## 



BAPTIST MISSION. Wome jorocredings.

Severgl monllis ago, a kind and liberal fricad of the Socicty proposed to the Central Committee a plan for the liguitdation of tlic remaising debt of thic Sooicty ( $\mathbf{f 3 0 0 0}$ ): 'The' principle of the plan tias, that the frieuds of the Mission stould unite, and each engage to subscribe a certain sum, on the condition that, by the next Anniversary of iho Society, the wholo amount should lee thus subsoribed; otherwise, the engagement to the considered of ino effeot.
"As' it is of the 'greatest imporiance thint such contributions shoald not

1. 'affedt or diminish'fle ordinary revenac of ilice Society, it hinsbeer decmed nocessary to fx the sum of Ten Pounds as the lowost donation which can be received for this specific 'propose; but as many may be desirous to aid in this good work, who may not feel themselves justified in advancing tbat sum individually, it ' hasbedn suggested that ono or more thiends' may' combinm in presenting. flo mader one name; i.'e; as from A. B. and friends.

A convinencement lias been made by sonie friends in the metropolis, and nearly $£ 500$ are alrendly subscribed. Muasnres will immediately be laken to bring the suljoct moro fully before the view of our friends at large, in town and country; and Tho Committeo caruestly.hope, that when they aro again favoured -to assemble' with their brethren at the next ilaniversnry, they will be prepared to congratulate them on the remopal of this burden.

On this sobject the Secretary will
feel great pleasure in receiving any communications, addressed to No.6, Fen-cont, Fenchurch-street.

On Wedneeday, the sth of January, a depatation from the Sociely, consisting of the Treasurer, Secretary, Mr. Gutteridge, and Mr. Hanson, waited, by appointment, on the Right Hon. Lord Amherst, lately elected to the high and important office of Governor General of India. The object of the depatation was to recommend the Missionarles of the Society to his Lordship's protection and good opinion, and, we are happy to add, that they experienced a most polite and favourable reception.

## fiotefg ¥atelligence.

## DIGAH.

The following brief extract of a letter from Mr. Rowe, dated Jani 3, 1822, would lead us to indulge the hope that we may, at ro very distaut period, see the complete abolition of the dreadful practice to which it refers.
Oar sérvants report That a neighbouring ragistrate (to hils honour le it recorded) lately refused permission for a native woman to burd herself with her deceased husband. They are personally acqueinted with the woman, and sny she was resolved to burn. To shew her fortitude, sha held her finger, in the finme of a lamp, after which she distributed her property a mongst her relatives, and only waited the pernission of the magistrate to execute her design; but that being refused, she hed of course to give it up.

She had two smoll childrod, who sat berrailing her expected fate; but ou hearing the prohibition, they expressed much joy, and returined honie well satistied. On the way home the woman affected to be dying of mortification and grief on account of her disap. poinfment ; but sbe is now becone as cheerful and happy as ever she whs.


## (Continked from Page 43.)

Often, very often I feel pained and srieved at heart on viewing and refleoting on the circumstances of this island, and this populous town in particular. Two long streets that lic between the Grand Pass and iny other two places of worship are inhabited almost exclusirely by Mahometans. They are, in fact, so much theirs that they lake their name from them; being called Great and Little Moor-street. Nothing yet has been donc, nor any thing worth mentioning been attempted, towards rescaing these poor people from their wretched delusions. It is impossible they should be rivetted to them more firmly than they are. The christian religion they view with contempt, and will hear notling on the subject. One man, (an inhabitant of Jaffa, ) and so far as my knowledge goes, one only has yot been even prosclyted to christianity in all Ceylon: and he was lacld in detestation by all the rest, young and old. One way in which little boys Lave been known to reproach him was by saying to one another as he passod them in the street, "We often see a fat pig in the street now." The man is a stout fat man, and you know how the disciples of Mahomet regard pigs. In what way any thing can be done for these poople, had I time to turn my attention towards them, I as yet know not. I have thought if any thing be attempled it mast bo by gchools similar to those our brethren in Bengal have established among the Hindoos. To pily and pray for them is all I can do at present.

And as to the generality of the poople called christians in Ceylon, it is too well known into what a deplorably degraded state they are sunk. It is true great numbers attend the Roman
catholis oluurch; lont when we consí der for a moment what it is they learn there, (if indeed they learn auy thing at all,) who corn rejoies in this! And, with a very few exceplions, nothing like serious religlon is to be seen among the people of the reformed ohureh. It is but a few times in the year that they altend public worship. The former part of the Sabbath is occupied in bathing, or sorae such way. And it is very conmon to see theny cleaniug or repairing their houses on that day; and feasting, dancing, and card playing are the evening employments of many. I an not now giving you information on hearsay, but making known to you lhiugs to which I am eye and ear witocss, as I pass the doors of these people every Sabbathday. Dancing is less common than when I first came here; but it is not long since I saw large parties in two houses on the same Suljbath evening; and that in two of the most publis streets in Colombo. Thesc are our Colombo christians! What then can we expect the poor Singhalese to be, who have been brought up with such examples before thelr eyes? Certainly just suoh as they are:: a poor, ignorant, careless, stupid race of people. This day Treek, on my visit to Wellampitty, I held a short conversation with a person, from which you may learn the circunstances of the bulk of the people called christians in Ceylon. As I was sitting in a cottage, a venerable lookiug oid man came to the door; I was strack with his appearance, and asked him how ord he was? "My age, Sir, is one lundred and three years." "Are you a christian?" "Yes." "A Romun catholic, or of the roformed religion ?" "I am of the Datch religion." "And, what do you know about the things of religion?" "Very little," "Do you know the ten commandments?" "No, I learnt a little when I was a boy, but I have forgot it." "Do you know Low you can be saved from sin and hell $\mathrm{r}^{\prime \prime}$ " By praying to God." "Is nothing more needful?" "I don't know." "Do you know nothing about a: Saviour?" "No." "Havo yoll never heard abont the Lord Jesus Cerist ?" "No." To question him any farther I decmed quite needless, and proceeded to give him such nd vice as I thought most suitable to his deplorable caso. Whien it is considered that this is a specimen of the caso of hundreds and thousands in Ceylon, it will be seen that a mission-
ary in this country is set dowo in a valley of dry bones; and it may with propriety be added, "there are very many in the open valley, and lo! they ara very dry." Bat must they then be abandoned to remain in this deplorable condition? Surely by those who have seeu and known their circumstances, this cannot be done without incurring guilt of no common magpitude. While, therefore, we cannot give life to these dry bones, we must continue to do all in oar power for then; praying, hoping, and endeavouring to believe that the only power which can cause a slaking among them, may at length be exerted. Then shall breath come into them; then they will live and stand up on their feet an exceediug great army.

## BENCOOLEN.

By the Layton, recently arrived, we have received the quarterly letter from our brethren at this station, dated July 10 last; and as we are persuaded the intelligence it affords will prove highly gratifying to our readers, we proceed to lay it before them without delay.

## Bencoolen, July 10, 1822.

Very dear Breturen,
The period for addressing yon having elapsed, we shall now, with much pleasure, endeavour to lay before you the state of our mission. We have not any decided success to commanicate; but the state of things is still encouraging; and we hope, that the bread whiol we are now casting upon the waters will appear after many days. Like the setthers in a new country, we must first clear the ground, and then proceed to ploughing and sowing. Who will reap the harrest it is not possible to say ; but should that saying of our Lord, "Ono soweth and nnother reapeth,"' be verified io our case, we, who are the sowers, hope to have our share of joy with the reapers.
We will commence by giving you an account of the distribution of books during the last quarter. In our former letter, wo mentioned a little book of casy lessons, which had lately issued from the press, and which was
read with considerable interest by natuves of all descriplions. Subserpent obserpations have fully confirmed us in the sentiments we than expressed; and we have never seen any thing so much in request aroong the Malays as this little book. The sccond lesson, which is the simplest thing imaginable, is perhaps the most popalar; and is highly applanded for its truth. From the success of this first altempt at little moral works, we feel authorized to conclude, that a serics of similar publications would be the means of great good, by exciting a disposition to read, and thus preparing the mind for the consideration of more important subjects.

We have already informed you of the publication of a tract on the creation, containing the frat three chapters of the book of Gevesis. This little book is also popular; the aatives inquire after it under the title of the History of the Prophet Adam. The edition was only 1500 copies; want of paper obliged us to economise, but we find now, that we ought to have printed double that number at Teust. We have but 400 copies remaining, and we want 1000 for Mr. Erans, at Padang.

We have latels published a small work on Astronomy, which thero is reason to believe will soon become popular among the better informed nativos. A nafive writer having received one, and read some parts of it, came the next evening with several young men, who begged copies of this, and of every other book we had. They also asked a pamber of questions, concerning the form of the earth; the cause of day and night, \&c. They were shown a terrestrial globe; and they appaared much gralified by the answers given to their queries. Any thing which indicates thougbl in a Malay is encouraging; their upathy is so great, that to interest theus on any subject of information, seems almost beyond the power of man. Science will not make then christians, but it will assist in dispellịng the mists of Mubammedanism, and teach them to use their mental powers.

There is a wide field for the distribution of books in Sumairu. The inliabitants of the west coast, from north to south, aro. plad to receive them. Sir Stamford Rafles has sent a parcel of our tracts to each district under his goverament, with directions to the resident native chief to Lave them distributed. Mr. Burton
took with hin a great number for distribution along the const, when' har lent us a few weeks ago; huid ho writes; that they were every where' well receivtd, and that the natives read then with much interest. As soon as he artived at his stationi numbers fint: quired for gospels; but inlas't he had nonc. Neither our pens nor uur press can supply the present diemands for: books."Mir: Burton sajs in a letter to Mr. Watd: "The Lord seems now: to have giten the whole coast into our hatils. Much depends upon the press. Reading is certainly very oomnton; and a relish for it may'easily. be increased by giviog then books whioh Lhey can understand. Evans whil, at thé lowest estimation, require a thou: sand copies of each tract you puiblish.' I think also Tre ought to make a wit gorous effort to support a larger printing establishment, as tracts will'cerutalaly be called for, buth more fie-quently and in greater numbers, than you can supply at presenc.": There are very few rative worles in ciroulda tion among the Malays' on this coast; those therefore who have ai taste for rehdidg, oannot gratify it, but'by means of our books. This is a.pleasi in' $^{1} g^{\prime}$ circunistance, and it is is certainly afi important object to supply those who wish to read; with ditch Lboolss;' as will' poor the light of day into their benighted minds.

We have another bodk of moral lessons in the pressis. It is that mien-1 tíoned by Mr. Robinsod, in adletter'to Dr. Ryland, dated'Aphil-3!1820, and published in the Horald for November in "the same year. It hes stihce that periód undergone many corrections and, alcictations. A- riative wlio sawv. the manuscript, requested'per'mission to take a copy; but was'not 'allowed, lést it sliould gét abroad with a number of errors. We liope there is good reason to conclude, that what a nativo: would have given tifmell the'troubletd copy, will not be read without interest.
Durlig the last ${ }^{1}$ quarter another: school book tids been ptrtly composed and put to press;' Which wu'shall call, in English', for want of a more appropriate title, Graimmalieal Lessons. The first part will consist of Jessons on orthography; the secorid fill conthin lessons on etymulogy. Tho. ifrst part is in the pross, whd the prinun's considerably adranced. This little work is immedintely wattell for the native schools. Nothing exists among the Malays in the sbape of a grammar
of thair own langunge; not hayo wq ever mot withia 'singlo grammatical rule. We snuil prini as large an edition as our paper nyill allow there being reason to expeot, tha, ia luool of this description, will obtain a very general ciroulation.:

Ols were
The native scluools were going op in. a pleasing inamner proviousy to tho annual vacation; the total, number of scholars in regular attendane日 was, ono, hundred and twenty-three. The, vaontion is not yet over, but wy.e hope a. commencement will be made in a fow days: The progress the schiplars, make is wery gratifying ; the old men are: astonished to sec themeelves, ouldone byilitule boyt., There is still, much difficulty in :securing the a alendapue: of the children; their parents are but little sensible of the Forth of instruction, and have their children very littlo under controul. ,

We mentioned in a former communicalion having sent a parcel of books to Moco Moco, at the request of spme of the chief's of that district. Some lime ago, the native agent who traugmilted them, brought a. boy; abqut. twelvo yearsiof age;: to our central, school, stating, that opr books had, been read and much approverf, and in, conseguence; this boy had been sent for instruction, his friends not being willing that he should remain alyufr. falo any longer. The bey (was, adent;ted, hoping that he might, he trinsformed from a buffalo to a man. Ho had to commence with the alphabet, and he has alriady shown, that he has some claims to be considered of the human species.".

We are happy.to state, that thero is in'opening for a native female, school. The attempt has been mado by a Mrs. Kuaggs, a member of the church at Batavia, .. who accompenied Mr. Rubinson to this place. eshe, acquired the Molay charactor at Batavia, for the purpose of teaching a native school liere, should am opportunity offer. Shic Lasinow six scholirs, and we bope tho number.will gradually, augment; but wencaunot, under present oiroumstances, anticipate llic erection of anothen aohool, ". Mrs. Knaggs is not able to. take churge of more than one, and as Mrs. Robinson is dead, and Mrs. Burton gone to join her husband, we have no other female attached to the mission. Malay, womeu are much moro uccassible than the females of continental India, and will converse. very freely with persons of their own sex. They think themselves honoured
by, an' lntercourse with Europeañ फo nen; so that $n$ pious femalo night, in all probabilify, not only inatruct the children', 'but also' be useful" among the mothers:
Wé have comünęcéd a móntlily lecture in Malay, for the purpose of, giying instruction to the nafives in geography, ostronomy, history, and any other suluece, which máy be interestlog to them.. The 'irst, Tecture faas on geography, The subjects treated of were The situafion of the earth; form of the eartb;-slze of the carth; -mptions of the earth. Several of the natiye chiefs were present ', 'and about finty other persons ; mostly mên who have some litule claim to infornätion. The sechond lecture was od the peopling of the earth. Sopme das after, an old math spid to Mr. Robinson': "I wish you roould publish your last lecture, Hs, i, slopula be glad of more inforinaLion on that subject foŕ I cannot be lieve the stories which lie Malays tell ug, about people falling frou' the clouds."

Our pative congregation' on the Sapbnith is very smatl ; the annual fast hos doge serious injory in this respect: buk we axe not rithout 'höpés, "tliat we, shal!, ip time, résain our lost stpupt. $\because$ We cannot, howe yer, Nlow, that the numbicy of geccasional atteindapts on the Sabibatit, forms añ true criterion of the state of thic mission. If we would form a judgment, we mast riew turngs on a latge scale, and tofo ioto tho eccound all that is doing log fonversation, books, and schoole, apd we shall then perceive, that the misgiqin wears an éncouraylag aspect. Wh hope, lovever, that the vardinas not been, spoken in vain. Without recurring , to "the inforimation whích many, nust necessarily have teceived, 4 qee is a, inoor Amboypa woman, who, to sfy, tue lepget, appearẹ to be under very sefious impressions. She lias requested baptispo, but lhough there appeqre reason to hopo, well of her, Te linre not thqught it proper to comply, with her request át present. She has glen some proof of her sincerity, by sep, rating, from a man with whom最e vas, living in an unlawiul siate. Sho has à daughter about furteon years of age; whom she has placed under. Mrsio, Kaaggs's instructions.

We send you the following short apecinien of Muhammedan reasoning. Meéung a nam one day in the MarlGro', Bazar, (market) who is remarkalie for his kood seise on common subjects, we innuired what pronf he was able to adiduce that the Minham-
medan religion was from God: ' Hel. replied: "This is the proof of H, ," Abtahaim bull the ternple at Mecca."
"There is no proof that Abratram built the temple at Mecca; brit coald ${ }^{\prime}$ that be' proved, it would'not follow from theice; that the Mahammedan religion is true."
"Thé world exists; and that is a. proof that God made it ; the temple'at Mecca exists; and that is a proof that Abraham: lailt it."
"Thére exists"a house belonging to you in the Bazar; and that is a proof that Abrahám bull it."
Séveral persons heard this reasoninf, yet it is doubtful whether any of them were sensible of the fatility of it.' Súch are the persons with whom wo bave to deal: Whiat short of a divine power can enlighten treir minds'?

In Eńgladd it' is a common idea, that death is' thic consequence of sin; but in this country a difeterent opinion previalis. Thé Muhanmedans think, that. men die merely becanse God has so ordained it, and not because they are siinners. According to their creed, the good angels will all die, and the. aingel of déath lumself mill not escape. He will be in tie agonles of death for a hinmber of years, and will exclaim: 4 Ir I' had known wiat dyying was, 1 would nover have been the angel of. death." Whien told that death is the consequence of 'sin, they aak: "How is it then that intants die, for they do not sia ?" How lightly. must. suck, persons think of sin, and how little are they, sedsible of its evil anture !
¢h Friday, May 14, we all three went tó a' Malay village, colled Dusun Dasary sitiunte about six or seven miles from Marlbro'. This is the largest and neatest village in this purt of the country. The number of houses is about aixty, and the inhabitants about |throe hundred. The village is divided into two parts, which aro scparated from enchother by a ravine. Eacl part is situated on a small hill; and buth parts are surrounded by a'ravine. In one part is the bnlai or town hal?; and in the other, the musjid or mosque. That part which cous taing flic town hall has a much mord. respectable appearance than the other. The houses are neatly built of boards, and raised on posts about six feet Ligh: some of these posts, like Robin-

[^0]son Crusoc's stakes, are shooting out. How high luese houses will grow which are supported by chese living posts, it is not ensy to say. The adramiage of living posts is, that thoy do not decay. Common posts are liable to rot in a few years, at least that part of them which is placed in the ground, but these, of course, remain good as long as they live. The under part of the bouse serves for a barn or out-house, aud, in most instances, contaius large quantities of free wood; while the vacant space is occupied by a swing, for the anusement of the children. We took up our abode for the day in the town hull, which, however, would not stand a comparison with an English hovel. It was raised on posts, about the same beight as those of the houses. The walls were of bamboo, raised about ulree feet from the floor; the remainin'g space between the top of the walls and the roof, boing open. The thatel was full of holes, and scarcely afforded a sufficient protection from the rays of the sun. The dimensions of this public building were about lifty feet by twenty-five, and it was, without doubt, the worst looking structure in tlie whole village. This village contains three priests, and as many scribes, besides several other person5. who hold some ofice in the mosque. The clief priest sat down with us in the town hall, and eutered into an interesting conversation on the subject of religion. He was very inguisitive about our religious sentiments, and appenred desirous of information. A part of the conversation ran upon some incideds in the histories of Adam, Abraham, and Noab; names very familiar with the Muhammedans. When we came to speak of Jesus Clerist and the way of salvation by him, the old priest seemed to think, for the moment, that it was better to trust in the merits of Christ, than in his own good decds. Several of the inhabitants of the village were present, and took a part in the conversation, while a foeling of mutual satisfaction acemed to perrade the whole assembly. It being Friday, the Muhaummedan sabbath, they alleoded the mosque in the afternoon, and allowed us to be present at their religions exercises. The mosque is a small building raised on posts, wilh a floor of bamboo laths. It is about tiventy feet square, and fitted up with a rustic pulpit, which is quite a non-descriph, and of which it is not casy to give even a moderately correct ${ }^{2}$ idea.

The bottom was a thick board placed on the floor of the mosque; in each corner of this board a post was fn serted, and the four posts were joined at the top by cross pieces of timbor. The pulpit was open all round, but the entrauce was in the front. Tho steps vere at the back, withinside, and were like those of a cominon latlder, the botton ones served for a footstool, and the upper ones for a seat. The pricst placed himself upon them with his face towards the people, who all sat with their faces towards the pulpit. He then read a discourse in Arabic, which was sufficiently unintelligible to bis anditors; still they listened with profound attention. The priest did not pray in the pulpit; that is the place for preaching or reading, not for praying. When they pray, every face is turned towarls Mecca, this they call their kiblat, or point of prayer. The back of the palpit is in the direction of Mecca, and the front just opposite to the door of the mosque. The people enter, and take their seats with their backs towards the door, and their faces towards Mecea. In this position the pulpit is in their front, and they are in the proper direction for prayer; but as the priost, while be is reading, has his back towards the kiblat, he must, when he prays, descend and thra his face towards the pulpit and the kiblat. Their attitudes of body, while engaged in their devotions, are very imposing, and there is a great appearance of reverence for the Divine Being. They sometimes stand erect, with their hands stretched out and the palms turned upwards; sometimes place their knces on the floor, and sometimes touch the door with their foreheads. We could not but regret that they did not worship a God in Christ, and we wore strongly reminded of the apostle's expression: "Bodily exercise profieth nothing." Every individual had a small mat on which he sat, and which he either brings with him every time, or leaves in the mosque. The women bring with then a white upper garment, which they put on as roon as they enter the mosque, ond take off again as soon as the service is concluded. They occupy a corner of the mosque by themselves behind the men. There were present about ten women and somelling inore thau twenty men. Each man broughi his creese or dagger with him, whioh he laid on his mat during the time of prayer. The whole service occupied about an hour. Happy should wo be
to sec this mosque furned into a place of christian worship, and these poor Muhammedans into the disciples of Jesus!

It has pleased the Lord to remove our much csteemed friond tha Ret. C. Winter, the chaplain of the settlement: He was a good man, and remarkably meek and unassuming. When we met together, he was always ready to introduce religious subjects, and the last conversation we had with him was on christian experience. It was on Monday evening, just after the monthly prayer-meoting, when, according to his usual custom, he invited is to take tea with him. Ho spoke that evening from the story of the Philippian jailor; little thinking it was the last time he was to speak for God. The next day he was taken ill, ${ }_{2}$-and never appeared in public again. We were with bim much during his last illness, and though his disorder, which was a fever, prevented his conversing freely, it was casy to perceive, from the little he did say, that his nind was in a calm and peaceful state. His patience under his sofferings; his entire resignation to the will of God; his tender affection for Mrs. Winter; and his thankfal disposition to all his attendants, wero truly admirable. It was on his deathbed, that he preached his loudest sermon: it was here, that he appeared the christion indeed. Surely none Who witnessed this death-bed scenc, could help exclniming: "Let me dic the denth of the righteons, and let my
last end be like his !" The settlement is now vithout a chaplain, and Mr. Robinson has been requested to take upon himself the performance of the duties, so far as he can, consistently with his own principles. This appointment will interfere in some measare with our engagements among the natives, as Mr. Robinson must now preach in English on the Sabbath morning, instead of going among the natives, which has bitherto been our constant practice; but it seemed right to comply with the wishes generalls expressed, othervise all public worship in English must bave been suspended till the arrival of another ohaplain.

Having now laid before you the state of our affairs, you will perceive, that there is no cause for discouragement, but abondant reason for thank folness to our gracious Lord, who has set bofore us such an open door. We entreat your prayers on our behalf, and we hope that we ourselves, arc becoming lncreasingly sensible of the need of prayer, in order to sticcess. "Without me ye can do nothing," is a truth, which we wish to be always deeply impressed upon our minds. We might take encouragement from the general appearance of things, but we profer looking to the Lord for the outpouring of his Spirit, without whose sacred influences, no sinner will ever be converted.

We remain, dear Brethren;
yours very sincerely,

> W. Robinson,
N. M. Ward.

Contributions received by the Treasurer of the Baptial Missionary Society, from December 20, 1822, to January 20, 182s, not including Indioiduul Sulscriptiony.



## FOR THE TRANSLATIONS.



## FOR THE SCHOOLS.

Committee for conducting the 'Youtl's Magazine,' by W. B.
Gurney, Esq. . . . . . . . ......................... Second Donation

FOR FEMALE EDUCATION.


J. BARFIELD, Printer, 91, Wardous-Street, Solic:


[^0]:    - Not only did Abraham build this temple, but the angel Gabriel fanued away the mountains with his wiuge, to make room for its croction.

