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THE IDOL-GOD REJECTED.

THE  
JUVENILE MISSIONARY MAGAZINE.

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MARCH, 1845.

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THE IDOL-GOD REJECTED.

IN the month of February, last year, a Reader went to a village not far from Cuddupah, in India, to instruct the heathen. He found there about ten people gathered together near a well: they had assembled to offer worship to Brahma. A mere *rough stone* is the representation of this god, as he is not allowed to have any image or temple. After instructing the people for a short time, some of them said to him, "You are often telling us that our idols are without life, and that it is in vain to worship them, since they cannot *do anything*. Are you able to take away our god and *destroy* it?" To this he replied, "Yes, I am able to take it up, and throw it away; but I am afraid that, out of zeal for your god, *you* may do me some injury." To this they replied, that *they* would not do him any injury, even if he did take it up, and throw it away. "However, our god is *very* powerful," said they; "and, if you take it up and throw it away, you will immediately vomit blood at your nose and mouth, and *die*. Our *god* will do this to you, but *we* will not do you any injury." After the Reader had obtained their consent, he first struck the idol

with his foot \*, and then threw it away. After they had waited a little time, expecting that some evil would overtake him, the Reader asked them if any evil *had* happened to him ; they replied, “ No, not now ; but you will die by the morning.” He then returned to his village, and about ten days afterwards came again. The people, seeing that he was still alive and well, said to him, “ Now we see that our gods *are* all vain, and we do not mean to worship them any more.” Of this number twelve continued steadfast to their word, and have relinquished all idolatry.

Dear children, this is only a single instance ; but many such are constantly occurring. God is overthrowing the idols of the heathen. He has said they shall be *utterly abolished*. They are but wood and stone. They cannot deliver them that trust in them ; and it is very affecting that little boys and girls should be taught to pray to a mere *block of stone*. But the Lord alone shall be exalted, for *He* is the true God and an everlasting King. May His glory soon fill the whole earth !

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#### AN INFANT'S PRAYER IN AFRICA.

IN a letter from Mr. Helmore, Missionary in South Africa, dated Likhatlong, Hart River, May 6, 1844, he refers to a parcel of clothing, which had been sent from a school in England, for the little Bechuanas, and says, “ Many a helpless infant dies in this country from being

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\* This scene is represented in the engraving for this Number.

taken from its mother's bosom, and *exposed without clothing* to the cold of winter. And now, for the benefit of your little friends, I will relate an anecdote which was lately told me here by a good pious mother. Her little boy not more than *three years old*, was seized with a severe illness, and, when unable to sit up, he said to his parents, 'I will pray to God to make me better.' He then crawled to the middle of the room, and kneeling, like little Samuel, cried, "Father God, Father of all men, Father of children, help me! Father of Nicodemus, Father of the three children of Israel, help me, O God, and forgive my sins!" His parents listened with astonishment, and exclaimed, 'What a God is ours! He teaches even a *child* like this to pray!' When he recovered, he said to his mother, 'The other day when I was sick, I prayed to God, and my heart was made happy.'"

Yes, this is the secret of true happiness. Prayer can make us feel happy even in pain, affliction, and death. Do not, dear children, pass *one day* without prayer.

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### CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY of the LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

(Concluded from page 35).

1838. *August 1.* Slavery being abolished in West Indies, joyful religious services were held in all the congregations there.
- 1839 Arrival of Six Christian Refugees from Madagascar, with the Rev. D. Johns.
- Mission to Cradock, (S. A.)
- New Testament translated into Bechuana.

1839. Expenditure, £82,200.

1840. Mission to Siberia suppressed by the Russian Government.

— Mongolian Old Testament completed.

— Mission to New Hebrides, and to Mysore.

— to Long Kloof and Colesberg, (S. A.)

— Great prosperity at Tutuila; 400 added to the Church.

1841. Expenditure, £87,800.

1842. Deputation of Rev. J. J. Freeman to the West Indies.

— Mission to Loyalty Islands, (S. S.)

— to Somerset, (S. A.)

— Removal of Anglo Chinese College from Malacca to Hong Kong.

— Two Samoan Converts brought to England by the Rev. T. Heath, in the "Camden."

1843. Purchase of the "John Williams," by Juvenile Contributions. "Camden" sold.

1844. *June*. First Number of the Juvenile Missionary Magazine.

1844. *September 22nd*.—Commencement of the Year of Jubilee: at which time the Society had under its care:—

	<i>Stations.</i>	<i>Missionaries.</i>	<i>N. Teachers.</i>
South Seas	10	40	200
Africa	24	40	25
India	21	60	250
West Indies	25	20	12
China	5	10	
Total	85	170	487

Having the care of 131 churches, with about 14,000 communicants, and 45,000 scholars, and employing 15 printing establishments, and conducting six Institutions for training native teachers.

The whole number of Missionaries employed during the fifty years is 410; the Scriptures have been translated into seventeen languages; and the whole expenditure has been more than £1,500,000.

To God be all the glory!

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**LETTERS to the CONTRIBUTORS for the  
PURCHASE of the "JOHN WILLIAMS."**

LETTER No. 4, FROM REV. J. C. BROWN.

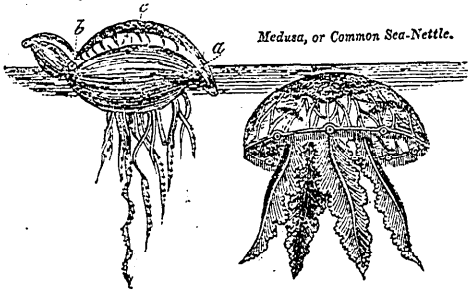
*On Board the "John Williams," Lat. 2° 43';  
W. Long. 19° 29'. 22nd July, 1844.*

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,

WE have now been privileged to see a few of those curious and wonderful things that abound in the great deep—the great and wide sea. Before we reached the tropics, we saw numerous shoals of porpoises. These are large black fish, which, like the whale, have to come frequently to the surface to breathe. They have a large fin upon their back, and this gives them the appearance, at such times, of tumbling over and over in the water, with their tails in their mouths. We also saw several birds, which are called by the sailors "Mother Cary's Chickens;" these are said to delight in storms, and from this circumstance their presence is supposed to intimate that a storm is near. One day, when fishing for cod, we caught a shark; we had plenty of provisions on board, having live sheep, swine, geese, ducks, and hens, besides a cow and a calf, otherwise we might have been willing to eat the shark; but though eatable, it is by no means a dainty, and we threw it back into the sea. Another day, the vessel was surrounded by innumerable medusæ, or sea-nettles, so that we could fish up baskets full of them for examination. They looked very beautiful when the sun shone upon

them in the water ; their shape is that of a large mushroom, as may be seen from the accompanying drawings made by one of the Missionaries. The substance of the body is like very soft jelly, the quantity of solid matter in it is very small. A medusa, which, when taken out of the water, weighs fifty ounces, weighs sometimes, when *dry*, only five or six grains. The following inter-

*Portuguese Man-of-War.*



*a*, air-sack. *b*, opening into its cavity.  
*c*, membranous crest or sail.

esting account of these animals has been given by a distinguished naturalist:—"Among the animals of this family, we find the most important functions of life performed in bodies which offer to the eye little more than a mass of jelly ; they grow frequently to a large size, so as to measure several feet in diameter ; and yet we cannot always determine what are their organs of nutrition. They move with rapidity, and continue their motions for a long time ; and yet we cannot always satisfactorily demonstrate their muscular system. They seem to be too weak to seize any vigorous animal ; and yet fishes are sometimes their prey. Their delicate stomachs appear to be wholly incapable of acting upon such food ;

and yet it is digested within a very short time. Most of them shine by night with great brilliancy; yet we know little or nothing of the agent which produces so remarkable an effect, or of the organs by which it is elaborated. And, lastly, many of them sting the hand that touches them; but how or by what means they do so still remains a mystery." On the day after we entered the tropics, we passed a turtle, sleeping on the surface of the waters; and next day the flying fish began to make their appearance. These are very like mackerels, with long fins, like bats' wings. When they are pursued by some of the larger species of fish, which feed upon them, they fly out of the water to escape the danger which threatens them. When their fins get dry, or they are exhausted, they return to their own element. Sometimes they flew on board our ship, and, falling on the deck, were killed. We had them broiled, and we found them very delicious, tasting almost like trout. When we got near the Cape de Verd Islands, we saw, for the first time, a little fish, called the "Portuguese Man of War." They are very numerous in those regions. It has on its head a large air bladder, which renders it buoyant, and this is surmounted by a beautiful purple sail, which, like the nautilus, it hoists at pleasure, to catch the breeze which wafts it on its way. Whenever there is any appearance of a storm, they take in their sail, and, expelling the air from the air-bag, sink beneath the surface. Shortly afterwards, we saw several other inhabitants of the tropical seas, such as whales, black-fish, dolphins, and sharks. The sight of these served to relieve the monotony of the voyage. But we have not yet seen anything so interesting as the appearance presented by the sea last night. If any of you have been at sea, you may, at night, have occasionally seen little specks of phosphorescent light

streaming past the vessel while under sail. This I had often seen before ; but last night, for miles on miles on to the distant horizon, wherever a crested wave raised its head, there were billows of fire, so that the vessel seemed to be ploughing an ocean of flames, leaving behind it, or in its wake, as far as could be seen, a long and broad but tapering stream of subdued light, like that of a comet's tail, all which contrasted awfully with the black waters in the hollows betwixt the waves. The scene was magnificent. For this phenomenon some have attempted to account, by supposing the sea in such places to be covered by a thin film of decaying marine animal matter, which, in general, is phosphorescent. But Sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Sollander, who accompanied Capt. Cook on his first voyage round the world, ascertained that the luminous appearance referred to was owing to the presence of myriads of small animals, each emitting a white light like that of the glow-worm. Among these luminous creatures, Sir Joseph (then Mr.) Banks observed a medusa similar to what I have already described, and three species very like small crabs.

“ O Lord, how manifold are Thy works ! in wisdom hast Thou made them all : the earth is full of Thy riches. So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. There go the ships : there is that leviathan, whom Thou hast made to play therein. These wait all upon Thee ; that Thou mayest give them their meat in due season. That Thou givest them they gather : Thou openest Thine hand, they are filled with good. Thou hidest Thy face, they are troubled : Thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.”—Psalm civ. 24—29.

I trust you will often, in after-life, seek for happiness in the study of the works as well as the word of God.