

# THE MISSIONARY HERALD.

## REPORT.

In completing the duties devolving upon them, the Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society have to present, in the sixty-fourth report of its proceedings, a faithful, though brief account of its operations during the past year. That period has been one of quiet, unostentatious labour, unmarked by any unusual or striking events. Nothing has transpired, either at home or abroad, to create great excitement, or attract much public observation. But the Committee recognize, with devout gratitude, tokens of the divine blessing, and have sincere pleasure in recording their deliberate conviction that its prospects are as encouraging, and its usefulness as great, as in any previously corresponding period of its history.

It is usual at the outset of a report, to advert to the changes which have taken place during the year.

At home the Committee have to lament the sudden decease of their honoured friend and coadjutor, the Rev. Eustace Carey. For ten years of his early life he was a missionary in India; and when broken health rendered his return to England necessary, he became the Society's advocate; and with continued earnestness, ability, and eloquence, he pressed its claims, in all parts of the country, with great acceptance for twenty-five years. When struck with the illness which suddenly terminated his valuable life, he was engaged in preparing for a public service; thus finishing a highly useful and honourable career, in the same work to which he was so early devoted. John Ledyard Phillips, Esq., of Melksham, for many years an active member of Committee, and latterly an honorary member, has also passed to his rest; a gentleman whose character in public and private life, and as a magistrate on the bench, won the esteem and regard of all who knew him. Mr. Jones, too, the owner of the "William Carey," whose generous aid the Committee has often had the pleasure of mentioning in previous reports, was suddenly called to a better life, in the early part of the year. His surviving widow and son, however, in reply to the resolution of condolence which the Committee sent to them, when they heard of their bereavement, expressed their desire to help the good cause in the same way as their departed relative had done. The feelings of the Committee in regard to these events, have been expressed in resolutions which will be found in the appendix to this report.

The Committee regret to record the decease of Mrs. Evans, wife of Mr. Evans now settled at Muttra, on the passage out, after a short, but severe illness. With one exception, the mission band has been untouched by the hand of death. Mr. Smylie, for many years the Society's indefatigable missionary at Dinagapore, attended the conference of brethren in Calcutta in August last. He retired for a few days to Serampore, hoping that a short season of repose would recruit his health. But there fever supervened, and after a brief, though

severe illness, he finished his work on earth. His end was perfect peace; and those who were with him speak of it as a privilege, never to be forgotten, to witness his tranquil joy and perfect confidence in the prospect of eternity.

But while death has not been permitted any further to diminish the number of the Society's missionaries, sickness has removed several from their spheres of labour. Mr. and Mrs. Denham and family, Mr. and Mrs. Webley, Mr. and Mrs. Allen, and Mr. and Mrs. Smith, have been compelled to return to this country; and there seems little doubt of Mr. and Mrs. Capern's return ere long. On the other hand, Mr. and Mrs. Saker, and Mr. and Mrs. Law, after a lengthened residence in England, have returned to their respective spheres of labour, greatly recruited and refreshed by their temporary sojourn at home. These dispensations of providence are distressing to the brethren directly affected by them, while they also materially increase the annual expenditure, and in a way which cannot well be foreseen, or easily provided for.

The inability of Mr. Capern, through failing health, to meet the growing demands of his station, having been announced in the Herald, Mr. Davey, pastor of the Church in Hereford, was induced to avow a long cherished intention of devoting himself to mission service. His offer was accepted, and he and Mrs. Davey sailed in January for Nassau, where they arrived in the following month. Mr. Littlewood, in compliance with the earnest request of the Church at Inagua, Turk's Islands, and with the concurrence of the Committee, has removed thither from Grand Cay; and Mr. Rycroft, who, for some years, has been labouring at Puerto Plata, San Domingo, where his way has recently been almost hedged up, owing to the jealousy of the government, and the public commotions on that part of the island, has taken Mr. Littlewood's place, with the understanding that he is still to visit the scene of his more recent labours as often as circumstances will allow.

#### THE FINANCES.

The close of last year left the Society in debt to the amount of £734 7s. 6d. Some kind friends in the country thought it due to Sir Morton Peto, on his assuming the sole responsibilities of the Treasurership consequent on Mr. Gurney's decease, that this debt should be paid; and suggested that an appeal should be made privately to the more wealthy members of the Society, they themselves setting a generous example. This appeal was made, and the debt was soon removed. In common, however, with all religious institutions, this Society has felt the pressure of the times; and throughout the year considerable anxiety has been felt in regard to the finances. During most of that period, and contrary to expectation, the usual sources of income yielded an average supply, in some instances beyond the corresponding periods of the previous year. In January and February, however, there was a considerable falling off; and this gave ground for the apprehension of a serious defalcation. Under these circumstances, the Committee have felt it to be their duty to confine the expenditure to what was inevitable, and not to enter on any new sphere of labour. Only one missionary has been sent forth, viz., Mr. Davey, to the Bahamas. They have accepted the offer of Mr. Kerry, pastor of the Church in Dorchester, for India, subject to their ability to send him out;

and they hope when this fact is known, the funds will be readily supplied. Partly for the same reason they have postponed the consideration of an application from one who has, for some years, ardently wished to devote himself to mission work in India.

The entire income of the past year is £21,402 2s. 2d. Deducting the amount of the debt, which was made up by donations for a special purpose, and the funds appropriated in India, the real income is £18,667 14s. 8d. This is less than that of last year by £1,382 19s. 5d. But £3,094 17s. 6d. were received in legacies, in 1854-5—this year only £404 17s. 9d. Taking this difference into account the Society's income is in excess of the previous year by £1,307 0s. 4d, a fact which the Committee gratefully record as one evidence of the continued growth of the missionary spirit in the churches. It will it is hoped, be a farther encouragement to all its friends, that notwithstanding every difficulty, the year closes free from debt; leaving a balance of £301 19s. 9d. in the hands of the treasurer.

## FRANCE.

### MORLAIX.

In the previous report the difficulties which this mission had to encounter were detailed at length. Three law-suits for preaching the gospel were defended, and, though the teachers arraigned were condemned in fines, the work has gone on, and they have continued to labour with diligence and fidelity. It seems to be the policy of the Romanists in France to leave the established Protestant Church, which, for the most part, is unhappily sunk into formalism, undisturbed; but to seek, by every means, to crush the various evangelic organizations. The smallest and feeblest of them does not escape notice. But Mr. Jenkins states that the trials which the teachers had to endure, inflicted no injury on the cause. The teaching stands its ground. They labour well, and by their means a valuable amount of gospel truth, is daily communicated to several families, who were, but a short time since, wholly ignorant of it.

Political events in France have greatly curtailed the civil and religious liberties of Protestants. Preaching has been considerably restrained. It has been chiefly carried on in private houses. Should liberty be enlarged, greater extension would at once be given to this work, for there is a spirit of inquiry abroad, and the influence of the priests is on the decline. During the past year, seven have been added by baptism to the church. This small band of Breton believers are united to each other in Christ, and are zealous for His honour and the success of His gospel.

## WEST INDIES.

### BAHAMAS.

Notwithstanding the serious interruption to his labours, owing to impaired health, and much domestic affliction, Mr. Capern has been able to forward an encouraging report. In his division of these islands there are forty-six churches, containing more than two thousand members, scattered over twelve different

islands. There are six day schools containing about three hundred, and thirty-three Sunday schools, having more than eighteen hundred scholars. These churches and schools, of which Mr. Capern speaks with great satisfaction, have been, for many years, until Mr. Davey's recent arrival, under the general superintendence of one European Missionary, and seven native preachers, who are aided in their work by one hundred and sixty other teachers. The people build their own places of worship, and keep them in repair; and on some of the out-islands they have built a residence for the native pastor. The great obstacle to their rendering sufficient support to their pastors, arises from the distances at which they live from each other. One hundred have been added by baptism, and the brethren are not left without other tokens of the divine approval.

Mr. Capern also communicates the following pleasing intelligence: "Within the last four months a remarkable change has come over the entire religious community at Nassau. There has been a desire to have a sort of Evangelical Alliance, and an exchange of pulpits between Baptists, Wesleyans, and Presbyterians has taken place. The tone and bearing of the Episcopalians are widely different from what they were formerly."

#### TURKS ISLANDS.

The changes which have been rendered necessary in this division of the Bahamas have been already indicated in a previous page. Ill health has obliged Mr. Littlewood to take a voyage to Nassau, but ere this he has returned to Inagua. As no residence can be obtained, the Committee have voted a grant towards the erection of a cottage contiguous to the new chapel, now nearly finished, the chief expence of this having been defrayed by local contributions. Here are seven churches containing four hundred and seventy-eight members. There are now two European missionaries, assisted by six native preachers, one school-master, and fifty-seven Sabbath school teachers. Fifteen have been baptized during the past year; and it is to the honour of these poor people, that towards the expences of the station, amounting to about £600, nearly £400 have been raised by themselves.

Mr. Rycroft, on his return to Grand Cay, has been received with the greatest kindness by his former friends. "The congregations," he remarks, "have been all we could wish. At times we have been crowded out. We consider ourselves pledged still to regard San Domingo, and, as opportunity offers to make known the gospel. There, enquiry has been excited, doubts created, and the people are found willing to listen. We shall have to be watchful in discipline, and careful in admissions. May the Lord impart to us much of His gracious influence."

#### HAITI.

Considering the political condition of the island, the mission has prospered beyond expectation. The church has been kept in peace, and several have been added to it. The schools have their usual attendance, and the teachers have diligently and successfully prosecuted their work.

Early in the year, Mr. Webley, in common with other missionaries on the

island, received instructions from the Minister of the Interior to confine his labours to Jacmel, and the sea ports. Journies into the country could only be undertaken rarely, and in secret. Great circumspection was needed in carrying on the work at all.

Ill health having compelled Mr. and Mrs. Webley to return to this country, the services of Mr. Lillevoix, formerly connected with an American mission on the other side of the island were happily secured, to supply the pulpit at Jacmel during Mr. Webley's absence. At first, a serious obstacle presented itself to this arrangement. Mr. Lillevoix was a soldier, as all men are in Haiti. The officer commanding his corps, refused to give him permission to reside in Jacmel, and this refusal was confirmed by the emperor. The British consul kindly interested himself in the matter, and the emperor acceded to his request, that Mr. Lillevoix be allowed to reside in Jacmel during the absence of the European Missionary. While, therefore, the Committee regret that this important station is deprived, for the present, of Mr. Webley's care, they are thankful that a kind providence has provided one to take his place, and labour among the people in word and doctrine.

#### TRINIDAD.

Mr. Law, on his return to his sphere of labour, found the state of the churches very satisfactory. During his absence, ministers of other sections of the Christian Church had kindly helped to supply his place. He reports, that "the native preachers have been active and faithful; that the gospel has been preached with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, so that sinners have been converted, and Christ glorified. The church in Port of Spain continues to prosper. During the past year, fifty-five persons have been baptized. The Sabbath school teachers abound in works of faith and labours of love. Money is given to the cause largely and freely. God is in our midst to make us holy and happy." The Committee feel that any comments on this striking and encouraging statement is needless, and would only weaken its effect on the mind of the reader. They will only add, that if a missionary can thus speak of a station on his return to it after some months absence, it is clear that the native preachers are worthy of their confidence and approbation.

#### AFRICA.

##### CLARENCE.

Mr. Diboll has prosecuted his labours at Clarence during the past year with a few occasional interruptions from sickness, partly occasioned by excessive labour. Mr. Saker writes on his arrival, that "Mr. Diboll is, in his health, not changed apparently since I left. The brethren Smith and Wilson are well, and still doing their accustomed work."

The tribes who live up in the mountain at Fernando Po have had much of Mr. Diboll's attention during the past year. He has established one or two stations in their towns, and opened two schools. He has also succeeded in gaining the assent of two chiefs to abolish some of their most abominable customs. Of these, a detailed account has already been presented to the

friends of the Society, and need not be repeated here. But the Committee rejoice in these self-denying labours, and the measure of success which has attended them.

#### BIMBIA.

This station, of which the Committee had to present so painful an account in a previous report, has not been neglected. Mr. Fuller has visited it occasionally, and though it has not recovered from the effect of the afflictive events which well nigh broke it up as a mission station altogether, there are some signs of a revival, and of a disposition in the people to return to their former habits of attendance on the means of grace.

#### CAMEROONS.

Mr. Saker's arrival at this station, has been too recent to allow of any details being sent home by him for this report. He landed on the 2nd of February at Clarence, and he states that "the brethren welcomed us with much affection, second only to that on our return in 1850, when they had been bereaved of all their teachers. Since my arrival I have seen and heard much. Many things are painful ; others afford joy."

On his arrival at Cameroons he found the brethren Fuller and Johnson, and all the young men well ; and enjoyed once more the privilege of bowing with them at a mercy seat in thankful prayer. Brief as this statement is, the Committee present it with satisfaction, as this interesting and important mission has all its stations once more occupied. May a gracious providence watch over and preserve the lives of these honoured brethren, to prosecute their labours with success, for many years to come !

#### TRANSLATIONS.

Mr. Wenger informs the Committee, at the close of the year, that the Sanskrit Old Testament has advanced in the printing to the end of the Psalms ; and considerable progress has been made in preparing Proverbs and Ecclesiastes for the press. The new edition of the Bengali bible has advanced rather beyond the middle of the 32nd chapter of Deuteronomy ; and the preparatory version to the 17th Judges. In Hindi, a revised edition of Matthew, prepared by Mr. Parsons of Monghyr, is passing through the press, under the superintendence of Mr. Leslie.

It may seem strange to those not practically acquainted with such subjects, that there should be any necessity for revising translations afresh, whenever a new edition is to be printed, and it is difficult for them to form any estimate of the time and labour which it requires. But the Bengali language is undergoing a rapid progress of improvement. It is becoming more and more flexible, and is constantly enriched ; this makes it indispensable to improve the translations so as to keep pace with the general progress of the language. Ten years ago the Bengali bible was far ahead, in point of elegant simplicity, of the vast majority of Bengali books. Now it is equalled by several, and perhaps surpassed by a few. The changes, however, required in this department are not very numerous.

Up to the period of his departure from Ceylon, Mr. Allen had devoted a considerable portion of his time, as one of a committee, to the revision of the Singhalese scriptures. His absence in this country will somewhat delay the progress of the work; but if permitted to return thither in improved health, he will give himself to it with renewed ardour.

On his return from Africa, Mr. Saker presented to the Committee a copy of his translation of the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles into the Dualla, and also of the elements of the grammar of the language which he had compiled. This language is now, for the first time, reduced to a written form, a work of great toil, and one which requires the utmost skill and care, inasmuch as there are none of the aids usual to the acquisition of a language possessing a literature. These books are well printed and bound. When asked by whom the work was done, he replied by lads belonging to the Mission establishment, themselves the fruit of missionary labour, members of the church, not long ago ignorant barbarians; and who are now not only employed in these useful works, having acquired a knowledge of more trades than printing and book-binding, but go out on the week evenings to the suburbs of Cameroons, and on the Lord's days to the neighbouring villages, to preach the gospel of Christ! Surely this alone is a rich reward for the expense and toil bestowed on the Mission to Western Africa; and no pious mind can reflect on a fact so striking and important without rejoicing in the success of which it is so signal a proof.

## EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

### SERAMPORE COLLEGE.

The return of Mr. Marshman to this country required a fresh consideration of the relations sustained by the Society to this important institution. Hitherto that gentleman, with his accustomed liberality, had supplied the deficiency in the college funds. No longer a resident in India, actively engaged in remunerative pursuits, a continuance of this support could not be expected. Unless therefore the Committee was prepared to supply the funds necessary to sustain the college, there appeared no alternative but to surrender the charter, and with it the institution, to government, by whom it would doubtless have been carried on with great efficiency, but without any evangelical object. The Committee felt confident that no members of the Society, who retained any recollection of the hallowed associations of Serampore, would consent to the secularization of an institution, which had been created by missionaries of their own denomination for the diffusion of divine knowledge through India. The Committee, therefore, passed the following resolution:—

“That this Committee approve of the suggestion made by Mr. Underhill in reference to Serampore College, viz., that it be regarded as a part of the Society's operations, and that they are willing to exert their best efforts to supply the funds necessary to carry that suggestion out.”

The whole subject was submitted by circular to influential friends through the country, and their replies appeared to the Committee to justify the proposed step. Thus, after many years of partial estrangement, this institution is

again brought into close connexion with the Society, and all traces of a disagreement, which has always been deplored, have, it is hoped, completely disappeared. To put the college into a thoroughly efficient state, will probably require an additional income of £500 a year. It only remains for the Committee to devise the plan by which the necessary funds can but be raised.

#### CALABAR.

The Committee continue to receive gratifying accounts of the state and progress of this institution. Those who have gone forth from it, and have been ordained as pastors of churches, labour with advantage to their flocks, and credit to themselves. The report of the last examination was very satisfactory. During the year, one student of great promise, Mr. Pinnock, offered himself for mission service in Africa. This offer was at first accepted, provided the Committee could find a suitable opening. It was with regret that the Committee did not see their way clear to enlarge the expenditure on this mission; and the result has been a severe disappointment to the candidate for mission labour, as well as to those churches to whom he is known, and who feel an intense desire to have one of their own race sent forth to Africa. Recently, however, the Committee have received from the churches in the Jamaica Association, an offer of £100 per annum towards Mr. Pinnock's support; and wishing to show their sympathy with them in this matter, they have invited him to meet them, in the hope that they may then be able to send him out. Since the establishment of this institution in 1843 nineteen students have been educated there, eleven of whom are now pastors of churches in Jamaica, and the remainder teachers or assistant preachers, or otherwise usefully employed. The number of students in the college during the year just closed, was seven. In the Normal School there are nine pupils, and the committee of brethren managing it, report favourably of its progress. Mr. East is unremitting in the discharge of his duties, and enjoys most deservedly the full confidence of the brethren and churches in Jamaica.

#### SCHOOLS.

Great diversity of opinion prevails respecting the value of schools as an instrument, in the missionary's hands, for the evangelization of a country. By some they have been unduly exalted as a means for good, by others their value has been much understated. In the original prospectus of the Baptist Missionary Society, drawn up in 1792 under the eye of Fuller and Carey, schools were described as one of the three agencies to be employed in the dissemination of evangelical truth, the two others being the preaching of the word, and the translation of the scriptures. Not only are the pupils in the schools brought directly under Christian instruction, but in many parts of the mission field they supply almost the only means of gaining access to the parents. The Committee, therefore, desire to improve their character—not to give them up; the more so, as the missionaries attend to them, not simply to teach secular knowledge, but as preachers of the gospel. Attempts are being made to introduce the system of payment as at the Intally Institution, and in all the other schools where English is taught The Committee intend, as far as possible, that the schools, in India especially,



should be vernacular; and while they would throw no unnecessary impediment in the way of learning English—a great advantage generally to the scholars—they concur in the opinion which most of the missionaries have expressed, that payment should be made for such instruction.

The Christian boarding schools are, without exception, very useful. That at Colombo, recently under the care of Mrs. Allen, and now conducted by Mrs. Davis, has been the means of training up young girls for useful situations in families, and some have become teachers, while many have given good evidence of a change of heart, and are consistent members of the church. The school at Alipore, under Mr. and Mrs. Pearce's superintendence, and conducted by Miss Packer, promises well. In his last report respecting it, Mr. Pearce says "the girls' school goes on bravely." Mr. Page in Barisal has endeavoured to establish adult schools, and with much success; and he speaks with pleasure of five for women, and some for men. Seventy in the latter, and one hundred and ten in the former, have learned to read, almost all of whom learned after they were married; many coming to the school with two or three children. The general impression among the Bengal missionaries seems to be, that schools afford excellent opportunities of preaching to adults, that they contribute to secure the attention and confidence of the natives, that they render the comprehension of the gospel more easy, and increase the number of those actually acquainted with it. Moreover to the missionary himself, they furnish profitable employment when he is not engaged in the more public preaching of the Word of Life.

#### CEYLON.

Early in the past year Mr. Underhill visited all the stations in this island, and a conference was subsequently held at Colombo, attended by the two European missionaries, and the native pastors. Resolutions were submitted, bearing on the work, and indicating the plans to be adopted for the future conduct of the mission. As these resolutions not only comprehended a better distribution of the agency, but also the principles of self-government and self-support, as far as practicable; the adoption of means to raise up a ministry on the spot, and the improvement of the schools, by rendering them for the most part vernacular, English being taught only to the upper classes, and on payment of a fee,—the Committee had no difficulty in giving a cordial assent to them.

The Committee learn, with satisfaction, that good fruits are being already gathered. Mr. Davis reports that there are signs of improvement. Several members of churches in the villages are at work heartily. One pays a schoolmaster to provide instruction to his own family and the children of his neighbours. In eight of the schools the teachers labour gratuitously. Two young men who have been labouring at Mattakaliya, have stirred up two others to occupy a similar district. The two infant churches at Kaluwalgoda are going on well with their newly appointed pastors, and one of the members of Gonawella church has commenced preaching. Sixteen have recently been baptized in the Colombo district, and it is hoped that during the present year a native church will be formed in Colombo itself, which will be an offshoot of the Singhalese church in the Pettah.

While Mr. Davis has thus been prosecuting his work in the Colombo district, Mr. Carter has been diligently labouring at Kandy, and has given much attention to the formation of a class of native preachers. Two had been selected and placed under his care, and he was for a time greatly encouraged; but his hopes were severely disappointed in reference to one of these young men. Mr. Carter also assists Mr. Perera, the pastor, in his work. He preaches in Singhalese once a month, and in English every Lord's day; and has made considerable progress in the acquisition of the Tamil language. The English congregation is very encouraging; the native varies considerably. Eight have been added to the church, one a Buddhist priest, whose conversion, as was then thought, excited great interest. But ere long he turned out to be a dishonest, worthless man, and the heart of the missionary was much cast down. On the whole, the work proceeds slowly yet hopefully at Kandy, as well as in the several out-stations connected with it.

### INDIA.

Throughout the year the Committee have received most satisfactory accounts from Mr. Underhill, who has been enabled uninterruptedly to prosecute the objects of his mission. Up to February of the present year, he had visited every station, and seen every missionary, and nearly all the native preachers and teachers in connexion with the Society in Bengal, Central India, and the North-west Provinces. Recently he has received instructions to visit Burmah, in order to greet the American brethren, and examine the working of that most successful mission; and on his way home to call at Poonah, and convey to Mr. Cassidy the cordial good wishes of the Committee, as well as to see the work he is carrying on. Mr. Cassidy still continues to provide for his support by his own labour, devoting all the pecuniary supplies he receives from England to the erection of a meeting-house, and other suitable mission premises at his station.

Conferences of the missionaries and native brethren have been held in Calcutta, Monghyr, and Agra. The plans for the future conduct of the Mission in these districts, as sketched out in Mr. Underhill's instructions, were prayerfully considered, and such as appeared suitable to the wants of the several stations, cheerfully adopted. In every case efforts have been made to reduce the expenditure, and at the same time increase the efficiency of the agency employed, by concentrating effort, and giving up any which seemed unfruitful.

In all these meetings, attended by brethren from distant localities, each bringing his own experience for the benefit of the rest, a devout and loving spirit prevailed. Difference of opinion occasioned no strife, but rather tended, by healthy discussion, to elicit truth, and indicate the course best to be taken for the future. Reports of some of these conferences, which are full of most valuable information, have been forwarded from time to time for the judgment of the Committee at home; and the remainder may be expected soon. In reference to his visit generally, Mr. Underhill remarks in the last communication received from him, "I have been most cordially and affectionately received by all the brethren; and all my communications most kindly regarded. Peace,

harmony, and love have reigned over all our deliberations. The God of peace and love has smiled upon us. I owe a large debt of gratitude to our brethren for their unwearied kindness, care, and attention."

One of the most pleasing, and in many respects most important, events connected with Mr. Underhill's visit, was the gathering, in Calcutta, of a large number of brethren from all parts of Bengal. Advantage was taken of the assemblage of Baptist missionaries by brethren residing in that city to invite a more general conference; and the sittings of the Society's missionaries were suspended for four days. There were present at this conference forty-eight missionaries, eighteen of whom were Baptists, four of the London Mission, twelve of the Church, four of the Kirk of Scotland, nine of the Free Church, together with seven others, six of whom were laymen, office-bearers of different religious organizations in Calcutta.

These meetings are described as peculiarly interesting. They lasted four days, and the greatest harmony prevailed throughout the discussions, though marked, as might have been expected, by great diversity of opinion. As the attention of all parties was directed to missionary subjects, no allusion was made to those ecclesiastical differences which have so much divided the churches of Christendom. It is believed that nowhere will be found a more complete evangelical alliance than has been practically maintained, for many years, among the Bengal missionaries.

At these meetings various papers were read on the most important topics relating to mission work, followed by discussions, in which brethren, who felt disposed, delivered their sentiments on them. Resolutions were passed, embodying the opinions of the conference on the subjects treated of in the papers. The proceedings were subsequently printed, and a considerable number of copies has been sent home, that those who take an interest in such questions, may know what is said and felt by the missionaries themselves. The volume closes with an impressive and powerful appeal to the committees of missionary societies in Europe and America. Rarely has missionary literature been enriched with a volume of such varied interest and practical value. It opens to the thoughtful mind a view of the inner life, so to speak, of missions to the East. It exhibits the peculiar and formidable obstacles with which the missionary has there to do battle, in their true colour and dimensions; and no one can peruse the work without feeling the deepest sympathy with the honoured men who have toiled and struggled with them for more than half a century, nor fail to recognise the divine hand in the preservation of the enterprise, and the remarkable success which has attended it. It is only by a distinct perception of the enormous difficulties which rise up before the messenger of mercy, on every side, that any true estimate can be formed, either of his work, or the effect it has produced on the spiritual condition of the people.

The distribution of the Indian agency in such a manner as to render it most effectual, has engaged the attention of the brethren at the various conferences. By the return of Messrs. Makepeace and Phillips to this country, Agra and Muttra had been left without agency, while Mr. Supper's removal to the charge of the Comillah district rendered Cutwa destitute. Provision also was needed for Serampore College, owing to the temporary retirement of Mr. Denham. Mr. PARRY has removed from Birbhoom to

Cutwa, and Mr. Sampson from Alipore to Serampore. Mr. Mackay has been stationed at Delhi, where no missionary has resided since Mr. Thompson's decease, and Mr. Evans has taken charge of Muttra, while Mr. Williams remains at Agra in charge of the native church. By these arrangements *all* the stations formerly occupied by the Society in the north-west, and which, from the causes referred to, have been, for some time, destitute, are again supplied, but most inadequately to their wants.

The brethren Gregson, Martin, and Anderson, who went out in 1854, are now fully engaged in their work, while those who followed them have entered with great vigour on the acquisition of the languages spoken in their several districts, and are waiting with an ardour difficult to restrain, for the time when they too may proclaim the gospel to the perishing heathen around them. The Committee have peculiar satisfaction in stating, that, with scarcely an exception, the Society's missionaries preach the gospel to the people in their own tongue.

The reports from the Indian churches are varied. Some are hopeful, others very encouraging; but in regard to a few the accounts are far otherwise; the losses by death and exclusion being greater than the additions. In such cases it can be no matter of surprise that the missionary writes in tones of sorrow and distress; and makes a very earnest appeal to Christian friends at home for their sympathy in his disappointments and trials. The entreaties to be remembered in prayer before God are often urgent and touching. The Committee hope this statement will excite that sympathy, and provoke that devout intercession with God, necessary, on the one hand, to preserve in our own hearts a lively interest in the work itself, and on the other, to secure success in its performance.

The more general employment of native agency, particularly with the view of throwing the churches more on their own resources, has engaged the attention of the brethren in all their conferences. The Committee hope that the course they have suggested on these matters, on many previous occasions, may be generally adopted. A good beginning has been made in Bengal. Two native brethren have been sent out into the district of Baraset, which lies between Calcutta and Jessore, with instructions to preach there for two months, and to report on their return. Should that report appear to justify the step, they will be set apart as *missionaries* to that district. The Committee have also heard, with great satisfaction, that the church at Chitoura, in consequence of Mr. Smith's departure for England, invited Mr. Bernard, a native preacher at Muttra, to become their pastor. With this request Mr. Bernard felt it to be his duty to comply; and he was publicly ordained to that office on Lord's day, Dec. 31; the brethren from Agra, Muttra, and Delhi, with Mr. Underhill, taking part in the service, which is described as one of great interest and importance; as the *first* instance, in the north-west, of a native being called to such an office. May this proceeding receive the divine sanction and blessing; and may others of a like kind speedily follow!

The questions thus adverted to are becoming more important and pressing every day. The incomes of all missionary societies have been, for the past few years, nearly stationary. The demand for labourers has been by no means adequately met. The notion, which, practically at least, has so long pre-

ailed, that the agency for evangelizing the world must be found at home may now be fairly questioned. Recent facts and experience seem rather to justify the opinions and practice of the first missionaries, who considered they were pioneers in the great work ; and that where churches were formed, the agency for maintaining the truth in the districts around them, should be sought for among themselves. This seems also to have been the principle in apostolic times. If this be the case, the sooner missionary societies fully adopt it, and firmly act upon it, notwithstanding every difficulty attending its application, and the disappointments which may arise, the better will it be for the cause of missions.

The native Christian communities in the northern part of the district of Barisaul have recently been subjected to severe persecution. A full account of their sufferings, and the tyrannical conduct of the zemindars, on whose property they rented their little farms, was published in the *Herald* for January, which renders any detailed statement here unnecessary. A few sentences from a recent communication from Mrs. Martin will present the main facts of this painful case : "In July last, twelve of these houses were entered by a band of armed men, and fourteen of the inmates, men, women, and children, were carried off. All their little property was taken possession of, and the poor things were forcibly driven from their home and their friends, put into boats, often crushed beneath the decks for concealment, and were thus for *six weeks* hurried about the country in separate parties, subject all the time to cruelties and indignities too shameful to be described. Mr. Page and the authorities took every possible means for their recovery ; and after considerable search, they were all found, and brought into Barisaul before the magistrate ; but in a wretched condition, and their persons terribly abused. Five of the ringleaders were convicted ; but they appealed to the Judges' Court."

It was impossible when the facts of this case were fully laid before the Committee for them to be indifferent to them, more particularly as these poor oppressed people never once wavered during their trials, and even the youngest of them, in the presence of their powerful oppressors, firmly, nay, almost exultingly, avowed their faith in Jesus. The Committee passed a resolution of sympathy with their suffering brethren, and instructed Mr. Page and Mr. Underhill to prosecute the case before the court, and to use every effort to bring it to a successful issue. The Committee regret to state that after these people had been kept, for six months, in daily attendance on the court, at a distance from their homes, without any means of gaining their livelihood, a burden on the missionary for daily support, the judge reversed the magistrate's decision, released the prisoners, and declared that the charges were fraudulent.

The matter cannot, however rest here. The whole zemindary system in most districts of Bengal is so oppressive, that means must be taken to exhibit its character, and excite public attention to it. The subject is too extensive and complicated to be dwelt on here. The Committee can only refer to the admirable paper upon it presented to the Conference of Missionaries, for its full portraiture. But one thing is plain. Christianity and it can no more exist together than Christianity and slavery. As tenants of a zemindar receive

the truth, they will no longer submit to exactions for the support of Hindoo festivals and idolatries. When they become Christians an element of firmness is introduced into their character, which supplants the servile submissiveness natural to the Bengali. All just demands they willingly pay, and they declare they could pay a much larger rent, and live comfortably; but the frequent and excessive demands which are made, over and above what is legal and just, ruin them. These mainly consist of expenses incurred by the zemindar personally, and many of them in connexion with idol festivals which he supports. These they refuse to pay. Hence the cruelties to which these poor people are subject; and any one can at once perceive the reason why such strenuous endeavours are made to get rid of them. But surely British Christians will support the oppressed ryots in their determination to throw no incense on the shrine of a heathen god. And if they see that the missionary does not desert them in the hour of trial, and that those who sent him to preach the gospel to them, offer their sympathy, and are prepared to help them as far as they can, their confidence and fidelity will be sustained; and their patience and faith under their sufferings will tend to the furtherance of the gospel and redound to the glory of God. The obstacle which this system presents to the spread of Christianity may be most formidable, but none will quail before it who remember the victories which have attended missionary enterprise. The power which delivered the African from bondage, and smote the fetters of the slave in the West,—which mainly extinguished the Suttee fires, and terminated infanticide in the East, will triumph over this new foe. May wisdom and grace be given from on high to direct our efforts!

#### CONCLUSION.

The Committee cannot close this Report without adverting to the progress which has been made in the plan for extending and consolidating the Mission in India. Although seven brethren, during the past three years, have been sent into that field, yet owing to the resignation of some from shattered health, and the death of others, the increase in the number labouring there is only four. These are either occupying stations which had been left wholly destitute, or are associated with brethren who require additional help. No part of Bengal Proper, the spiritual destitution of which mainly gave rise to the project, has yet been touched.

The Committee feel bound frankly to state, that the appeal made four years ago has not been met with the response they expected. They have not received the funds requisite to carry out the proposed scheme, nor have the men been found willing to give themselves to the work. It may be premature, if not unjust, to conclude that this arises from a low state of piety in the churches, or from the absence of missionary ardour in the rising ministry, but in the judgment of the Committee the facts themselves demand the gravest consideration.

It may be suggested to the members of our missionary societies, as a subject for serious and thoughtful inquiry, whether they cherish a sufficiently deep sense of their individual responsibility. The organization of a society presents a ready and advantageous means of uniting in the great work of evangelizing

the world; but it is to be feared, that when the annual, or other contribution has been given, this feeling of responsibility is, for a time, extinguished or transferred to the organization itself. To guard against this danger how needful is it that each one should habitually inquire, "Am I doing all I ought, or all I can, to help this great enterprise?" The prevalence of such a spirit would bring forth some of the richest fruits of the Christian life. There would be a larger and more spontaneous liberality, and more earnest and importunate prayer.

And ministers of the gospel need not shrink from this work from an undue apprehension of its perils. In this respect it is a different thing to be a missionary from what it was in the days of Carey, Marshman, and Ward. When they went forth they could hardly even conjecture what might befall them. They went to a land almost unknown; to climates of which they had no experience; to a people universally opposed to them and their errand; without friends to greet them on their arrival; in the face of a hostile government, and scarcely knowing where they might lay their head. How entirely changed is the whole scene! Missionaries, on landing in India, to use the language of Mr. Mullens, "find airy houses, and kind friends to give them wise advice on the proper care of their health, books to aid them in learning the language, and in studying the habits, notions, and religion of the people. There are native churches where they may commence preaching, and bazar chapels where that preaching may be carried on in its most perfect forms. They have books for the Christians, tracts and gospels for the heathen, school-books for schools, hymn-books for worship. In a word, they find every element of a material agency ready to their hand; and if a new missionary were to bring with him a knowledge of the language and of the people, he would begin to labour here just as well as he would have begun in England." Great and marvellous is the change which these facts indicate to have been wrought in Bengal by missionary enterprise; and the remembrance of them ought to fill every Christian heart with gratitude to God. Is it too much to expect that when seriously pondered, they will stir up His people to renewed liberality and fervent prayer, and induce many, whom He has called to preach His word, to say, "Here are we, send us?" Most merciful God, we beseech Thee to inspire thy servants with a deeper love of Thee, and pity for dying men! Pour out on Thy church the quickening influence of thine Almighty Spirit! Influence the hearts of the ministers of Thy holy word with an unquenchable desire to go forth to make Thy name and mercy known to the benighted heathen; and hasten on the day when the idols shall be abolished, and all nations be blessed in Christ our Lord!

CONTRIBUTIONS,

Received on account of the Baptist Missionary Society, from March 21 to March 31, 1856.

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
<b>Annual Subscriptions.</b>			<b>Bloomsbury Chapel—</b>			<b>Maze Pond—</b>				
Allen, J. S., Esq.	2	0	Senior Bible Class, by	0	0	Contributions	31	11	4	
Angus, Rev. Dr.	2	2	Y.M.M.A., for De-	0	0	Do., Sunday School,				
Baker, Mr. T. N.	0	10	scapotoga School,				by Y.M.M.A., for			
Barker, Mr. W., Enfield	1	1	Ceylon	10	0	Boars Schools	10	0	0	
Carey, Mrs. E.	0	10					<b>New Park Street—</b>			
Collins, W., Esq.	10	0	<b>How—</b>				Collection	19	8	1
Crispin, Mr.	0	10	Contributions	5	4	8	Contributions, 2 years	14	3	6
David, Mr. E.	0	10	Do., Sunday School	2	5	10	Do., Juvenile, by			
Gouldsmith, Mrs.	10	0	<b>Brompton, Thurlia Chapel—</b>				Y.M.M.A., for			
Gover, Mr. William	1	1	Contributions	5	0	0	Mrs. Allen's Girls'			
Hassall, Mrs.	1	1	Do., Sunday School	4	0	0	Boarding School,			
Irish, Mr.	0	10	<b>Camberwell—</b>				Colombo	45	0	0
Johnson, W., Esq.	1	1	Contributions	132	15	9	Harvey, James, Esq.,			
Jones, C., Esq.	2	2	Do., Juvenile	2	6	0	for do.	35	0	0
Jones, Capt., Hatcham	1	1	<b>Camberwell, Cottage Green—</b>				<b>Pontonville, Claremont Chapel—</b>			
Lushington, Rt. Hon.	3	3	Contributions	3	17	4	Contributions, by			
Dr. S.	3	3	Do., Sunday School	3	18	1	Mises and Master			
Maliphant, Mr. G.	1	1	<b>Commercial Street</b>	17	15	4	Walton	5	18	1
Meacher, Mrs.	1	1	<b>Devonshire Square—</b>				Poplar, Cotton Street	6	3	8
Morrell, C., Esq.	2	2	Contributions	23	4	8	Regent Street, Lambeth	11	13	3
Phillips, J., Esq.	1	1	Do., for N. P.	0	19	3	<b>Regent's Park—</b>			
Pike, Rev. J. C.	0	10	Do., for F.E., India	3	10	0	Collections	50	1	6
Powell, Jobu, Esq.	3	3	<b>Enfield Highway—</b>				Contributions	45	3	0
Ridgway, Thomas, Esq.,	5	5	Contributions, by box	0	8	2	<b>Salters' Hall—</b>			
1854-5.	5	5	<b>Hackney—</b>				Sunday School, by			
Smith, Eusebius, Esq.	1	1	Collections	13	6	9	Y. M. M. A., for			
Smith, Miss R.	1	1	Contributions	28	0	7	African School	10	0	0
Taylor, James, Esq.	2	2	<b>Hackney, Ann's Place—</b>				<b>Shacklewell—</b>			
Trestrail, Rev. F.	3	3	Sunday School	1	10	0	Collections	6	12	9
Underhill, E. B., Esq.	3	3	Hammersmith	36	19	7	Contributions	17	5	4
Warmington, Jos., Esq.	3	3	<b>Harlington—</b>				Do., Juvenile	8	13	2
Whitehorse, Jas., Esq.	2	2	Collections	10	0	0				
			Sunday School, for	0	13	0				
			N. P.	0	13	0				
			<b>Homerton Row—</b>				Less expenses	32	11	3
			Sunday School, by				0	13	0	
			Y. M. M. A.	0	9	6				
<b>Donations.</b>			<b>Islington, Cross Street—</b>				<b>Shouldham Street—</b>			
Bible Translation Soci-	300	0	Contributions	12	18	1	Collection, &c.	5	15	0
ety, for Translations	300	0	<b>John Street—</b>				Do., Sunday School	2	19	6
Peto, Sir S. M., Bart.,			Contributions	52	0	3	Spencer Place	3	1	0
† for additional Mis-	400	0	Do., for India	3	0	0				
sionaries to India.	400	0	<b>Kennington, Charles Street—</b>				<b>Tottenham—</b>			
			Sunday School, by				Collection	4	10	0
			Y. M. M. A., for				Contributions	17	9	6
<b>Legacy.</b>			Westgania School,				Do., Sunday School,			
Cumming, Mr. William,	5	0	Ceylon	2	10	8	Girls	0	14	0
late of Limehouse, for	5	0	<b>Kensal Green—</b>							
Native Agency	5	0	Collection	1	13	6	Less expenses	22	13	6
			<b>Keppel Street—</b>				0	11	0	
			Contributions, Juve-							
<b>LONDON AND MIDDLESEX</b>			nile, for Grand Pass							
<b>AUXILIARIES.</b>			School, Ceylon	18	2	9				
Daltesea—			<b>Kingsgate Chapel—</b>				<b>Westbourne Grove—</b>			
Collection	6	9	Contributions	11	0	0	Collections	15	13	0
Contributions	32	10	Do., Sunday School,				Contributions	4	2	10
Do., Juvenile, half	2	10	by Y.M.M.A., for				Do., Sunday School,			
year	2	10	Schools	3	10	0	by Y.M.M.A., for			
<b>Blandford Street—</b>							Canterons School	10	0	0
Contributions	10	0								
Do., Sunday Schools	5	0								

The acknowledgment of the remainder of the Contributions is unavoidably postponed.

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 Treasurer.