MISSIONARY HERALD,

CONTAINING INTELLIGENCE AT LARGE OF THE

Proceedings and Operations

OF THE

BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

CCXVII.

JANUARY, 1837.

Subscriptions and Donations in aid of this Society will be thankfully received at the Baptist Mission House, No. 6, Fen Court, Fenchurch Street, London: or by any of the Ministers and Friends whose names are inserted in the Cover of the Annual Report.

NOTICE.

The Committee beg leave to announce that, in compliance with the suggestions and recommendations of many friends of the Society, it has been determined to hold the Annual Meeting in future in the first week of May, instead of the end of June. In consequence of this change, the official year of the Society will close on the 31st of March, instead of the 31st of May, of which it is respectfully requested the Treasurers of Auxiliary Societies, &c., will take due notice.

Fen Court, Dec. 20, 1836.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

COLOMBO.

Extracts of a letter from Mr. Daniel to the Secretary, dated, Colombo, February 4, 1836.

In reviewing the state of missionary work during the past year, we have had many trials and many mercies. I will not allude again to my domestic trials; you can imagine them better than I can express them. But He does all things well, so we profess to believe; O for

grace to feel it so. As far as I have been concerned, it has been a year of greater itinerating labour than any previous one; and although the results have not been equal to the last, yet have we much to excite gratitude to God. I have baptized in the course of the year seventeen Singalese, a part of whom have been united to the church at Byamville, and a part to the Singalese church at Colombo. An aged Singalese member, during the course of the year, has been removed by death. He appeared to die in the faith and hope of the Gospel—his confidence entirely fixed on Christ, and the fear of death having no place in his soul. We have

been under the necessity of excluding two Singalese members, one of whom, for many years, has belonged to the church, the other of more recent standing. They, by the ill counsel of their neighbours, have been led astray from the path of One has been restored, the other, I think, exhibits a spirit of penitence, but is not yet re-united to the church. have several persons who appear inquiring the road to Zion, with their faces thitherwards; as was the case with our first English congregation, but they were suddenly ordered to Kandy, and thus our intercourse with them has been suspended. Mr. Sier's newly raised congregation in Slave Island continues to present features of encouragement: they are going on building their place of worship, and some of them are anxious to become members of Christ's church. He has, in addition to his services on Friday evening, begun a service on Sunday morning, and is about to commence a Sabbathschool there. In consequence of the Wesleyan missionaries, some time since, having commenced a Portuguese service in the Pettah at the same time that he preaches there, his Sunday evening congregation, which was large, has much diminished. Nor have any additions been made during the present year to the church there; although it has been found requisite to exclude two aged members. I think the Hanwella congregation, under the care of Carolis, has improved during the past year. Although the place of worship has been destroyed by the floods, more people seem to be inclined to assemble in the place where worship is now held, than in the former place. exceedingly regret I am not able to get more frequently to Hanwella than I have lately done; but in consequence of the bridges on the road being broken down and left without repair, there is no going thither without such an expense as I am unwilling, except in cases of emergency, to incur. I hope, however, in a few weeks to go there, and do what I can for the people. Although, in consequence of the affliction of my family, the female school at our own house has been discontinued; yet, by the establishment of another boy's school in a populous village, the amount of the scholars is more than in the preceding year, some of the schools having augmented the number of the scholars. We have now thirteen schools, with about 600 children. All our village schools, and one or two in Colombo, form places of worship, where divine service is conducted statedly, as often as we are able to supply them. In

this respect the establishment of a school in a village is a most important thing, as it not only communicates instruction to the youth in that village, but furnishes the most effective means we have yet been able to devise, by which the worship of God, and the preaching of the gospel can be regularly attended to in a village. In a country where spiritual death reigns around us, in the manner in which we witness it, we need the out-pouring of the Spirit of God in a very large degree. let our friends aid us by their earnest prayers for this great blessing. In the course of the last year we have in our Singalese place of worship commenced monthly protracted prayer-meetings, to seek the supply of the Spirit's aid. We have had four or five of them, and we must wait to see the result in the greatfavour being communicated.

I read with joy the great work of God which is going on in the West Indies, and the abundant blessing which God is giving to the labours of our brethren there. I am perfectly sensible how tame and feeble all the accounts we can send you from this country must be, compared to the tidings they communicate. And when I read the accounts of their numerous congregations—their large body of communicants-and the hundreds which almost monthly they are receiving by baptism, and compare them with what we witness, while I bless God for their success, I cannot but feel dejected by the difficulties with which we are surrounded. Instead of sceing trooping multitudes coming from every direction to hear with joy and animation the divine word, we must, by roads inaccessible unless by walking, go under the ardours of a tropical sun into their villages to search them out; and after having been almost worn down in the effort to get near them, have to wait from time to time for their arrival; and, when a few are collected together, in a most difficult language you must have recourse to every expedient that parable, illustration, or reasoning can employ to secure their attention, and convey to them some idea of the way of salvation, by Jesus Christ; and have often to see one and another leave the congregation before you can finish your message-and when you enter again the village, find very probably few of those who heard you once will again listen to the word of God. let those who in their own land are indifferent in aiding the labours of a Missionary Society, spend a single year in the labours of an East Indian missionary, and then, if they have any love to Christ and souls, on their return to their own country, they will not refuse their prayers, their contributions, nor their efforts, on behalf of the work.

In a more recent communication, dated the 27th of June, Mr. Daniel writes:

As far as our missionary work is concerned, I hope, although we meet with many trials of faith and patience, we perceive tokens of the divine approbation. Our regular labours, as specified in a former letter, are continually performed; subject to those occasional interruptions which occur especially in this part of the world. As for instance, I have not recently visited the jail to preach to the English prisoners, since, with the exception of one or two, they are all removed; other departments of labour are occupied instead of it. Mr. Siers has lately built and opened a place of worship in Slave Island, a populous part of the town, which for years previous to his visiting it, was entirely destitute of religious instruction. He preaches on Sunday mornings and Friday evenings, in Portuguese, and has lately added an English service on Saturday evenings, for the soldiers. place of worship is built on another person's ground, we are endeavouring to purchase it for the use of the mission. The governor has given £5 towards the erection of the chapel and the purchase of the ground. I think they will scarcely be able to do both without the aid of the mission, but rather than that it should be left in uncertainty, and the place should be lost, if after all their efforts they are not able to effect it, I shall not scruple to appropriate a small sum, say £5, of the mission money, for this purpose. Our place of worship at Byamville is now nearly completed. It is a substantial building, forty-five feet by twenty-five, outside. It will cost about £90. I want to huild a house on the same ground for the residence of either an European or native missionary, for which, in addition to what I have in hand, I think £50 will be requisite; what I cannot obtain from other quarters I must look to you to supply. The Lord has lately poured out a large degree of a Spirit of prayer on the Singalese part of our church, which I trust he is answering. Since the commencement of the year we have had six additional persons join the church-three at Byamville and three at Colombo. We have now eight persons who are candidates for baptism and church membership. I hope they will be led first to Christ and then to his church. I lately paid a visit to Hanwella; but do not find things as I

could wish there. The state of the roads is such that we cannot visit it except at a very heavy expense, which has occasioned my journeys thither to be less frequent than they ought to be. The last time I was obliged to go by water, and was three days going twenty miles and returning, and was not able to preach to one-third of the people I could by journeyings in other directions, with one-fourth of the expense of travelling. It is on this account my journeys have recently been so few. When the roads were passable for a bardy, I could go in a short time, and preach on the road, with little expense; but now, by hard rowing, to be two days going twenty miles, and finding but little to remunerate the labour, has induced me to turn my attention to other spots, where, with less expense, more good was likely to be done. I have, in connexion with one of our members, lately, in addition to my stated labours, taken several more distant itinerating excursions into the villages in the Jungles. As these excursions are often over the same ground (for this I find to be better than going to a spot once and never visiting it again), a description of one of them will be a kind of representation of others. I will just refer to the notes I made of one on my return home. In the journey to which I refer we had several objects we wished to accomplish; viz., to inspect the schools in those parts, to see as many of our members as we could consistently with our other engagements, to inquire into their spiritual state. to go from house to house in the village of Byamville to converse with those who do not come to hear the gospel; but above all, to preach the word of God, and distribute tracts in the villages around it. After preaching three times on the Lord'sday in three different places to the Singalese, and administering the Lord's Supper, we left home early on Monday morn. The weather was very hot, the ground dried and parched, and as we were obliged to perform the principal part of our journey on foot, the roads in the jungles admitting of no other conveyance, the proceeding in the middle of the day from village to village, was very laborious. In addition to other labours we preached the Gospel in thirteen different places, in some of which the Gospel had never before been made known. Our congregations varied in size, but in general were attentive, and heard with interest the divine word. Sometimes we preached in school bungalows -at others in private houses, the public road, or a rest house and in many places under the shade of the cocoa-nut tree. After preaching, we gave tracts to all who would read them, or were willing to receive them; but in one of the spots we visited, we could not find a single individual who could read. In some of the villages we had preached on former occasions, and I was glad to find a spirit of inquiry had been excited in the minds of some who had heard the word, and that their confidence in their superstitions appears to be shaken. We spent four days among the people, and returned home by Thursday evening. We experienced much kindness from some of them; they received us into their houses, and prepared some of their provisions for us, and in some cases refused to take any They gave us the best remuncration. lodgings their habitations could afford; and although it was homely and inconvenient, we fared better than our Master, who "had not where to lay his head." On our journey homeward, on being informed that near the road they were preparing for a devil's dance, to recover a person near dying, I went to the yaka dora, or devil's priest, and told him of his wickedness in deceiving the people, by his lying impositions; after which, going near the sick person, who was a poor old woman, apparently near another world, we endeavoured to show her the folly of the ccremony to which she was trusting, and directed her to Jesus Christ as the only Saviour. But her intellect appeared so much impaired, that it was with difficulty we could make her understand any thing we said. Devil worship is alarmingly prevalent in the villages and interior places of this country. deliverance from sickness and death people take their offering to a devil priest, who first of all, having clothed himself in a horrid manner, drinks spirits till he is intoxicated, then with dreadful yellings all the negroes dance before the house of the sick person, who is brought out of her bed to witness it. A mode of procedure far more likely to kill than to cure. But to such excesses of folly will people proceed in the service of the devil, while we are often unwilling to endure reproach for Him, who, in order to effect our salvation, bore the cross, and despised the shame.

BAHAMAS.

In a letter from Mr. Burton, dated Nassau, October 31, he thus addresses the Secretary:

The packages that have been forwarded have been highly cheering to us. I intend to write to the ladies who have sent the articles for the schools, to thank them

for their extraordinary instance of Christian love. I wish, however, that you would be so kind as to make it known that two ladies, one seventy-three, and the other fifty-five, have, with their own hands, made up a large collection, chiefly of useful articles, and sent them to persons whom they have never seen, and of whom they know almost nothing except through your Missionary Herald. It is a proof of attachment to our blessed Saviour's cause, that ought to be known, that it may be imitated. I trust the example has been useful to me, and to some of our Sabbath-school teachers. that it may be useful to many others!

I have been greatly rejoiced also with the prospect of another missionary being sent into this part of the field. Dear Sir, let him come soon: the grain is very ripe; and appears to be perishing for want of being gathered. I long for the salvation of the East as well as the West; but as God has whitened this part of the field first, you cannot be doing wrong in following Him. Gather this in; and when His grace and His providence call you to the East, as now they call you to the West, you will be at liberty to give to that part the principal attention; here, you will not then be so very greatly needed. I hope you will pardon me for making these observations.

I know you will be thankful to hear that God is still blessing us. As a church we have of late had great cause for sorrow We have had to exclude before God. several for dishonouring the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; but most of them have with penitence sought restoration to the church; and numbers more are seeking union with us. Public worship is well-attended: the prayer-meetings, and class-meetings, and inquirers' meetings are well attended. More than twenty of the Sabbath-school children have lately begun to show signs of spiritual life. And the desire to do something more, and still more, for the honour of the Saviour, is beginning to extend. O that the Lord may perfect that which concerns us; and not forsake the work of his hands.

Our readers will observe the renewed appeal and entreaty of our zealous, self-denying brother, that a new missionary may be sent soon. Repeatedly have we re-echoed this request in our pages—surely we shall not have to wait much longer before it be complied with. Amidst the pecuniary difficulties which surround the Society, the Committee have re-

solved to trust to the Providence of God for the support of a fourth missionary, if a few Christian friends would furnish them with the means of sending him out. A liberal offer of £50, from a highly esteemed friend in the Established church, has long been waiting our call; since the receipt of the letter, quoted from as above, a

second £50 has been offered by one friend, and £10 by another. A hundred pounds, in addition to these sums, will suffice; and it is earnestly hoped that this amount will be provided without further delay, that so this much needed object may at length be accomplished.

Contributions received on account of the Baptist Missionary Society, from November 20, to December 20, 1836, not including individual subscriptions.

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Sutton on-Trent, Collection, by Mr. Lomax 4 0	0
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Suffolk, by Rev. James Sprigg: -	
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The Committee respectfully acknowledge the kindness of their friends in Monwouthshire in the cordial reception given to their deputation, the Rev. W. Gray, and are gratified to observe, that although Collections were prevented, in some instances, by the strenous efforts now being made to pay off the debts on their chapels, the amount contributed has exceeded, on the whole, that of the last year.

Kilwinning: -

Saltcoats :-

Collection at the Rev. Mr. Laing's ..

Coll. at Secession Church . 1 14 7 Mr. David Muir 1 0 0

Coll. at the Parish Church 2 15 8 Donations by Friends 2 15 0

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Do. at Relief Church 0 10 1 A Lady, by Rev. Mr. Mac Diarmid 0 10 0	Do. at Rev. Mr. King's 6 10 3 Do. at Mr. M'Laren's 8 12 6 Proceeds of Books 3 6 5 Hutcheson Town, Relief Congregational Society,					
Collection at Rev. Walter Dunlop's Secession 3 0 0 Do. at Public Meeting, Rev. Dr. Duncan's Church 5 5 6	(W.I.F.) 4 0 0 Robert Kettle Esc. 5 0 0					
A Friend, by the Rev. R. Machray	John Barr, Esq					
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Kilmarnock:— 28 13 7 Kilmarnock:— 1 0 0	W. Kelly & Co					
Miss Greenshields	John Kerr, Esq					
Mr. A. Aitken 1 0 0 Mrs. Mackie 0 10 0 Mr. Lavers 0 5 0	J. Mitchell, Esq. (W.I.F.) 1 0 J. M'Leod, Esq., Argyle-st. 1 0 0 Mr. David Smith, jun 1 1 0 A. Nasmith, Esq 1 1 0					
Baptist Church	James Craig, Esq 1 1 0 James Steven, Esq 1 1 0 Alexander Morris, Esq 1 0 0					
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Dr. Abercrombie 2 2 0	J. K. Milne 2 0 0
Mrs. Henderson 2 2 0	Collected by Miss Wilson. 6 0 0
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William Gourlay, Esq 2 0 0	Auxiliary Society for Foreign Mis-
Charles Brunton, Esq 2 0 0	sions 15 0 6
Mr. G. Wilson 1 1 0	
Mr. J. Martin 1 1 0	759 12 9

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

School books, to the amount of Twenty-five Pounds, are just about to be forwarded to various stations in Jamaica, having been liberally presented through the medium of James Livett, Esq., of Bristol.

'Amicus,' who writes from Goole, under date of December 3, will find his donation of Five Pounds towards the debt acknowledged in our Number for October, on the last page. It is stated as from *Liverpool*, because the first letter, announcing the kind intention of the unknown donor, was sent from thence.

Mr. Dyer has received, towards the Baptist church in Bavaria, Five Pounds from Mr. John Coward, Liverpool, and 5s. from Mr. West, of Amersham.

Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, of Belize, who are exerting themselves with great zeal and success for the benefit of poor negro children at Belize, would feel greatly indebted to any kind friends who would forward to Fen Court for them any small articles of clothing or for rewards in their schools.

Mr. Dyer occasionally receives letters from individuals who suppose him to be the Editor of the Baptist Magazine; and very often from friends who request his aid in procuring situations for young persons, &c., in various walks of life. To the former, he begs leave to say that his Editorial duties do not extend beyond the Herald; to the latter, he wishes to state that, if they do not hear in reply, it is solely because his efforts to serve them have not been successful. He is strongly inclined to think that an agency, for this express purpose, in the hands of a competent individual, would be of much benefit to the Christian public, as well as advantageous to the party undertaking it.

A package for Mr. Knibb's Schools, kindly forwarded by Ladies connected with the Rev. John Birt's congregation, York-street, Manchester, has been thankfully received: as also a package of caps from Mr. C. Jones, of Birlingham, near Pershore.