

# THE MISSIONARY HERALD.



WHIMPER

PORT GRENADA.

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## REPORT.

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THE revolutions of years, while they bring with them the anniversaries of our missionary institutions, at the same time hasten us onward to the period when He, whose years endure "throughout all generations," shall declare the mysteries of His working, and fully accomplish the purposes of His dealings with the church and in the world.

The course of the Baptist Missionary Society during the more than sixty years of its existence, bears upon it many proofs of the divine care of the Head of the Church. Even its vicissitudes and perils have had their lesson and their use. They at least teach us to trust in Him with unhesitating faith; for practically it has been found that all things, whether prosperous or adverse, work together for good; for the Master whom we serve is head over all things to the church.

### THE MISSIONARIES.

In presenting their Annual Report, the Committee give the first place to those changes in the mission band which it has pleased Divine Providence to make. The chiefest of those changes is that which death has wrought. Two of the missionaries have fallen asleep in the year past—one, aged and full of years, forty-two of which were spent in his Master's service in India, and the bearer of a name revered and held in honour by all the friends of missions in the East;—the other, in the prime of his missionary life, amid many tokens of the upspringing of that seed which for seven years he had diligently sown in the isle of Trinidad. The Rev. W. Carey of Cutwa, the second son of Dr. Carey, and the Rev. Geo. Cowen of Savanna Grande, can no more be numbered as helpers together with us in the work of the Lord. In some instances the families of missionaries have been sorely tried with affliction and the loss of children, while three, the Rev. J. Parry of Jessore, the Rev. J. Johannes of Chittagong, and the Rev. W. H. Webley of Jacmel, weep over the graves of beloved wives.

The personal strength of the mission has further been reduced by the reluctant return of the Rev. J. Wheeler from Fernando Po, and the Rev. D. Webley from Haiti. A too brief period sufficed to show that neither health nor strength could sustain the scorching heat of a tropical clime. The increased efficiency to those missions the Committee had hoped to give, has therefore for the time been frustrated, an event the more painful, since no one has as yet been found to occupy the vacant posts. The Rev. George Pearce and Mrs. Pearce of Calcutta, have also been compelled to revisit their native land, where a temporary sojourn, it is hoped, will enable them to return with renewed strength to their anxious flock. Towards the end of the year the Committee received from the Rev. T. C. Page of Madras the expression of his desire to be regarded solely as the pastor of the English church, and not as a missionary of the Society. To this wish they reluctantly deemed it right to accede. On the other hand, the Committee have to rejoice in the safe arrival of the Rev. J. Makepeace in Agra. The Rev. J.

Trafford has also entered on his important duties at Serampore, while the Committee at a recent meeting had the pleasure of accepting with hopefulness and reliance on God's blessing, the services of Mr. C. Carter, the senior student of Horton College, for the work of the Lord in the East.

#### THE BAHAMAS.

But while afflictions have thus overtaken the messengers of Christ, no less heavily have they fallen upon some of the churches committed to their care. From Jamaica, where the effects of the visitation have not yet ceased, the cholera, accompanied by that scourge of equinoctial lands, the yellow fever, took its way to the Bahamas, devastating homes, giving trophies to death of entire families, wasting villages and towns, and removing to a better land the people of the Lord. Not less than one-eighth of the flock of Mr. Capern fell a prey to the ravages of the pestilence. The funds at the disposal of the Committee were immediately applied to the relief of the suffering congregations. Now, however, the plague is stayed, and the missionaries speak hopefully of the prospect before them.

But while these shadows and clouds have crossed the scenes of the Society's labours, the same divine hand that spread them has given spiritual blessings. At nearly all the stations there has been an accession of numbers. In the Bahamas, if the pestilence removed a hundred persons from the communion of the saints on earth, the wholesome terror it inspired brought back repentant and weeping to the fold nearly a hundred and fifty who had wandered into the waste places of the world. If the worldliness of some, the apathy and languor of more, led to a sifting of the chaff from the wheat, so that eighty were found unfaithful to the Lord that bought them, one hundred and ninety inquirers give speedy promise of their places in the sanctuary being re-filled. Not less than ninety-five persons have been baptized in the churches from which reports have been received; the number of their members is little less than 2500. The working of the native pastorate in this mission has been fully as encouraging as could have been anticipated. Thirty-one churches have recognized their duty, and have chosen seven brethren to watch over them in the Lord. About 1150 members are thus placed under native pastors. They exercise all due vigilance and discrimination in the admission of members and in the exercise of discipline, while much advantage has accrued to the newly baptized from their being under greater pastoral oversight.

The education of the people is however lamentably deficient. Large numbers are unable to read, and depend for their knowledge of the gospel on the lips of the native pastor. In these thirty-one churches are found not more than nineteen Sunday schools, owing to the difficulty of securing teachers, and but seven day schools exist to impart the ordinary rudiments of education. In this direction much has to be done. The poverty of the people obstructs their advancement. The infertility and commercial unimportance of the productions of the soil forbid the hope of amendment for years to come. The same causes limit the provision that the churches can make for the maintenance of their teachers, and in a few cases have occasioned an unwillingness to elect a pastor; some little addition to the contributions of the people has therefore been made by the Committee. It is however clearly impractic-

cable to expect these churches to maintain a European pastorate ; to use the words of Mr. Capern, "It becomes more and more apparent that native preachers are the most fitting agencies for this field of labour."

#### TRINIDAD.

In Trinidad the closing days of Mr. Cowen's life were cheered by several additions to the church. The repellent influence of popery has been more than usually overcome. Large numbers have perused the numerous tracts issued from the mission press, not without a beneficial influence on their opinions and views of the gospel of Christ. Twenty-one individuals have put on the Lord Jesus. The churches have enjoyed peace, and the comforts of the Holy Spirit. Mr. Law has been particularly engaged in the erection of a house of prayer. This was rendered requisite by the inconveniences of the room, in which until now divine worship has been carried on, and the increased numbers attending the ministry of the gospel. The foundation stone was laid by Lord Harris, the governor of the colony, on the 7th of July, amid general congratulation, and a considerable sum has already been contributed towards the cost. The diligent and zealous action of the church itself bids fair speedily to place the building entirely free from debt.

#### HAITI.

The past year has been a year of mourning in the mission band in Haiti. The return of Mr. D. Webley was soon followed by the necessity for the relief a change of climate could afford to Miss Harris. Shortly after her departure Mrs. W. H. Webley was removed from the scene of trial, and her bereft husband's sorrows multiplied by the early decease of their only child. Thus wave upon wave rolled over the mission. On hearing of these accumulated afflictions, Miss Harris at once volunteered to revisit the island, and to aid by her presence and counsel the fast diminishing band. Meanwhile the work of the Lord was slowly advancing. The school continued to gather from sixty to seventy Haitien youths for instruction under the care of Miss Howard and Miss Clark. Mr. Webley's burdens were however greatly increased by the heavy pecuniary cost of the chapel and dwelling-house he has for some time been engaged in erecting. But by this time the building is completed, and he will have had the joy of occupying the first sanctuary specially erected by the Society in Haiti, for the preaching of the truth as it is in Jesus. The Committee trust that all his anticipations may be realized, and that if darkness and clouds have hitherto covered this interesting field, the time is come for the refreshing rain from the presence of the Lord.

#### ST. DOMINGO.

On the north side of the island, usually called St. Domingo, Mr. Rycroft commenced his missionary work in the month of March, at Puerto Plat. A small church of sixteen persons was soon collected, consisting for the most part of individuals who had formerly been members of churches in other islands ; and a somewhat commodious room, furnished by public contributions, was opened for divine worship. Two villages in the country have also received the visits of the missionary, where a small number of people are

found to worship God, and hold forth the light of truth to the extent of their ability. The priests of Rome have however taken alarm. The missionary and the gospel he proclaims are publicly denounced, and the government incited to expel him from the country. But he is not without defenders among the Roman Catholic population, while others inquire secretly after the truth which fear deters them from hearing openly. The missionary is welcomed at their homes. He is listened to by the wayside. Scriptures and tracts find their way where he cannot come, giving the hope that the grotesque and debasing mixture of heathenism with popery, which constitutes the religion of the Dominicans, will give way to the increasing light of knowledge and truth.

## AFRICA.

Notwithstanding the reduction of missionary strength that has taken place in the African mission, the blessing of God evidently rests on the enfeebled labours of the remnant. His strength is made perfect in weakness. At all three of the stations there have been conversions, and the labours of the negro teachers rendered effectual to the salvation of many.

The care of the churches has of necessity been committed to some of the converts themselves, whose labours evince no small amount of capacity and fitness for the office to which they have been called. The work of translation has been continued by Mr. Saker, and from the press at Bimbia have issued several thousands of pages of God's word in the Isubu and Dualla tongues, together with a hymn book, a vocabulary, and some elementary books for the instruction of the people. Besides his evangelic ministrations Mr. Saker has done somewhat for the civilization of the people whom God has gathered around him. A sugar and a cotton plantation, a lime kiln, a brick field, the gathering of palm oil for the purposes of trade, himself taking the lead, and by personal toil instructing the people in the processes of manufacture and cultivation, while they evidence the diligence, the zeal, the far-sightedness of the missionary, at the same time are a prelude to the elevation of the degraded races of Africa and the extirpation of the slave-trade from her shores.

The chapel at Clarence, which last year it was announced had been levelled to the ground by a destructive tornado, has been nearly rebuilt under Mr. Saker's direction; but this time of brick, the produce of native industry; while at Cameroons a substantial and more enduring dwelling for the missionary family has been erected of the same material. The introduction of the gospel among the tribes on the Cameroons river has had, however, some opposition to encounter. More than once the lives of the people attendant on the preaching of the word have been threatened with violence. Yet the congregations have been re-gathered. The people listen with intense interest to the word of life. From their labours in the brick field and plantation the workers eagerly hasten to the school. Men and boys, women and girls, meet in the same classes to acquire the art of reading. "The mission station," says Mr. Saker, "is a scene of busy activity from early morn to night. Labour, lessons, singing and prayer, is the life at Cameroons."

## FRANCE.

Although in some parts of France the civil authorities, at the instigation of the Romish priesthood, have interfered with the public worship of God, and in some instances the servants of Christ have been called to endure imprisonment for the truth's sake, our missionary in Brittany has been permitted to pursue his way without interruption. The meetings both in Morlaix and in the villages have been maintained, and the public means of grace continued. The labours of the colporteurs have however been stayed. As liberty was refused him to distribute the scriptures, M. Humbert has gone to Brest to a more open field. The authorization of M. Omnes, the Breton colporteur, became useless in June last, in consequence of the publication of a decree requiring all books to be stamped at the prefecture previous to their being offered for sale. For two months his bibles and testaments remained in the hands of the authorities, and it was only in the beginning of the present year that they released them and permitted the sale to recommence. Among the first purchasers were two of the officers themselves. Some interesting cases of conversion have cheered the missionary. Many efforts were made, some of them of a most objectionable kind, to deter the converts from making confession of Christ. But by divine grace they have remained steadfast. Their faith and patience have awakened much inquiry. "We are more and more convinced," says Mr. Jenkins, "that this is the beginning of a good work that will extend itself." One of the new converts is about to undertake the interesting work of prosecuting the itinerant school; in which about fifty individuals, of all ages, have hitherto been under instruction.

## JAMAICA.

Before passing on to the eastern missions of the Society, it is necessary briefly to notice the institution at Calabar. With great satisfaction the Committee refer to the valuable and effective labours of the esteemed president, the Rev. D. J. East. During the year seven students have been under instruction. Two have entered on the work of the ministry. The examination at the close of the session appears to have given unqualified pleasure to the several brethren who were present. They speak in the highest terms of the progress made by the students, and of the general management of the institution, at the same time pledging themselves to its hearty support. Of the seventeen students who have left its walls, the Committee rejoice to learn that two only have returned to their secular callings; two others have died. The rest are directly engaged, either as pastors or teachers, or both combined, in the ministry of the word, and with very encouraging success, bearing testimony of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to their fellow countrymen.

The solicitude of the Committee has often been directed during the year to various matters connected with the welfare of the cause of Christ in Jamaica. The contributions to the Special Fund, now nearly exhausted, have enabled them to aid several brethren to pay a temporary and invigorating visit to their native land, while the Cholera Fund has continued to relieve the necessities of others, both among the pastors and people, who still suffer from the effects of

the ravages of pestilence and disease, the last of which, indeed, is not entirely subdued. Death too has been busy among the ranks of the pastors, and some have been constrained from severe affliction to take a final leave of the scene of so much suffering and toil. The affairs of the Widows and Orphans' Fund of Jamaica have had the fullest deliberation; and the Committee are happy to say that the parties interested, with no exception known to them, have concurred in the arrangements proposed for its settlement. Those who have left the mission will receive the amount of their contributions to the fund; while the widows and families of those who were formerly missionaries of the Society will be entitled to an annuity of £20 per annum, payable from the general Widows and Orphans' Fund of the Society. The settlement of this long-pending and difficult matter will be a cause of rejoicing to all the friends of the Society.

## EAST INDIES.

The past year has been an encouraging one in the eastern missions of the Society. Whether regard be had to the additions made to the churches, or to the silent but sure progress of decay in the institutions of heathenism, there is great cause for rejoicing and gratitude to Him who vouchsafes to accept and bless the work of our hands. In August it pleased God to bring to this country the Rev. P. H. Cassidy. He had previously laboured in connection with another society in the district around Bombay; but being convinced of the truth of believers' baptism, he sought to obey the Saviour's command, and for that purpose returned to his native land. After his baptism and union to the church in John Street, and several conferences with the Committee, he has been encouraged to revisit, under the auspices of this Society, the former scene of his labours, relying on the providence of God, and the goodwill of the natives to whom he will preach the word, for the needful provision for his support. The Committee rejoice at the prospect of conveying, by means of Mr. Cassidy's self-denying ministry, the gospel to the Mahratta race, and are now anxiously awaiting the tidings of his arrival at his destination.

## CEYLON,

In Ceylon the apathy of some former years has given way, and a revival of attention, of piety, and of zeal for the Redeemer's glory has been manifest. Early in the year Mr. Davis proceeded to the station at Kandy, Mr. Allen continuing to labour in Colombo at the Pettah Chapel, and to watch over the jungle churches in its vicinity. To the Burghers, Portuguese, Singhalese, and Tamils the brethren have addressed their evangelic message, and a most cordial welcome has been given to the missionary when visiting the plantations and estates. The churches are for the most part dependent on the instructions received from the native pastors, whose abilities, discrimination, and devotedness, have fully been brought out in the exercise of their pastoral duties. Much care has been exercised in the admission of the candidates to baptism, nearly the whole of whom have, as inquirers, for some time previously been under instruction. Sixty-three persons have been united to the church of God. The school conducted by Mrs. Allen continues to maintain its usefulness and interest. One of her pupils has been

baptized, and two or three others give the most pleasing tokens that a work of grace has begun. Twenty-four children are boarded, and educated in English and Singhalese, at the Institution. Mrs. Davis is also contemplating the formation of a similar school at Kandy.

## INDIA.

The returns from the churches in Bengal indicate a larger spiritual blessing than has been the case for some few years, and the general aspect of affairs is full of interest and encouragement. The school operations of the missionaries have been as extensive and useful as those of former years, and it is beyond question that the constant presentation of the truth in the mission schools has paved the way in many localities for the increasing indifference of the people to the religion of their forefathers. It may be that conversions have not followed to the amount which the long continued employment of these means might lead us to expect: yet it is certain that the most intelligent and useful of the converts are those who in early life have been trained in mission schools. The most effective native preachers are of the number, and no small proportion of the people who have left the region of shadows and darkness for the light of the gospel kingdom, is indebted to native instrumentality for the blessing they have received. Of more than usual interest have been the itineracies of the missionary brethren. In company with their native assistants, large tracts of country have been traversed, in which they have dispersed on every side the word of the living God. The streets of Calcutta, its suburban villages, its bazars, its roadsides, have almost daily seen the messengers of peace witnessing of the love of God. Over the great districts of Birbhoom, Mymensing, Dacca, Jellalpore, Goalpara, Tipperah, and even to Assam, with the country for forty miles around Monghair, and some portions of the northern Zillahs of Bengal, the heralds of the cross have borne the banner of salvation. Even the jails were not overlooked. In Jessore the native preachers were located for a week together at some chosen and convenient spot, to receive and converse with Hindoos or Mahommedans desirous of learning more fully the way of life. A large number availed themselves of the opportunity. Particular Christian doctrines, the mode of worship, the contents of the tracts and scriptures, were the frequent topics of inquiry and discussion. In Chittagong and at Kalikapur the work of grace has continued to make progress, and eleven persons have been united to the body of Christ. In language like the following do the missionaries, with singular unanimity, speak of the aspect of the field they have covered with their anxious and unwearied steps. "The heathen," says Mr. Johannes, "do not so generally disregard the word now. They listen with readiness and pleasure to the news of salvation, and applications are unceasingly made for scriptures and tracts, which they peruse and are profited withal." The Rev. J. Parry observes that on several occasions, "the natives spontaneously seek for religious instruction." To the Rev. Mr. Bion, a Hindoo, to whom a copy of the scriptures had been given on a former tour, said, "We still have your books, and read them almost daily. Many of the villagers do not worship idols any more, but mind your books." Elsewhere he heard of others who in a distant



and to him inaccessible village read the scriptures diligently, had given up idolatry, and endeavoured to walk according to the gospel. Thus throughout Bengal there is displayed great eagerness to hear and to receive the word of God, everywhere is a change apparent in the tone and temper of the people with respect to the gospel of Christ.

In the north west, the Agra native mission has been revived with much hopefulness by the Rev. J. Makepeace. Chitoura continues to present the same interesting features of Christian civilization ; while at Muttra, Mr. Phillips is making great exertions to preach the word to every creature living within its bounds. The buildings at Benares, lately occupied as a college by the government, have become the property of the Society, in a manner that marks the gracious hand of God. The property is situated near the native city, surrounded on every side by the crowded habitations and the idol temples of the Hindoos. It is desirable that the mission in this spot so devoted to idolatry and superstition should have immediate attention, and the Committee anxiously await the appearance of the men whom, in answer to the church's prayers, the Head of the church may prepare and bid proceed to this important sphere.

#### TRANSLATIONS.

The itinerant labours of the missionaries are rendered greatly more efficient by the plentiful distribution of the word of God, not however carelessly given to every applicant, but responsive to the most eager expressions of desire, and with some evidence that the individuals seeking are able to peruse them. Not fewer than 34,000 copies of various parts of scripture, or entire volumes, have been issued from the Depository, while 39,000 copies in Bengali and Sanskrit have been finished at the press for further distribution. The revision of the Bengali New Testament announced last year as in progress has been completed. An octavo edition has already been published, and the reprint of it in a smaller form, as a pocket bible for the use of the native Christians, has reached the Acts of the Apostles. The Bengali version continues at present and is likely for years to be the only one in circulation in Bengal. In its revision, Mr. Wenger has kept in view in the numerous alterations he has made, the desirableness of following the original as closely as a due regard to the idiom of the Bengali language will allow, at the same time retaining the elegance stamped upon it by the late Dr. Yates. Mr. Lewis has rendered Mr. Wenger valuable assistance in this important work.

In Sanskrit the second volume of the Old Testament, containing the historical books from Judges to Esther inclusive, has been completed. A revised edition of Genesis with the first twenty chapters of Exodus has also been published. The Hindee gospels in the Kaithi character have been undertaken and carried through the press to John viii. by the joint labours of Mr. Leslie and Mr. Parsons of Monghir, and some little progress has also been made in printing the Hindustani version in the Roman characters.

#### EXTENSION OF THE MISSION IN INDIA.

It now remains only to speak of the measure for augmenting and consolidating the Society's mission in India which during the year has

occupied so large a place in the deliberations of your Committee. An intimation was given in the last report that the condition of the mission in that earliest and most important sphere of the Society's labours would have very early consideration. Accordingly, at a full meeting of the Committee in June, the secretaries gave in much detail their views of the wants of the stations, and the requirements of that part of India in particular where from the first the missionaries of the Society have been located in largest number and with the largest success. At the request of the Committee, these statements were afterwards printed, and at their next meeting in October fully and carefully discussed. After prayer for divine guidance, the Committee unanimously expressed their views in the following resolutions:—

1. That in the opinion of this Committee it is in the highest degree desirable that the operations of the Society in India should be consolidated and extended.
2. That a Sub-committee be appointed to consider and report on the best means of effecting this most important object.
3. And that the papers prepared by the Secretaries be referred, together with the Reports of the Deputation to India, for consideration to the Sub-committee.
4. That the Sub-committee do consist of Revs. Dr. Angus, J. Leechman, J. Russell, H. Dowson, W. Brock, C. M. Birrell, G. H. Davis, C. Stovel, J. P. Mursell, Messrs. Allen and Pewtress, with the Treasurers and Secretaries.

By the sub-committee every part of the mission was passed in review, its necessities pondered, and every consideration weighed as to what it became the duty of the Committee to do. In January an extended report was laid before the Quarterly Meeting. The plan embraced the whole of the field occupied by the Society, and affirmed the necessity of sending forth at least twenty additional missionaries, at a probable annual cost of £5,000, in order to place on an efficient footing the stations now occupied, and in some degree to seize the present openings for the extension of Christ's kingdom. With perfect unanimity and devout feeling, the Committee resolved on laying this large measure before the members of the Society. Trusting in the all-provident care of the Lord Jesus to supply the requisite means as well as the right men, they determined to go forward and, God helping them, take possession of the land in his name.

Two chief objects are contemplated in the scheme, in addition to the general one of spreading yet more widely the gospel of salvation. The stations of the Society are individually weak, and for the most part removed by great distances from mutual co-operation. To strengthen and to consolidate the stations were therefore of the first importance:—To strengthen them by additional men, that stations might no more be lost and the work of years scattered by disease or death, and the solitary and, therefore in some degree, feeble labours of the missionary be increased in efficiency:—To consolidate, by bringing the stations into nearer relation to each other, which can only be done by the formation of three or four new ones, unless it were resolved rather to contract our operations, and to bring into still narrower limits their already diminished sphere. But absolute necessity alone could justify such a contraction—a necessity which certainly could not be said to exist either in the state of India, or in the ability of the churches at home. No alternative was open to your Committee. It dared not recede. It had faith in the promises of God, and in the power of Christian love to souls

to re-animate the faint-hearted, to quicken the cold, and to draw forth the generous zeal of the people of God.

Many other considerations came in to give increased urgency to the appeal. Much as has been done for India, the destitution of the means of grace is still overwhelming. Full one half of the sixty-two millions of Bengal and the North West Provinces have no missionaries among them, while the labours of the comparatively few are almost concealed by the magnitude of the work before them. For sixteen years the Society has not increased the number of its missionaries in the East, while boundless fields have been opening on every side. Yet the labours of the past are full of encouragement. Many churches have been formed; some fifteen hundred persons have been gathered from amongst the heathen into the fold of Christ besides those who have passed into the presence of the Lord. The scriptures can be abundantly supplied in versions at once accurate and intelligible to the people. Tracts and schools can be multiplied to any extent. The political and social condition of the people is eminently favourable to missionary exertion. Even the once haughty Brahmin condescends to investigate the claims of Christianity, and is constrained to confess, that "Hindooism is sick unto death." It were then to dishonour the names of the revered founders of the Mission, to distrust the providence of the Master that we profess to serve, to be indifferent to the glory of the risen Redeemer, the Lord of all, to be deaf to the cry of the perishing, to be more mindful of our own things than those of Jesus Christ, if at this juncture, with so bright a prospect of speedy triumph in view, your Committee had failed to confront the necessity, and to summon the churches of Christ to the help of the Lord.

## FINANCES.

In their last year's report the Committee had to state a balance due to the treasurers of £4723 5s. 8d. The receipts for this year for general purposes amount to £15,114 3s. 9d. On £600 of this sum there is a small charge of £15 per annum for the life of a very aged friend. The amount received for general purposes is, therefore, £395 5s. 11d. in advance of the previous year. The total receipts are somewhat less. This, however, arises from the fact that £400 more were received last year for translations, and there were besides some large special donations. The expenditure has been £500 less than the income, by which amount the debt has been still farther reduced. A very considerable reduction has been effected in all the items of home expenditure, except agency; but an arrangement has been made which takes effect at the beginning of the present financial year, whereby a farther saving will accrue.

It may be perhaps necessary to say a word or two in explanation of another financial arrangement which will appear in the balance sheet about to be presented by the treasurers. Two sums of £1000 each were offered to the Society some years ago on condition that certain annuities, usual in such cases, be paid to the parties during their life time. They have hitherto been treated as *loans*. But as the treasurers are only responsible for the annuities and not for the principal, over which the donors have no control, these sums have been carried to account. The actual debt, therefore, now due to the

treasurers is £1813 Os. 5d, a sum of no great magnitude, and which a very slight effort can sweep away altogether.

The Committee are of opinion that there is nothing in the financial condition of the Society to hinder the prosecution of their proposed effort to enlarge and consolidate the mission in India. They look back to former periods of its history, and they find that, when in the greatest pecuniary straits, or when any extension of their operations has been called for, and they have laid the case before the churches, the response has always been equal to the demand. With this fact before them they cannot but cherish a confident hope that the present appeal will be successful too. Many churches are taking up the subject with great earnestness. It has awakened deep and general attention. Already has it excited a spirit of earnest prayer. On every side, without a dissentient voice, it has been warmly welcomed; and the generous offers of the honoured treasurers of the Society, the intimations of other esteemed friends, and the thorough organization of many churches, on a scale of far greater efficiency than heretofore, give no faltering indication that so far as pecuniary means are required they will be amply found. The proceedings of this annual meeting will, no doubt, inspire the Committee with increased confidence in the wisdom and success of the course proposed.

By and by some estimate may be formed of the measure of support which will be afforded. It is clear the Committee can go only so far as the pecuniary contributions are increased. Donations will flow in and greatly help to meet those necessary expenses which the execution of such a project will inevitably occasion. But on regular yearly contributions can the Committee alone rely. If they increase to the extent of £5000 a year, then the whole plan may be accomplished. If they do not, then only a part of it can be. On the churches, therefore, and not on the Committee, now lies the grave responsibility whether or not that shall be done, which all admit to be necessary, to strengthen the mission in India.

Meanwhile they earnestly entreat all who take any interest in the work of saving souls, and enlarging Christ's kingdom, to remember their dependence on the Spirit of God for success. Without His gracious influence the preaching of the cross will be in vain. Sinners may hear it, but their hearts will be unmoved. Without His presence in the churches at home, their piety and zeal will languish and decay. The Great Master has himself assured his disciples that, if they ask the Father for the gift of the Spirit, He will give it. Here then our dependence lies. Here is the source of our strength and success. Most earnestly then do the Committee press this all-important subject on the members of the Society. They beseech them to repair to the closet and the sanctuary, and there, with importunity and faith, to cry night and day to the Giver of all good, that he would graciously give them the Spirit of truth to convert the sinner, and guide and bless the church in her efforts to convert the world.

The proposal to extend the Society's operations beyond any previous instance, has not been the result of mere impulse. It was conceived in deep seriousness, has grown up as the result of continued prayer, consideration, and thought. The memorable saying of Carey, now the motto of all evangelic missions, can never be forgotten. As time rolls on, it acquires increased influ-

ence and power. It is now a watchword in Zion. The spirit of the maxim in which the Society began, is once more alive; and the Committee are only following in the footsteps of their predecessors in seeking to accomplish this great plan. With increased confidence in the necessity of it, and in the zeal and piety of the churches, they again adopt as their motto, "EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD; ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS FOR GOD."

## INDIA.

Recent letters from India inform us of the safe arrival of the Rev. JOHN TRAFFORD at Serampore. He has already commenced his labours much cheered by the prospect of usefulness opening before him.

The society has, however, to mourn the decease of the Rev. W. CAREY of Cutwa, after a severely painful illness of about twenty days. He had witnessed the progress of missions in Bengal since

his father's arrival in 1793, and had himself laboured for upwards of forty years. He died on the 3rd of February. Amid all his sufferings he was enabled to endure with patience, yet often expressing his desire to depart and to be with Christ. Thus is another urgent reason added to the many reasons that press upon us to work for India while it is day. Who will take the post left vacant by this servant of Christ?

## CHITOURA, NEAR AGRA.

The incidents related in the following communication from Mr. SMITH will be found of great interest, especially the conversion of the Sanyasi. Thus the gospel meets with men whose hearts the Lord has opened. Our readers will sympathize with our missionary under the trials related at the close.

Dec. 13th, 1852.—I have been privileged again to preach the gospel to the crowds assembled together at the great bathing melá of Bhuteshwár. My health was so indifferent that I was afraid to venture from home; but, thank God, ten days' hard work has left me none the worse, but considerably improved in health. The melá was as thickly attended as ever; it was estimated that not less than 800,000 individuals were present, and I have no doubt that even this estimate is below the mark. On the great bathing day, the enthusiasm exhibited was astonishing. To get through the temple at its most crowded time, required all the strength of an able-bodied man; and yet not a few women ventured in. For hours together they flowed through, like an irresistible torrent, at the rate of more than a hundred per minute, and such was the zeal

manifested, that life might have been supposed to rest on the issue. Yet I am confident there was little sincerity in all this; if asked, Why such anxiety to bathe? the reply would invariably be: "it is our custom: our fathers did thus; and you see the world does so still; and how can we act differently?" A native soldier who had listened to our preaching was on guard at the temple during the great day; and on seeing me pass, he pointed to the terrible rush of worshippers, and said: "You see what Mahâdev can do! You say he is stone! but who can produce such results as these?" Thus not a few rest the truth of their superstitious worship on its universality. The number of Bairâgis and Sannyâsis was fewer than I have ever seen, and generally speaking the religious mendicants appear to get less encouragement than they used to do.

### *Preaching by the wayside.*

We commenced our preaching operations on Monday, the 22nd inst. Our party consisted of brother Harris, myself, and three native preachers. The former was taken ill, and obliged to leave the melá for home at its commencement. A native preacher was also with us from the Presbyterian church at Agra, and at a later period, Babu Gopinâth, with several native preachers, occupied a

position on the opposite side of the melâ. We commenced daily between 7 and 8 o'clock, and kept up incessant preaching until 4 p.m. Nor had we any reason to complain of want of attention. At the commencement we experienced some severe opposition, and at intervals after; but for the most part, the people exhibited a disposition to hear, and many kept exclaiming, "It is all true!" I cannot but hope that the Gospel is doing its work silently in the minds of hundreds.

#### *Inquirers.*

We saw men leave their shops and business, and come day after day to listen to the Gospel, exhibiting anxious faces, and putting questions of a nature to exhibit their earnestness. Some showed much of subtlety in their queries. One man of a superior mind and ability came and gave a correct and scriptural account of the creation, and finding nothing in it of the origin of the tempter, he wished to infer that he existed before and independently of God himself; and then adverting to the present state of the world, in which he stated sin was predominant, he concluded that Satan was more powerful than God; inasmuch as the Satanic element (evil) far exceeds godliness. It was difficult to answer such remarks to the satisfaction of a Hindu mind. I therefore endeavoured to lead him to the far more important subject of the plan of salvation as exhibited in the bible, with which he was well acquainted, and he soon took his departure. The preaching of the cross is still to some "foolishness."

#### *The attentive hearer.*

A most interesting character of the Vedantist school attended our preaching from the first day of our arrival. Long had he been seeking after the truth, with apparent zeal and sincerity! He has visited almost every shrine in India; having left his wife and family near Bareilly five years ago, and, in accordance with the practice of Sannyais, never inquired since whether they are dead or alive. He is a tolerable Sanscrit scholar, and was attended by several disciples, who supplied all his wants and acted as servants. The gospel appeared to arrest his attention at once; it was a scheme so strange and new, and yet so suited to his wants; that he would have employed some of us all through the melâ, in instructing him and answering his queries, could we have spared time. Two days before we left, he brought his books, bedding, &c., and declared himself to be on the Lord's side; his disciples were soon scattered, and one and another called out to him from a distance to know what he was doing among the Christians; evidently afraid of trusting themselves too near the centre of that

influence by which their Gôtra had been led to cast away his idols and idolatry, with all their advantages, which to him were not a few. He returned home with us to Chitoura, and has been closely engaged daily, reading the New Testament with some other works, such as the "Sat Mat Nirupan." The truth has, I trust, been manifested to his heart and conscience, and, I doubt not, he will be a useful member of the mission. His manners are kind and conciliatory, and he is just adapted to our village work. May the Lord make him an honoured instrument in extending his cause here. We distributed with the greatest care—

4	copies	1st vol. Sanscrit Old Test.
4	"	Sanscrit New Testaments.
4	"	ditto 4 Gospels and Acts.
6	"	Urdu New Testaments.
6	"	ditto 4 Gospels and Acts.
4	"	Persian ditto.
10	"	ditto Luke and Acts.
8	"	Urdu ditto.
100	single gospels.	
200	tracts.	

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#### *The Christian village.*

Some of the residents in our Christian village have been causing me considerable pain and anxiety: one of them quietly betrothed his daughter to a heathen, and that too by the advice of others. The matter at once presented itself to me in a serious light, and I saw the necessity of immediately putting a stop to the proceedings at any cost; which I did by making the man send for the parties, and annul the agreement in my presence, or leave the village; he did all I asked, and expressed himself sorry for allowing himself to be so far misled. It has however been the cause of four other families leaving the village; still I pray the Lord may overrule even this to his own glory. I find that although several families have thus been separated from us, and are thrown into the society of enemies to the gospel, yet they keep the sabbath, and are maintaining their Christian character.

Several other families have joined us, and there are many among the Chumârs who are arranging to come. We must not be discouraged by disappointments; but rather be prepared for them, and remember that sometimes circumstances that appear to us in the light of unmitigated evils, are made to tend to the furtherance of the gospel.

I am thankful to say that I am feeling much better, and I hope a good deal of moving about this cold season in my own immediate field may enable me to continue at my post without any intermission.

## CAWNPORE.

Mr. WILLIAMS adds his stores of facts, to those already detailed, in his letter of November 30th. They show in a striking manner the miserable condition of the idol-worshippers of India.

On the 24th, 25th, and 26th instant, I was at the Bittur fair, with the two native brethren. The fair was not so numerously attended as last year, but still very many thousands were present. We preached to large crowds in various parts of the wide sandy plain and on the river side, and distributed nearly the whole of the last supply of scriptures you sent, besides some hundreds of tracts and single gospels. Most of the people heard attentively the word preached, and those to whom we gave the books seemed to be much pleased with them. Let us pray that the good seed thus extensively scattered may not be lost, but be as bread cast upon the waters, which shall be seen after many days.

*An extraordinary character.*

We visited the celebrated Kannia Lal on two occasions, and had some interesting conversation with him. He is certainly one of the most odd and extraordinary men of his class I ever knew, and is greatly revered by the Hindus. He readily admitted the truth and reasonableness of what we advanced, and took a copy of the scriptures from us, engaging to read it. This he may do, or get others to read it to him; but I very much fear that he will not soon, if ever, give up his present system, and forego the worship and adoration paid him by hundreds of the people, to become a humble disciple and follower of Christ. Though such a thing is not, indeed, impossible; nothing is too hard for the Lord to accomplish. His glorious gospel has often triumphed in the conversion of the vilest and most obdurate sinners, and its efficacy is still the same. In every age, it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

*Brahma's shrine and its legend.*

We also visited again this year, a shrine called "Brahma ka Konti." It is said that the god Brahma once visited this place, and left behind him that portion of his sandal, which fits in between the toes, to prevent its slipping off the foot; or rather by which it is lifted up and carried along in walking. This one is nothing more or less than a piece of iron, the size of a large nail, fixed into a stone in the wall, yet the poor deluded people are taught by the wary brahmans to regard it as

the very identical konti that Brahma left there, and hence they reverently bow down to it, and worship it. The place is enclosed, and contains a small pool of filthy water in which hundreds of men and women bathe, and in which, as they suppose, they wash away their sins. Beside the pool I observed a heifer calf, and a poor man had hold of its tail; a brahman was saying something in Sanscrit, and the man was repeating it after him, at the same time pouring water on the tail of the animal; and last of all, he whispered something in its ear. On my asking the meaning of all this, I was told that near to heaven there is a deep and wide river called, "Bytarni," that the spirits of the calves, or cows, are located on its banks, and that none can swim across it in safety without the aid of their tails. This poor man, therefore, by this ceremony, and by offering a little money, procured for himself a safe passage over the said river, and he had whispered to the calf to be sure to meet him at the proper place. ¶ Really this is monstrously absurd, even beyond all I ever heard before; and one would think it impossible that any rational being could ever helieve such foolish stuff, but, alas! they *do* believe it, and act upon it; and will no doubt continue in the same deplorable condition until Christianity shall prevail among them, and teach them better.

*The labourers; how few!*

But when will this be! It is truly painful to observe how very little, comparatively, is being done, at least in these parts, for bringing about the conversion of the poor perishing heathen. At this fair, where such vast multitudes were congregated together, there were none to make known to them the way of salvation except ourselves; and what could we do among so many? May the Lord send forth many more faithful labourers into his harvest. Yesterday, both morning and evening, I preached to a goodly number of noisy hearers on the road leading down to the Sarsia Ghat; still there were some in the crowd who heard well. One man followed me out, with whom I had conversation on the subjects which had been discussed, and he seemed to be convinced of the truth of the gospel. This morning I crossed over the river, and had a good congregation of attentive hearers. There are several villages on the Lucknow side, contiguous to the river, some of which I have visited, and the people appeared very friendly and glad to hear the gospel. Two men from one of these villages called upon me, with whom I had much serious conversation; and I gave them a copy of the scriptures.

