

# THE MISSIONARY HERALD.

## REPORT.

THE Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society gladly avail themselves of the opportunity, which a meeting of its friends and supporters affords them, of presenting an account of the proceedings of the Institution since the last anniversary. Though the intelligence now to be communicated has its darker as well as its brighter aspects, they trust that it will be found that an amount of success has resulted from the varied operations which they have had to direct, sufficient to awaken lively emotions of gratitude to the great Author of all good, and to encourage His servants to fresh and more vigorous efforts for the glory of His name and the salvation of their perishing fellow men.

In presenting the annual report, the Committee have had very frequently to deplore the decease of some of their honoured Missionaries. This year, through the kind providence of God, none have died. Mr. Makepeace, through failure of health, has been obliged to come home with his family, and finally to abandon the mission field; and Mr. Phillips, formerly of Agra, who returned to England through ill health, has resigned his connexion with it. For some considerable time past the Committee have been concerned to observe, from their correspondence, that the health of Mr. Allen of Ceylon, Mr. Law of Trinidad, and Mr. Saker of Africa, has been seriously impaired. They have felt it their duty to give them full permission to return to England for a temporary sojourn, with the hope of their re-gaining strength and vigour; and it is not improbable that Mr. and Mrs. Capern and family will be also compelled to come home. On the other hand they are glad to report the return of Mr. and Mrs. Pearce to India. They arrived in good health in November last, and at once resumed their former labours.

But while rejoicing in the preservation of the valuable lives of these missionary brethren, the Committee have to lament the decease of their colleague, the Rev. C. E. Birt, M.A., a warm friend of the Society, its energetic advocate both in the pulpit and on the platform, and, until increasing infirmity compelled him to resign his place, a constant and valued counsellor among them. But the greatest loss which they have to deplore is that of the Senior Treasurer, W. B. Gurney, Esq., who, after a short but severe illness, was called to his rest on Lord's day morning, March 25th. The Committee refrain from any extended eulogy of their departed friend and colleague, who had, through a long life of eminent Christian consistency and usefulness, devoted very much of his time and property to the mission, and such other religious institutions, as secured his sympathy and confidence, and in which his interest remained firm and

earnest to the last. They have recorded their feelings on this bereavement in a resolution which they insert here as its fitting place, and which will best express their view of it, and their sense of his worth whom God has taken to Himself.

That this Committee desire to bow with profound submission to the Holy Providence of God, which by the death of W. B. Gurney, Esq., the Senior Treasurer of the Society, has bereaved them of a friend and coadjutor so long and so worthily distinguished among Christian philanthropists, and so generous, constant, and zealous in promoting all the efforts of his own denomination to advance the kingdom of Christ. Acting on this Committee from the time that its meetings were permanently fixed in London, and holding the treasurer's office for twenty years, his loss will be felt alike in the counsels of the mission and in its resources, to the latter of which he contributed with munificent liberality, while he always shared in the former, and often guided them by his accurate knowledge and practical wisdom. In paying this tribute to his memory the Committee "magnify the grace of God" in him; and with their grief mingle humble thanksgivings to the Father of mercies who spared his servant to a good old age, sustaining him in his latter years under severe affliction, and both in life and death adorned his character with "the fruit of the Spirit, and all goodness, and righteousness, and truth." In concluding this minute of respect and affection, the Committee take comfort in the immutable perfections of Jesus Christ, "the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever," and record their earnest prayer that He will graciously vouchsafe to sanctify the bereavement to the mourning family, to the Society, and to themselves; and to provide other instruments for carrying on his blessed work, while those whom he had thus honoured cease from their labour and enter into rest.

That the Secretary be instructed to transmit a copy of the foregoing resolution to Joseph Gurney, Esq., with the expression of the respectful and Christian sympathy of the Committee with himself and all the members of the family.

The anniversaries of the past year had unusual interest imparted to them by the public designation of the brethren Anderson, Martin, and Gregson. They sailed for India in July, and arrived in Calcutta in November, and having waited a short time to be present at the Association of Bengal Churches, held at Serampore, proceeded to their several spheres of labour. The letters received from these brethren confirm the previous impressions of the Committee respecting them. They are entering on their work with ardour, and in a spirit of devout dependence on God. Mr. Diboll, appointed to the West African mission, proceeded thither in May, and after a pleasant passage, arrived in June, amidst the congratulations and warm welcome of the people of his future charge.

It is with pleasure that the Committee report other additions to the mission band in India. During the past year they have accepted offers of service from the Rev. T. Evans, pastor of one of the churches in Pontypool, Mr. Sampson, and Mr. Mackay, senior students of the Bristol and Bradford Colleges. Departing from Liverpool, a designation service to commend them to the blessing of God was held in Myrtle Street Chapel. They sailed early in March, in the William Carey, whose generous owner, William Jones, Esq., of Pwllheli, offered the Committee a free passage for them -- equivalent to a gift of £350. Like their predecessors they spent their time, between their acceptance and departure, in studying the Bengali and Hindu languages, under the direction of the Rev. George Small; so that they, too, will be able to enter on

their work almost immediately on their arrival. Up to the present time, the Committee have to report that eight missionaries have been appointed out of the twenty proposed to be sent out in accordance with the plan for consolidating and extending the Indian mission.

Early in the past year the attention of the Committee was called to the need of some one going to India, with sufficient instructions and powers to carry into effect the plans they had resolved upon for the future conduct of the Indian branch of the mission. The brethren sent thither from time to time have to be located. The separation of the mission into three divisions, with organizations appropriate to each, seemed desirable. The establishment of a training school for both sexes, to provide pious and efficient teachers for the various schools, few such being attainable at present, had to be provided for. Arrangements respecting the class of missionary students in Serampore College needed re-adjustment. The Press at Calcutta, a property created by your missionaries, from the profits of which the greater part of the sum invested, forming the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, had arisen, and which for many years past had rendered to the Society considerable pecuniary aid had to be considered; for it had become a question whether to continue it on its present footing, contract its operations to purely missionary purposes, or realise the property for investment, and get the Society's work done at some general printing establishment. It was felt that these objects could not be secured by correspondence, and the Committee resolved to request Mr. Underhill to undertake the work. He complied with their request, and left for India in October, arriving there in November. A circular had been previously sent to the missionaries announcing his mission, explaining the objects of it, and requesting their kind co-operation. Their replies were most gratifying, and the Committee feel assured that Mr. Underhill will have every assistance from them which they can give. He will probably be absent between two and three years; and if life and health be continued to him, the knowledge and experience he will acquire will be of great advantage in the future conduct of this department of their operations. He has been too little time there to have accomplished much, but satisfactory progress has been made in some directions, of which they will have to speak in the subsequent pages of this Report.

During the past year, also, the Committee have had before them another subject of great importance, and to which they have given frequent and serious consideration—the proposed system of grants in aid to education by the government in India. They had no difficulty in re-asserting their adherence to the principle of not accepting government money in aid of any of their operations. But inasmuch as a difference of opinion prevailed among their missionary brethren, by many of whom India was deemed an exceptional case, they did feel considerable difficulty as to the course which they should prescribe to them, and it seemed worth every effort, on the one hand, to keep the Society free from all participation in state grants for any of its operations, and on the other, to leave the Christian liberty of the missionaries untouched. They have expressed their views of the scheme propounded in the government despatch, and of the course which their brethren in India are free to take, in a circular sent to each of them, and which will be found in the appendix to this Report.

## FRANCE.

## MORLAIX.

The unpretending but useful mission in Brittany, the centre of operations being the town of Morlaix, has had to contend with great difficulties during the past year. Among other modes of diffusing scriptural knowledge in the rural districts, adopted by Mr. Jenkins, a system of itinerating schools was established. Three teachers were engaged in the work, giving private lessons to families, visiting different parts of the country around their residences, at regular intervals. The priests endeavoured to prevent their parishioners from receiving instruction and reading the scriptures. They exhorted them, and when these means failed, they threatened to refuse absolution and communion, and even employment, to those who refused to obey. The teachers were denounced as bad women and dangerous persons; and the people were advised not to sell them any food. Efforts were also made to deprive them of their dwelling house. Those who received instruction were threatened with dismissal from their farms. This opposition induced some of the learners to withdraw, so that these were reduced from a hundred to about sixty. But the spirit of the people remained the same; and, for the most part, this opposition was nobly met.

Finding these efforts fruitless, the civil power was called in to aid the clerical. In France, schools are regulated by a special law, which requires the teachers to be legally qualified and authorized, under penalty of fine and the closing of the school. This law does not, however, take cognizance of private lessons given in families. But though the teachers had not violated the special law, it was determined to make out a case against them. They were accordingly summoned before the tribunal of the district. No sufficient time was given to them to prepare a defence. They were ultimately fined £4 each, and directed to close their pretended school. From this judgment an appeal was carried to the tribunal of St. Brienne, the judges of which confirmed the previous sentence.

Further legal advice was now taken; and M. Jules Delaborde, an eminent advocate, advised Mr. Jenkins to carry the appeal to the High Court of Cassation, at Paris. He undertook the defence free of all cost, it being a rule with him to decline his fees in all cases where religious liberty is concerned. The judgment of the court of St. Brienne was set aside on the ground of informality in taking the evidence; but the sentence remained in force, and the court of Rennes was appointed to settle it. The first sentence was confirmed. The fines and expenses amounted to about £30, which the friends in this country have not suffered to fall on these pious but poor women.

The cause of true religion will not be injured by these proceedings. The effort to defend the persecuted has inspired the people with confidence. Assured by competent legal authority, that such teaching was not illegal, the teachers have resumed their labours, and are giving lessons from house to house. In a few days after they had re-entered on their work, sixty-six pupils had placed themselves under instruction. In the district many have ceased going to mass and confession; a few have been brought to Christ, and a demand has arisen for a chapel, and regular public worship. "Such," says Mr. Jenkins, "have been our trials, and such are the cheering prospects before us."

## WEST INDIES.

## BAHAMAS.

Messrs. Capern and Littlewood have diligently discharged their duties during the past year ; the former residing at Nassau, the latter at Turk's Island. The Committee regret to state that Mr. Capern's health has suffered much from the exposure and toil connected with his visits to the out-island stations, varying in distance from fifty to three hundred miles, often made in very tempestuous weather, and always attended with great personal discomfort. He has been much discouraged by the inconsistency of one whom he hoped would have taken charge of his main station while he was away, and whom the church much respected and loved, but whom they were obliged to put away, as well as by the great difficulties which have arisen from the refusal of some of the churches to enter into his plans for settling native pastors among them. He has not failed to urge this duty upon them. But the poverty of the people is great, and their means of subsistence very precarious, and they shrink from the responsibility. In order to maintain a native pastorate at all the Committee have found it necessary to afford some pecuniary aid.

The previous year was one of great prosperity. The visitation of cholera had deeply affected multitudes. Backsliders sought re-admission to the churches, and a goodly number were candidates for baptism. There has been a painful reaction. The losses by death and exclusion have been unusually large. There were, however, 178 inquirers, and the prospects of future increase were encouraging. In Nassau the attendance was never better, and the word was heard with attention. The schools, too, were flourishing ; the teachers, most of whom were formerly scholars, are deeply anxious for the salvation of their pupils, among whom they were encouraging a missionary spirit, and with success, as the contributions for the year, amounting to £16, clearly prove.

From some of the out-islands the native teachers write encouragingly ; others deplore the low state of religion, and take the utmost pains to animate their flocks to a higher zeal and a holier life ; the visits of the missionary contribute to the promotion of these ends. Teachers and people are glad to receive his visits. The native pastor plan, under missionary superintendence, is, in Mr. Capern's judgment, *the* plan for the scattered population and isolated churches of the colony. Humanly speaking, the work of evangelization can go on in no other way. The teachers go to and fro from their respective islands preaching the word and administering ordinances. The missionary visits them as he is able, preaching the word too, but he goes chiefly to inquire into their state, and to admonish, counsel, and encourage, as circumstances may require. It is but a short time he can spend on any island. The native pastor is always there, with his leaders in each church, so that the means of grace are constantly supplied in each settlement.

The Committee regret to add that by last advices they apprehend the return of Mr. and Mrs. Capern, the health of both being much impaired, especially the latter, who has been confined indoors for months. Would that it were in

their power to send suitable help to one who has for so many years been most indefatigable and self-denying in his work.

In Mr. Littlewood's scene of labour the history of the past year has been a chequered one. Some of the distant churches have been sorely tried by the inconsistency of a few leading members, and two of the native preachers have fallen into sin and have been separated from fellowship. On the other hand, signs of revival have appeared at Grand Cay and Inagua, where the people are endeavouring to erect two new chapels. The growing importance of the latter station may render it necessary ere long to occupy it more efficiently. The Committee regret to add that the cholera has broken out in Grand Cay Island, hitherto considered one of the healthiest spots in the West Indies. The inhabitants were thrown into a state of great alarm, upwards of fifty persons were quickly carried off, most of whom were connected with the missionary's congregation. May this visitation be sanctified to the people, as it has been to the population of other islands similarly afflicted.

#### HAITI.

The past year has been one of almost uninterrupted prosperity and peace to the church under the pastorate of Mr. Webley, at Jaomel. The congregations have kept up beyond expectation, and the chapel is often full, and seldom opened for public worship without being at least half full. Twelve have been baptized, and all the members are walking consistently with their profession. A spirit of brotherly love and unity pervades the church; and it is a striking fact, and one worthy of record, that since the formation of the church there has been no case of discipline. This is the more remarkable from the deplorable state of the public morals, for it would be difficult to describe the general profligacy of all classes without using language unfit to be read.

Besides these general indications of prosperity, there is a considerable number of hopeful inquirers. The teachers in the school are pious and devoted to their work, and they exert a most happy religious influence on the minds of the children, two of whom have recently joined the church. The two schoolmasters are also shortly to be united in fellowship, and having talents for preaching will at once be called to exercise them.

On the northern side of the island, in that part of it called by its old name, St. Domingo, Mr. Rycroft has continued his labours in the town of Puerto Plat. The want of a chapel is sensibly felt, as well as a suitable residence for the missionary. His health has suffered severely from these causes, and the Committee regret that they have not been able to remove them. The post is one of great difficulty. The people are agitated by fears of a revolution. Property and life are insecure. All who can leave have gone to other parts of the West Indies. Trade has declined, and the poverty of the people is daily increasing. To use Mr. Rycroft's language, "Distress presses into every house and fills the town with objects of pity and charity. Those who once were full are now empty, and themselves in circumstances of great need. We have not therefore been able to prosecute the grand objects we have in view. While these obstacles have stood in our way, we have had also to encounter a vigilant and active foe, whose influence is constantly at work."

## TRINIDAD.

The accounts which Mr. Law has sent home during the year have been marked with varied interest. The cholera has made terrible ravages among the people, and rendered the year one of great trial, for not less than seven thousand persons have fallen beneath its power. But the Spirit has been poured out from on high. In the country districts particularly, there has been much fruit gathered to reward the missionary and the native brethren who assist him in his toil. Mr. Law has baptized no less than ninety-five converted men and women. All the churches are in a prosperous state. The native preachers are zealous and active.

Not only has the new chapel which was begun last year been completed, but another has been erected at Indian Walk. The Committee gave a grant which paid for the land on which the chapel is built, but the people have done all the rest. The friends at Cowra are making arrangements to erect a place for themselves, those at Port of Spain have paid off part of the debt on their chapel, and the interest on the money borrowed.

The Committee regret to state that Mr. Law's indefatigable labours, in a tropical climate, for more than ten years, have told sensibly on his health. They have directed him to make the best arrangements he can to meet the necessity of his temporary sojourn in England. He earnestly entreats the Committee to send out another missionary—one who might give himself wholly to labour among the French and Spanish portions of the population, for Trinidad is emphatically a missionary field. Crowds of Coolies, Chinese, and Romanists are found there, and no part of the West Indies offers a more promising sphere for the labours of a devoted servant of Christ.

## AFRICA.

## FERNANDO PO.

The intelligence which the Committee have received during the past year from the missionaries Saker and Diboll has occasionally been depressing, at others most encouraging. Mr. Diboll arrived at Clarence on the last Lord's day of June, during the time of public worship. When his arrival was known Mr. Saker came off to the ship, and the church and congregation waited on the beach to welcome him to his new home. He was soon after invited to take the pastoral oversight of them, with which request he cordially complied. At first he was astonished that the church should have made any progress, considering the disadvantageous circumstances in which they had been so long placed. But when he knew that for ten years a prayer-meeting had been held every morning at five o'clock, that they met every Monday evening also for prayer, that classes assembled in the chapel on Wednesday evenings, that a female class met once a week at the house of one of the sisters, the secret of success and progress was opened to him.

He found at the class meetings the people arranged under their several leaders, and going on with their reading and study of the word of God without interrupting each other. The texts and sermons of the previous Lord's day came also under consideration, and Mr. Diboll, referring to his visits to this class meeting, says, "And could you but have seen the fire and life, as it appeared in the eyes and on the lips of these black men and women leaders, as they pressed home the application of recent sermons upon the minds of those present, you would have thought as I did, *surely God is in this place*. You would think too, that while the machine works as it does, this church must have a rising life."

From these classes the leaders recommend such as seem to be in earnest. These form a pastor's class, and are met by him every Monday morning. Mr. Diboll found it necessary to divide his class into two, consisting of about twenty persons each, many of whom have been long under deep concern, and he is strongly persuaded that the seeds of eternal life are sown in the hearts of most of them. In a recent communication he informs the Committee that "scarcely a day passes but many come to him to speak of their trouble of heart about sin, and of their desire to find rest to their souls."

Several persons have, at different times, come down from the mountain bringing in their hands presents of food and fruit, and requesting Mr. Diboll to pay them a visit. With these requests he was soon after able to comply, as Mr. Saker was spending a Lord's day at Clarence. Two villages were visited, and discourses preached to the people in them, through an interpreter, to which they listened with eager attention. Mr. Diboll is making strenuous efforts to acquire their language, that he may be able to speak to them in their own tongue of "the unsearchable riches of Christ."

From the time of Mr. Diboll's settlement as pastor in June up to the date of his last communication at the close of the year, he speaks of an increasing band of hopeful inquirers, additions to the church, and the restoration of some who had been under discipline. Twenty-nine had been baptized, one of whom was the missionary's daughter, the first European baptized in the colony. Fifteen of these had been raised up in the schools. He concludes his statement with these few but striking words:—"The Lord is still working in the hearts of the people with his word, and almost every day brings me several persons under deep spiritual concern. This makes us think that we share largely in the prayers of our friends at home."

#### THE STATION AT BIMBIA

Has undergone a sad reverse. The hopes and expectations of nine years' toil there have well nigh perished. Superstition and witchcraft appear to have resumed their sway over the people, while an endless war with the tribes in the interior, who cultivate the general articles of food, cuts off the means of supply. No one is safe, and the man who by his industry supplies his own family, is certain to have his canoe, or his field, or his house, destroyed. Mr. Saker says:—"I do not know that I dare advise the faithful few to remain in the land six months. Not that I apprehend a violent death; but the means of existence fail. The land is not cultivated, and hunger pines in every corner."



As a present supply to the little remnant left, he has placed a faithful young brother, who, having only himself to care for, can better contend with the deficiencies of the land, than one who has a family to support. Mr. Saker speaks, in the highest terms, of the courage and devotedness of Mr. and Mrs. Fuller during these trying and afflictive scenes.

## CAMEROONS.

As the translation and printing of the scriptures was first begun at Bimbia under the late lamented Merrick, the press and types have remained there, under Mr. Fuller's direction and care; Mr. Saker paying occasional visits, at much hazard of health and loss of time, to superintend the work. In consequence of the disastrous events which have already been narrated, he has removed the whole establishment to Cameroons. The buildings at Bimbia were falling into decay, while at his own station there was plenty of room in buildings almost new. Mr. Fuller and his family have also gone thither, and in addition to the charge of a suburban district, he will assist Mr. Saker in translations and printing, and in his efforts to evangelize the surrounding neighbourhood.

The operations carried on at Cameroons, in the brick and cotton fields which were described in the last year's report, have been continued. The general condition of the stations may be gathered from Mr. Saker's own account. "Here then you see substantial buildings gradually springing up; a mission home for years to come; a fixed base for future operations; a house which, when finished, can accommodate a family and all the visitors it may have to receive. With it a school-room, a printing office, a safe store, an artificer's shop, a chapel, and all the lesser buildings for servants and printers attached to the mission; together with a commodious teachers' home. I hope the day is not distant, when to this will be added all the buildings essential to a boarding school and a training establishment."

Desirous of providing for the future education of the young, Mr. Saker has sent three pious young women to the training school at Sierra Leone, depending on the kindness of his friends in England to enable him to meet the expense. But when the Committee were made acquainted with his intentions, they thought it right to relieve their devoted brother of some portion of this responsibility, and they voted a sum sufficient to support one of these young persons for three years. It is hoped that on their return, they will be found qualified to discharge with efficiency the duties of teachers in the schools.

Mr. Saker has also felt that the time is come when he could resign the oversight of the church at Cameroons wholly to Mr. Horton Johnson, who by his zeal, ardent piety, and intelligence, has secured the affection and confidence of all around him. This will leave the missionary more free to superintend and direct the general operations, and to give greater attention than he has hitherto been able, to the instruction of a devoted band of young men, who, in addition to the useful occupations in which they are engaged, go out on Lord's days, and other convenient times, to scatter the seed of the kingdom in the populous districts around.

The church has been kept in peace during the whole year. Only one case of

discipline has occurred in its history, painful because it is the *first*, but one wherein the temper only has failed. But the breach has been healed, and the offending party restored. Forty baptized believers have been added to the churches in this mission. The Committee feel that they need add no comment to these striking facts.

CEYLON.

The accounts which the Committee have received during the past year from the brethren labouring in this island are discouraging. Mr. Allen's health has been sadly impaired, and his efforts to promote the object of the mission much interrupted. He has continued his labours, in conjunction with the brethren of different denominations in Colombo, in the revision of the Singhalese version of the scriptures, to which two days in the week are given. In the morning of the Lord's day he goes to some of the nearest stations in the jungle, Dr. Elliott, one of the deacons, taking the service at the Pettah Chapel, to which Mr. Allen returns for the evening. There have been no additions to the churches, except in Colombo and Kandy, while the losses from death, exclusion, and removals, have materially reduced the number of members; on the other hand there were no less than seventy-four candidates for fellowship.

Mr. Carter has so far mastered the language as to be able to speak it with ease. He resides at Mattakooly, to be near his work, having the general oversight of the native churches; these he visits at stated periods, taking the opportunity of seeing and instructing the native pastors and teachers. He also visits the schools regularly, every school being also a preaching station. His wayside congregations are not numerous, except in the immediate vicinity of Colombo, varying from six to thirty. He has also begun the study of the Tamil language, in which he finds no great difficulty, now that he has acquired the Singhalese. Going out with the design of preaching the gospel to the *heathen*, the Committee rejoice to find that he has not swerved from his purpose. The English services in which he has taken a part have been very few, and then only to afford help to Mr. Allen.

During the past year Mr. and Mrs. Davis have twice been compelled to leave Kandy, and to seek re-invigoration of health by a change of air and scene. Mrs. Davis has established a girls' school, and with a good prospect of success; while Mr. Davis, in addition to the duties of the pastorate and the visitation of the country stations and schools, has been permitted to visit the jail at fixed times, and already some fruit of these labours has been gathered.

The decline in the congregations at some of the stations is accounted for, in part, by the severe illness of some of the pastors and teachers, one of whom has only just now resumed his labours, after months of sickness and suffering. The poverty of the people, too, has increased, while rice and the ordinary necessities of life have nearly doubled in price. These circumstances exert a most depressing influence. Moreover, the brethren have to contend with the most formidable of spiritual evils. Romanism, Mahommedanism, Budhism, Devilism, to use Mr. Allen's language, oppress the minds of the people and

hinder the progress of the gospel among them. These facts are stated to awaken sympathy for brethren who discharge their duties amidst much to discourage and depress them. May they be borne on the prayers of the friends of missions; and as a period of drought is often succeeded by bountiful seasons, so here, a soil which at present seems almost barren, may receive, in answer to fervent prayer, refreshing showers from on high, and become a fruitful field.

#### I N D I A.

The Committee now direct attention to the most important of the spheres of labour which they have, in the providence of God, been called to occupy. As the scene of the first attempt to carry the gospel to the heathen, where Carey, Marshman, and Ward lived and died, where Chamberlain, Pearce, and Yates laboured, some in itinerating through the densely populous districts of Bengal, others in translating the word of God into the numerous tongues of India, it will always hold a primary place in the hearts of the friends of missions.

#### SUCCESS.

On the one hand, it may be a matter of surprise that so few Christian churches exist there, considering the length of time which has elapsed since the gospel was first proclaimed by these devoted men, and that so little impression has apparently been produced in the masses of the people. But on the other, when the formidable obstacles which had to be overcome are considered, and, how few, after all, compared with the population, have been the labourers, the fact, that in Bengal alone, at the present time, there are in church fellowship, in connexion with this mission, some fifteen hundred persons, chiefly drawn from the abyss of heathenism, and set as a light to dispel the dense darkness of the land, may well excite gratitude and joy. At a recent meeting of pastors and messengers from the associated churches in that province of our Indian empire, the Committee are informed by Mr. Underhill, "there was found to have been some slight increase in the entire return, sufficient to give encouragement, but small enough to stimulate to more earnest efforts and importunate prayer, for the outpouring of the Spirit of God. The general impression, however, was cheering. How would Carey have been rejoiced to have listened to the facts detailed that day on the spot consecrated by his toil. How should the church at home give thanks to God, and take courage! The prayer of faith and the work of Christian love shall yet have their reward. I left Serampore that day with a glad and grateful heart. I had seen the dawn of a brighter day, when the light of life shall shine over these dark regions of the shadow of death."

The Committee are happy in being able to state that all the missionaries, except those residing in Calcutta, whose duties there place it out of their power to go into the surrounding country, make itinerating journeys every cold season; while those residing in such districts as Barisaul, Jessore, Dacca, Chittagong, and the stations in the North West, who have numerous village stations, go

forth whenever the weather will permit them to do so. The native preachers take more frequent journeys, sometimes with the missionary, oftener without him. Regular journals of these excursions are kept, and the missionaries forward an account of them from time to time.

#### THE WORK.

It may not be amiss to state, that generally, the missionary must, when the journey is inland, take his tent, cooking apparatus, and means of living with him. When he goes up the rivers to visit the numerous and populous villages which line their banks on either side, he has a large boat in which he lives during the excursion. Services are held, at least three times a day; sometimes oftener. As many as one hundred and fifty villages have been visited, and the gospel preached to the people in them, in one journey alone. Every where the interest in the message of mercy is stated to be on the increase, the power of the Brahmins to be on the wane. Copies of the scriptures and tracts are eagerly sought after, and in not a few instances, though rejected as a gift, have been gladly purchased. During the past year, it is worthy of note, that very many more women have been seen mingling with the crowd gathered round the missionary than in former years, while there has been far less disposition manifested to dispute with the preacher. The private houses of the poor, and the classes more immediately above them, as shopkeepers and tradesmen, and in some cases of persons in comparative affluence, are becoming more and more accessible. Some of the conversations which have taken place in these more private scenes of mission labour have been of the deepest interest.

It is but just to honoured brethren engaged in the work, that friends at home should have before them some distinct idea of the toilsome nature of these journeys, and the discomfort and peril attending them. In the district extending from Calcutta to Chittagong, a distance of three hundred and fifty miles, large portions are marked in the maps, "impassable swamps." During a large part of the year the country is under water. Luggage, food, couches, all have to be carried either on men's heads, or in small boats. Rarely can the missionary walk. More frequently has he to sit in a small boat, sledged along through mud, and slime, and water, pushed by the people, who sink knee-deep, and sometimes deeper, in the watery way.

The villages are situated upon small slopes of land formed of soil, thrown up above the surrounding level, out of the reach of the ordinary inundations. Sometimes the soil thus thrown up forms the embankment of a tank, round which the huts are built. In other cases the slopes are only large enough for two or three cottages. The intervals between these mounds or hillocks, are filled with water, or deep mud, and distressing it is to know that even the women cannot be spared the toil of wading through it on their way to the house of God, or to their respective homes.

Such are the scenes and places in which it has pleased God to commence a work of the most interesting kind in Bengal. Here are some *two thousand*

who have forsaken caste, and among them about three hundred exhibit every mark of true conversion. During Mr. Underhill's recent visit, hearty were their congratulations, and fervent their prayers. Often did they express their gratitude for what God had done for them. "We were," they said, "like the little tortoises which we catch in the mud, but with God's blessing, their kind friends in England had raised them out of it. Very gratifying was it to observe the genuine piety which everywhere met us, the affection which prevailed among them, the mutual help given to each other in distress. My impressions at the time were of the most gratifying kind, and subsequent reflection has only deepened them."

It was by calling their attention to the peculiarly destitute condition of the extensive district of which Barisaul forms only a part, that the Committee were led to propose the plan for extending and consolidating the Indian mission. It was found that only ten missionaries were in it, and if the country which stretches away northward as far as Dinagepore be included, there is a population of nearly twenty millions, almost utterly destitute of the knowledge of the gospel. How small is the addition even now proposed to be sent! On this subject, however, the Committee refer with pleasure to some observations of Macleod Wylie, Esq., in his work on India as a field for missions, a gentleman belonging to another Christian denomination, and whose remarks will, perhaps, carry all the more weight as the testimony of an independent and impartial witness. "I feel it due to a body of Christians, with which I am not connected, to mention that the blame of this very extraordinary state of things (the destitution of Bengal) rests far less with them than with any others; I allude to the Baptists. Without any reference to their operations or influence elsewhere, it is but fair to say that to them, above all other Christian bodies, this part of India is deeply indebted. Not only have their churches in Great Britain and America sent out some of the most distinguished missionaries who ever preached the gospel, for such certainly were Carey, Marshman, and Ward, Chamberlain, W. H. Pearce, and Yates, in Bengal, and Judson and Boardman in Burmah, but they have sent out to India more than any other portion of the Christian church. Taking Mr. Mullens's statistics as the basis of calculation, and adding the Burmese provinces, there are found to be one hundred and twenty-nine European and American missionaries in all this Bengal presidency, of whom no less than eighty-four are Baptists. . . . Had all the branches of Christ's church done as much for Bengal, in proportion to their numbers and wealth, as the Baptists have done, we should have hundreds of missionaries where we have tens; and even then, in a land so vast, and so great a population, the supply would be still lamentably insufficient."

#### NATIVE CONVERTS.

The treatment of native converts and inquirers has been a subject of great practical difficulty. In ordinary cases when a man forsakes Hindooism, he becomes a helpless outcast, disowned by all his relatives, and despised by his countrymen. It is hard for him to find the means of subsistence; and hence

with the want of self reliance which marks the Bengali, a race trodden down for centuries, until vigour and independence of character seem wholly to be extinguished, missionaries have often found them wholly helpless. For the most part the native Christians have been gathered into small communities, occupying what are called Christian villages, living in a state of seclusion from the other classes of people, and becoming in fact a *new caste*. They have not acquired the vigour of character which Christians should possess, and their state of seclusion, besides giving rise to many jealousies and disputes, prevents their being what they should be, "the lights of the world and the salt of the earth." They are not stimulated to help themselves, but hang like helpless children on the missionary's hand. Such mistaken kindness tends to corrupt their sincerity and to destroy their influence.

It is very gratifying to the Committee to know that this need not be. In Barisaul and Jessore the brethren Page and Sale have acted on exactly the opposite principles, and with marked success. The people are helped only to help themselves. They have been induced to establish granaries. At the harvest they deposit whatever they can spare. At sowing time this is lent to the most necessitous, the exorbitant interest charged by the Zemindars being thus saved, and the profit is available to the poor. In most cases the labour of the people has been given towards the erection of their chapels, and occasionally contributions. Visits to the stations are made without cost, the people cheerfully assembling to carry the necessary luggage. The native preachers entertain their brethren and inquirers without charge. On a recent occasion sixty persons were cheerfully fed. No person is allowed to become a pensioner on the Society's funds. Even where calamities overtake the people they are taught to help each other; and the public even, are not appealed to except in cases of extreme necessity. The defective administration of the law, and the corruption too prevalent in the courts, and the nature of the land tenures, have given rise to great difficulty. The oppressive and unjust demands of the Zemindars have been refused; and hence native Christians have been exposed to lawsuits, in which only the energy of the missionary has succeeded in securing justice. One good result has arisen: they have hung together for mutual defence, and it is likely a defence fund will be formed, by the small contributions of all, for mutual protection against these oppressions.

In the same manner has Mr. Smith of Chitoura proceeded with the people under his charge. By introducing some English machinery, kindly presented to him by friends in Yorkshire, the people can make twice as much in the same time as they could with the machines in ordinary use, and of a far better quality. Indeed, the cloth of Chitoura has already acquired a name. The people not only easily support themselves, and are led to cherish a proper feeling of independence, but they have something to spare for the cause of God, and according to their means they are cheerful givers. They are thus greatly benefited themselves, while they are setting an example of patient industry to the population around them. It is fully expected that Mr. Underhill will make the general adoption of these principles, so successfully carried out in these districts, a matter of special care, and that he will not fail to impress on all the brethren the necessity of at once acting upon them.

Hitherto the efforts of the Committee with respect to India have been

limited to the consolidation of the mission. Dacca, Jessore, Barisaul, Benares, Chitoura, Birbhoom, and Calcutta have been strengthened. They have resolved to place two in each district, according as men and means may be supplied. But Chittagong, Cutwa, Patna, Dinagepore, have as yet only one missionary, while Mattra and Delhi are without any. Moreover, the vacancies caused by the return of Messrs. Phillips and Makepeace have yet to be supplied. It will be seen from this statement, that nothing has yet been done for the *extension* of the mission. The whole of central and northern Bengal, containing a vast number of populous villages, and many large towns and cities, is without any missionaries whatever. This extensive district seems, in a peculiar manner, left by divine providence to the care of the section of the church of Christ with which this Society is identified. The Committee, therefore, appeal again to the friends of the Redeemer. They can only administer the funds placed in their hands, and direct the operations committed to their care. It is the duty of the churches to furnish the means. It is theirs also to beseech the Great Head of the church to thrust out labourers into the harvest. Having stated the facts, and shown the destitution of a district, as large as many European kingdoms, they can only hope that the facts will sink deep into every heart that hears or reads them, and that the result may be such as to encourage them to go forward and complete the design.

#### THE WORK OF THE DEPUTATION.

It can scarcely be expected that the Committee should be able to supply much information of the progress made by Mr. Underhill in the duties entrusted to him, seeing that he has been in India only six months, and that their last advices are not later than February. There has not yet been a sufficient time for him to do much in relation to the plans which they instructed him to carry out. It gives them pleasure, however, to state that on his arrival at Calcutta, he proceeded at once to make himself acquainted with the localities occupied by the mission, and the work of the brethren. As soon as it could be arranged, the missionaries in Calcutta were convened together, and the instructions of the Committee were laid before them. Reciprocating this frankness, the brethren expressed their general concurrence in the objects therein stated, and their desire to co-operate heartily in the endeavour to accomplish them.

One of the first results has been a different distribution of the mission staff in Calcutta. By disengaging Mr. Lewis from his duties at the press, except such as were purely missionary, or had relation to the work of translations, and relieving Mr. Wenger of the charge of the churches south of Calcutta, which Mr. Pearce resumed; it was deemed practicable to divide Calcutta into five districts, assigning Allipore, with its dense heathen population to Mr. Pearce, Colingah to Mr. Wenger, Intally to Mr. Lewis, a central district to the brethren Aratoon, and Fink, and a district on the north side, together with the station of Dum Dum, about five miles distant, to Mr. Sampson, on which he would enter on his arrival. The native brethren, supported by the

society, and those sustained by the native missionary auxiliary, were to be located in such a manner as to give more directness and efficiency to their efforts. The pastors and members of the two native churches cordially tendered their aid in the good work. These districts were to be worked on the plan of the City mission.

The reasons for the adoption of this arrangement of house visitation, in addition to ordinary street preaching, are numerous. That the castes and habits of the people will interpose great difficulties to the carrying out the close application of the city mission plan must be obvious; but kindness, and a devout prayerful christian ingenuity, will overcome them. It is an experiment, but one which the Committee heartily wish may succeed.

Mr. Underhill has visited Chittagong, Dacca, Barrisaul, and Jessore. The report of this inspection is not yet before them in a complete form. The past month has been devoted to the affairs of the press. In May he intends to visit Ceylon; thence he will return to Calcutta, and during the next cold season will journey northward, and visit all the stations in the north-west provinces.

The Committee desire to express their gratitude to God that hitherto his health has been preserved, that he has found favour in the eyes of his brethren, and that brotherly love and harmony have pervaded their intercourse and counsels.

## EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

### TRAINING SCHOOLS.

In their last report the Committee announced their intention of establishing a training school for young men at Serampore, and one for young women at Intally, Calcutta, with a view of raising up suitable teachers for the various schools in India. The want of qualified teachers has long been felt; for even now some of the masters are heathen, the missionary having no other whom he could employ: and consequently on himself devolved the duty of giving religious instruction, a duty which necessarily absorbed much time.

In consequence, however, of the arrangements made for Calcutta, and Mr. Pearce being settled at Allipore, the school for young women will be in that district, in many respects more convenient than Intally, as the pupils will mostly come from the churches south of Calcutta, and of which Mr. Pearce has the charge. It was moreover intended that the normal school at Serampore should be under the superintendence of an European master. But Mr. Underhill having recommended the appointment of Mr. Johannes, now one of the masters in the college, which recommendation was supported by the brethren Denham and Trafford, the Committee determined to postpone their original design for the present, and they have resolved to employ Mr. Johannes for one year, by way of experiment, as teacher of a class of pious native youth with the view of their becoming schoolmasters. Should it succeed, the



time and expense of sending out a European master will, in a great measure, be saved.

The churches in Jamaica continue to take a lively interest in the projected normal school without denominational distinction, in connection with the Calabar Institution. The Committee last year so far sanctioned the proposal, as to give their consent to a portion of the premises being used for this purpose. They are now glad to learn that a separate organization has been formed in this country to select, and send out, a competent master, and to support him for the next five years; the friends in Jamaica meeting the general current expenses. They heartily wish success to this well intended and necessary effort.

#### CALABAR INSTITUTION.

The Committee continue to receive very satisfactory reports of the progress of the Institution for training a native ministry in Jamaica. It is most gratifying to them to find that the tutor enjoys the confidence of the pastors and churches in the island, and who, besides discharging with zeal and success the duties of his office, devotes his spare time to the promotion of the cause of Christ, especially in relation to missions.

During the past year, six young brethren have enjoyed the advantages of the college. Two have finished their studies, one of whom has been recently ordained pastor of Porus and Mandeville churches, and the other is fulfilling a probationary engagement at Dry Harbour and Salem. One candidate for admission has been received, and an application from another is under consideration; and three others, young men of promise, are receiving instruction from their respective pastors, in order to qualify them for admission.

As several of the neighbouring churches have lately been without pastors, the young men have had constant employment in pulpit exercises. They have also evinced their desire to do good by preaching in the open air, and by unremitting attention to the sabbath school. A society of young men, desirous of mental and moral improvement, having recently sprung up in connection with the colleges, numbering between twenty and thirty, the students have devoted an evening in each week to the instruction of the members in the elementary branches of knowledge. The Committee again commend the Calabar Institution to the confidence and support of its friends, and to all who desire to see an educated native ministry presiding over the churches of Jamaica.

#### THE SERAMPORE COLLEGE

Has been placed, chiefly by the munificence of John Marshman, Esq., aided by the friends of education in India, in a situation to be nearly self-supporting. The number of youths under the superintendence of the missionaries there is about 400; 250 of whom are students in the college, and 150 others in two branch schools. There is also a female orphan asylum containing sixteen pupils, under the joint superintendence of Miss Penny and Miss Denham.

It is supported by a working society in Serampore, and by a Ladies' society in Edinburgh.

The Committee however have a direct concern only with a class in the college training up for mission service, to whose education and support the interest of funds collected by Mr. Ward in America and England is applied. This class is under the direction of Rev. W. H. Denham; and after a sufficient time had been given to prove the practicability of the plan, and with the view of increasing the number of students, a circular was sent by the College Council to the brethren at the different stations, the general nature of which will be understood from the following paragraph:—"You are aware that the Home Committee is anxious that a class of students should be formed from the more promising young men of the churches, with a view to their being employed as missionaries and native school teachers. We have not been indifferent to the formation and education of such a class till the present time, but we have not seen our way clear to address you formally on the subject, asking your kind co-operation. We think, however, we may with propriety do this now, and we shall be happy to receive one or two such young men, if there are such among the members of your church, for the purpose of ministerial training; and to support them if there be a necessity for doing so."

It will be understood that this class is more limited in number than any in the College; but Mr. Denham speaks highly of their conduct and attainments. In the recent examination of the students, in which the Revs. C. B. Lewis, and George Pearce, and Mr. Robinson, the government vernacular translator, took a part; the students of this class asked to be permitted to be examined with the others, and the report of the examiners was commendatory of them. Mr. Underhill had an opportunity of conversing with these young men, and those also composing the senior classes, and has conveyed to the Committee the satisfaction he felt in the result of his inquiries.

This ancient, and in some respects most important of the Society's stations in India, possesses features of peculiar interest; and when Mr. Denham, in his report of the various missionary and educational operations carried on there, expresses a hope that the churches at home will not forget to beseech God in His mercy to bless them, the Committee feel assured that such a hope will not be disappointed.

#### THE FUNDS.

From the balance sheet, which will be presented by the Treasurer, it will be seen that there has been a falling off in the receipts for the year. In the total receipts for 1854 were included the special donations for India, and the munificent gift of "an old friend to the Society" to liquidate the debt, amounting together to £4454 13s. 2d. A repetition of these gifts was not to be expected, and therefore, in estimating the real annual income of the Society, these sums were deducted, leaving £20,304 19s. 7d., giving a clear increase on the previous year's receipts of nearly £1500.

The hope was entertained, that not only would this income be sustained, but that the efforts expected from the churches would continue to augment it. Up

to the close of the past year the prospects were encouraging, but soon after some intimations reached the Committee, especially from the manufacturing districts, of a probable deficit. The continued high price of provisions, pressing heavily on the industrious classes, the long-continued severity of the winter, throwing large masses of the people out of employ, and rendering it necessary for those who had the means to give largely to their relief, the derangement of manufactures and trade by the war, and the demands on public benevolence for the Patriotic Fund, may be named as some of the proximate causes affecting the receipts of all benevolent institutions.

The total receipts are £20,050 14s. 1d., being less by £4708 18s. 8d. than the receipts for 1854. If, however, the special donations of last year be deducted, amounting to £4454 13s. 2d., the real deficit will be only £254 5s. 6d. There is a balance due to the Treasurer of £734 7s. 6d. But the expenditure has been nearly £300 more than in 1854, the outfit of six missionaries, and the passage of three, together with Mr. Underhill's voyage to India, greatly exceeding this sum. Under all the circumstances of the times, the proper feeling to be expressed is that of thankfulness that the funds of the Society are not more seriously affected than they are.

The Committee have no intention of abandoning the scheme for consolidating and extending the Indian mission. A great enterprise is not to be given up because a few difficulties present themselves. Already have they issued a circular stating the facts, and enclosing papers containing suitable information, and requesting the pastors and deacons to lay them before their respective churches. Relying, too, on the liberality of other sections of the church of Christ, they have appealed to them also, in the confidence that there are many who are deeply interested in the progress of the kingdom of Christ, and who, when they see such an institution as this in need of help, will cheerfully give it. This great work, however, belongs primarily to the churches, and if some systematic efforts were made by each, instead of the present occasional effort which now prevails among so many of them, the difficulty arising from want of funds would speedily vanish.

#### CONCLUSION.

The results of the past year's labours, and the manifest blessing of God vouchsafed to the Society, ought to encourage his servants to go forward. While Divine Providence is removing one and another of those who so long and liberally supported it, may their children be animated by their example, and walk in their steps; and all should remember that the space allotted to any for doing good is small indeed, and becoming less every day. Let time and money, therefore, be redeemed, and consecrated to God. The elders are passing away. On the young will soon devolve the duties and responsibilities now resting on their fathers. May they be fired by a warmer love, and a more devoted zeal. May the coming year be marked by more earnest prayer to the Head of the church, for faithful men to preach the gospel

to the heathen, and for the outpouring of the Divine Spirit to quicken within the hearts of his disciples an enlarged benevolence. The cry of the perishing will not be unheeded then, nor will the fields which are white unto harvest be suffered to lie neglected. Holy and devoted men will present themselves, and ask to be sent forth to gather in the fruit, and these, by continued labours, will hasten the coming of that day when the wilderness shall become a fruitful field, and the desert as the garden of God.

---

Subscriptions and Donations in aid of the Baptist Missionary Society will be thankfully received by Sir Samuel Morton Peto, Bart., Treasurer; by the Rev. Frederick Trestrail and Edward Bean Underhill, Esq., Secretaries, at the Mission House, 33, Moorgate Street, LONDON; in EDINBURGH, by the Rev. Jonathan Watson, and John Macandrew, Esq.; in GLASGOW, by C. Anderson, Esq.; in DUBLIN, by John Purser, Esq., Rathmines Castle; in CALCUTTA, by the Rev. James Thomas, Baptist Mission Press; and at NEW YORK, United States, by W. Colgate, Esq. Contributions can also be paid in at Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, Tritton, and Co.'s, Lombard Street, to the account of the Treasurers.