! Is it not well that *you* were

“ Born of *Christian* race?”

Many heathen parents, in other parts of the world, kill their children,—and especially their *girls*,—just to get *rid* of them. Mr. Williams saw many mothers, as well as fathers, in the South Sea Islands, who had killed all their children the moment they were born, for no other reason than to avoid the trouble of bringing them up. He had once a servant whose *trade* it was, before she became a Christian, to kill new-born babies! He often saw mothers, when looking at the children of *converted* parents in his schools, weeping as if their hearts would break, because they had killed their children *before* the Gospel

came to Tahiti. There was also at Tahiti, until the Missionaries won the people to the Saviour, a great CLUB of men who *prided* themselves upon destroying their children. So also, in some parts of India, there were tribes who allowed only *one* girl of a family to live; but the British government put an end to this barbarity. The officer who stopped it amongst these tribes saw one father who loved his little girls, and dressed them as *boys*, in order to save them. Poor things! they knew their danger, and told their cruel neighbours, "We are boys; ask papa if we are not! look at our *turbans*! girls don't wear turbans." The *Chinese* also kill many infants, just because they grudge them food. Hardly any of the poor Chinese are kind to their daughters. They *weep* when girls are born, and if they let them all live, they give them no playthings, but painted *tiles*; whereas, they give their boys the very best things they can afford to buy. And in Madagascar many sweet little babies are still put to death, if they are born on a *Friday*, just because that day is thought to be an unlucky one.

So, you see, that, had you been born *heathens* anywhere, you might have been sacrificed or killed at once; or, what is worse, grown up cruel and wicked. It was, remember, Hindoo boys who used to set fire to the pile on which their widowed mothers were burnt! And in Africa, before the Gospel was sent there, children often left their *aged* parents in the wilderness, to die of hunger, or to be devoured by lions.

A SUGGESTION.

(To the Editor).

June 17th, 1844.

MY DEAR SIR.—As it has been a source of great pleasure to your young friends to raise the funds to purchase a New Missionary Ship, I cannot help thinking it would greatly increase that pleasure were they also to raise a fund to meet the *whole of the annual expenses* of the Ship, which I really think might easily be done, namely, by a subscription of *one penny per month* from all those young people who interested themselves about the “John Williams,” and from other kind friends who might feel inclined to join them. Perhaps you will be kind enough to mention the proposal in the next Magazine. I remain, &c.,

A JUVENILE SUBSCRIBER TO THE SHIP.

. A similar suggestion has been made by a friend in Edinburgh, (Mr. Tyfe). It occurs to us, that, if our young friends would raise the amount required for this specific purpose, *in addition* to what they are already contributing, through Juvenile Auxiliaries, for the general objects of the Society, it would be effecting a great and noble work.—*Editor.*

HOME INTELLIGENCE.

The Juvenile Missionary Magazine.

OUR friends will be happy to learn, that, though some difficulties have occurred in supplying the country book-sellers, so as to indemnify them against loss by carriage,

&c., upwards of *One Hundred Thousand* copies of the first number were sold during the month of June.

An additional fifty thousand were then put to press, which we have no doubt will be all sold during the month of July. And, if our young friends zealously recommend the Magazine, as a proof of their estimation of it, to their juvenile companions, there will soon be *double* the above number in circulation.

“Only a halfpenny, Sir!” exclaimed a poor boy at Brighton, when he saw the Magazine, “I’ll have it, and get some more subscribers too.” He ran to his young friends, and got orders for twenty-four, and they increased the number, almost directly, to fifty. Let all our young friends go and do likewise.

The kind notices of our Magazine, which have appeared in the Evangelical and Witness Magazines, will extensively commend it among large portions of the community.

Juvenile Missionary Meetings.

These are happily becoming so general and so numerous, that it will be impossible to give details of them all. To do so would more than fill our Magazine. We shall mention as many as we can, from time to time, and especially such as afford *hints of a practical character*, that may serve to guide others. We sincerely hope such meetings will be held wherever Annual Auxiliary Meetings are held. Careful arrangements should be made for them, and they will prove incalculable blessings.

Scotland.—At the Annual Meetings of the Auxiliaries to the London Missionary Society, held in June and July, large Juvenile Meetings have also been held. At Edinburgh 3000 young persons were assembled in the spacious chapel of the Rev. Dr. Peddie. At Glasgow two large simultaneous meetings were held, at which from 4000 to 5000 attended. Large meetings were held

also in Greenock and Leith; and at Dundee, where not much less than 3000 attended in Dr. Russell's chapel, the fronts of the gallery were ornamented with pictures, &c., about to be sent as a present for a girls' school at Nagercoil. An intense interest appears to have been everywhere created, and some good collections made.

Hull.—The teachers and children of the Independent Sunday-schools, with the younger portions of the congregations, met on Sunday afternoon, the 9th June, and were addressed by several ministers. The collection amounted to *8l. 2s.*

Newcastle-on-Tyne.—The Juvenile Missionary Society, which has existed about a year, (in St. James's Chapel Sunday-school), has sent out a box of stationery, &c., value *8l.*, to Mr. Harbut, South Seas.

Epping.—About fifty young persons took tea in the vestry of the Independent Chapel, Rev. G. D. Mudie in the chair. The report stated the growing interest felt in Missions, and Missionary publications, among the young. All were greatly delighted and encouraged.

Hampshire.—450 medals of the New Missionary Ship were distributed among the Sunday scholars in a small town, as an encouragement to them for the exertions they had made in collecting funds towards the "John Williams."

OUR OWN LIBRARY.

WE hope our young friends who are assisting to make the Bible known to children abroad read it daily for themselves, and always with prayer. But they often want a brief and easy commentary to help them to understand some difficult passages. "Keyworth's Pocket Exposition of the New Testament" is the best help of