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THE

Evangelical Magazine,

FOR SEPTEMBER, 1796.

VOL. IV.

Lukewarmness is the best natural, but the worst spiritual temper a man can be in.

To render good for evil, is God-like; to render good for good, is man-like; to render evil for evil, is beast-like; to render evil for good, is devil-like.

Four things the Christian should especially labour after—to be humble and thankful, watchful and cheerful.

If we would not fall into things unlawful, we must sometimes deny ourselves in those that *are* lawful.

Religion must be our business, then it will be our delight.

It will cost something to be religious, but it will cost more not to be so.

The Christian's life is nothing more than a short trial of his graces.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

THE friends of this important Institution will rejoice to hear, that, about five o'clock on Wednesday morning, the 10th of August, the missionaries, destined to the South-Seas, embarked on board the Duff, and sailed from Blackwall to Gravesend. As the time of their departure approached, the prayers of God's dear people, who felt themselves peculiarly interested in the undertaking, became more frequent and fervent than usual. The evening preceding the embarkation was spent in the most solemn manner. The Directors, and other active friends of the Society, several of whom were ministers, assembled with the Captain, the missionaries and their wives, at Haberdashers'-hall, and, dropping all consideration of little party-distinctions, mutually commemorated the death of the Lord Jesus, having first recommended to his merciful protection and care their dear brethren and sisters, from whom they were to be speedily, and perhaps finally separated. If ever God was present in the assemblies of his saints, surely he was present on that occasion. Every heart was affected; and, we trust, the serious impressions then made will never be erased. Dr. Haweis, as the oldest minister, led the worship, and Mr. Reynolds, next to him in years, concluded it: Dr. Hunter prayed; Mr. Wilks and Mr. Eyre addressed the congregation; and Mr. Platt, Mr. Brooksbank, Mr. Townsend, and others, assisted in distributing the elements. Such a scene of love and harmony was truly edifying and refreshing. Surely it may be said, "What has God wrought!" It was a little specimen of what the church in the latter days will experience, when love, like death, will level all distinctions. It was even a foretaste of heaven.

Though they embarked at so early an hour, vast multitudes attended. The deck was crowded, many of the Directors and friends accompanying them down the river. As soon as the boats which brought off the missionaries and Directors were removed—the sails unfurled—the noise of the ropes, and moving to and fro of the sailors had ceased—that beautiful hymn in the Countess of Huntingdon's Collection, was sung, "Jesu, at thy command we launch into the deep," &c. The sailors in the ships on each side the river, hearing the singing, stood in silent astonishment; and many serious persons on the shore waved their hats, bidding the dear servants of God farewel. The friends at Gravesend, Chatham,

ham, and Sheerness, knowing that poultry and other articles were wanting, met the vessel as she passed, cheerfully bringing with them their offerings.

The day following she weighed anchor, and working down the river, she reached the Nore on Saturday morning; when the wind veered to the north-east, and enabled her to pass the Downs about noon. Off Dungeness the wind shifted to the westward, and sunk into a calm. There the whole ship's crew, assembling on the quarter-deck, spent the sabbath in the solemn worship of their God. The missionaries read the Scriptures, prayed, and gave out the hymns, and Dr. Haweis, Mr. Brooksbank, and Mr. Wilks, who accompanied them in their voyage to Portsmouth, each delivered a sermon: The God of earth and seas, manifesting his gracious presence, the songs of Sion ascended in sweetest accents, while the children of Sion appeared to rejoice in their King.

On the Monday evening, Mr. Jefferson, one of the missionaries, preached a very pertinent and impressive discourse. Immediately a favourable gale sprang up, and the vessel, which is a prime sailer, came to anchor the morning following at Spithead. Here they found that the same wind which brought them round, had taken to sea the East India convoy they had hoped to join. Providentially, however, they will be taken under the protection of the ADAMANT, a fifty-gun ship, now under sailing-orders to convoy transports, with government-stores, to the southward. Her signal is already out, and she expects every day to weigh anchor.

No sooner did the Duff come to an anchor, than numerous friends, who anxiously waited her arrival, came on board; and from that time, till this paper went to press, they have paid the Captain and missionaries the most marked attention, supplying them with vegetables, live-stock, and every other article that can contribute to their comfort.

The neighbouring churches are offering fervent prayer for the success of the enterprize; and almost every day the Directors or missionaries preach on shore. The last sabbath was spent on board like the preceding, Mr. Eyre, of Hackney, preaching in the morning; Mr. Griffin, of Portsea, in the afternoon; and Mr. Eyre, the missionary, in the evening. When Mr. Griffin, in the course of his sermon, addressed the Captain, who, from the time of his conversion, had been a member of his congregation, every one present was much affected. Having reminded him of the many dangers out of which the Lord had almost miraculously delivered him, even in his unconverted state, he took occasion from thence to encourage him to hope, that being now reconciled to God by the death of his Son, he would not, on any future emergency whatsoever, be forsaken.

Through the whole ship's company the most perfect harmony subsists; nor had the sickness, inseparable from a first entrance on the sea, damped their zeal. Mrs. Hudden was the only person whose heart failed. Being of a delicate constitution, and naturally timid, the winds and waves so alarmed her fears, that it was thought proper, she and her husband, though much against his wish, should be set on shore. All the rest, being undismayed at the apparent dangers of the ocean, and deeply penetrated with a sense of the glorious cause in which they are engaged, are ardently desirous to pursue their important object.

Judicious regulations have been established for the preservation of their health, and the improvement of their minds, during the voyage. Agreeably to the instructions of the Directors, lately printed, with the sermon and charge, delivered on the day of public designation, the whole body proceeded to the choice of a Committee. The four ordained ministers being unanimously elected, among other arrangements, appointed Mr. Lewis to be librarian, and Mr. Harris to be steward, an office distinct from that of the ship's steward, having for its object the care of all the missionary stores. They determined that four sermons should be preached by the ordained ministers every week, two on the Sunday, and the other two at proper intervals.—That there should likewise be public service on the morning and evening of every day, in which all the missionaries should engage by rotation.—That these daily services should consist of singing, prayer, reading the Scriptures, and an exposition or short sermon, the whole being comprised within a limited time, that while the gifts of the brethren

are exercised, prolixity may be avoided. Different classes are established for grammar, geography, navigation, the Greek and Hebrew languages, and particularly the Otaheitean, so far as it can be acquired from a vocabulary collected by Dr. Haweis, and that printed in the quarto edition of Captain Cook's voyages.

To preserve on their minds a lively sense of the nature and importance of the missionary service, all are to assemble, at certain parts of every day; when the best qualified are to read the life of Brainerd, Cranz's History of Greenland, La Trobe's Translation of Loskiel's History of the Moravian Missions in North America, and other writings of a similar tendency. Little societies are formed, both among the missionaries and sailors, for the purpose of social prayer, and the strengthening each other's hands, by mutually relating their Christian experiences.

A ship with such a company, so employed, must interest in its behalf the feelings of all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, and excite their earnest supplications to heaven for its preservation and success.

While we sincerely wish that the friends of the Society may avoid arrogant presumption, from a consideration of the favourable circumstances which have attended the commencement of the mission, we think that the many providential appearances in its behalf demand a humble reliance on God's protecting care. In no one instance, within the limits of our recollection, has such a spirit of prayer and supplication been poured out upon the churches, nor such general approbation and liberality been discovered. Most men seem to wish well to a design so benevolent. In all the departments under Government, we understand, the greatest kindness has been testified. At the Council-board, and in the Custom-house, the business of the ship has been expedited with unusual alacrity; and in none of the offices would they accept the customary fees, a circumstance, probably, seldom if ever experienced before on any occasion.

August 25, 1796.

The Directors' Address to the Public.

THE liberality of the religious part of the community towards the objects of the Missionary Society has been manifested on many occasions, and the Directors have the pleasure to acknowledge, that no small proportion of the cargo which their ship, the Duff, carries with her to the South-Sea Islands, consists of the cheerful and spontaneous donations of the friends of the Institution. As the value of the ship and the articles with which she is loaded amount to a considerable sum, it is deemed expedient that a part thereof should be insured, and the Directors invite, in particular, the affluent friends of this cause to manifest their attachment to it in this instance. Already a policy has been opened for this voyage at the premium of one penny per cent. to which some of the Directors have subscribed their names, and they have the pleasure to add, that a number of Underwriters, unconnected with this Society, but approving the humanity of the design, have been impelled, by their liberal and ingenuous feelings, to render it their assistance. About 3000l. has already been insured by a number of individuals becoming responsible in case of loss, some for 50l. some for 100l. and others for 200l. each; and it is not doubted, but that many others, in consequence of this communication, will be disposed to participate in this service, and to associate their names with others, as Underwriters, for such sums as may be agreeable to them respectively. Such persons are desired to convey their determinations on this subject, to Joseph Hardcastle, Esq. London, Treasurer to the Institution.

W. SHRUBSOLE, Secretary.

ORDINATIONS.