

furnace and the bright lamp that passed between the pieces, might represent in their highest import, the furnace of wrath into which the slaughtered lamb was cast, and the sparkling, penetrating, and severe nature of divine justice.

Some derive the word from *ברר* *barar*, to *cleanse*, *purify*, *purge*, &c. and this is thought to agree with the greek, *περίκαθαρμα*, to *purge*, or *cleanse all around*, or *thoroughly*; and the thought designed seem to be this, that the covenant should be ratified by cutting off, or cutting down, or cutting to pieces, the purifier as a sacrifice; which sacrifice should be of a strong *detersive*, *cleansing*, purifying nature, and which had been symbolically represented by the jewish *purification-sacrifice*. If so, this may illustrate these phrases—‘purged away our sins,’—‘the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, *cleanseth* from all sin,—’ ‘forgive us our sins, and *cleanse* us,’ &c.—‘I will keep thee, and give thee for a *covenant* (purifier) of the people.’ Again, ‘I will preserve thee, and give thee for a *covenant*’ (*purifier*) of the people. And it is certain that he bore the sins of *many*, and that the *many* whose sins he bore will be purified and made white; and that through the blood of the everlasting covenant.

O bathe me in thy precious blood,
Exalt thy power and might,
Baptize me in thy purple flood,
And wash the Æthiop white.

Constrain my mind, constrain my soul
Thy purest love to feel;
Sprinkle thy blood upon my heart—
My covenant interest seal.

Lastly, some derive it from the word *ברך* *barah*, which signifies to *eat*, *feast*, &c. Feasting being a sign of lasting friendship; see Gen. xxvi. 30, 31, 34. 2 Sam. iii. 20. where the idea of federal feasting is distinctly marked.

The following case may illustrate the peculiar form and sacred nature of covenants in the East Indies, where self-immolation so extensively prevails. It occurred at *Howrah*, on April 5, 1828. The devotee is described as a young female of prepossessing appearance, and