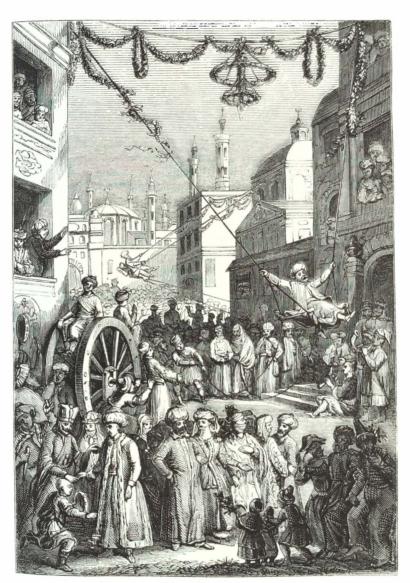
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REPORT PRESENTED TO THE CONFERENCE OF BAPTIST MIS. SIONARIES IN BENGAL, HELD IN CALCUTTA, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 1855.

NATIVE CHURCHES AND PASTORS.

in a recent number of the Herald, we duct with reference to these communiproceed to give another of those reports ties, must be important alike to his own laid before our brethren, and adopted happiness in his work, and to their adby them, at their recent conference, vancement towards that maturity of The one selected for last month was on character which constitutes Christian preaching: the present one is on a subject of almost equal importance-a subject which occupied much time and societies, in which the new spiritual life thought, which engaged the attention of the Serampore missionaries fifty years ago, but which has now been revived, we trust, to some good purpose.

The connexion which should exist between the Christian missionary and those who have been converted from heathenism, appears to demand our attention next in order—and it is scarcely second in importance—to the determination of the question, how he may best fulfil the command to "preach the gospel to every creature." We can easily understand that those who sympathize with each other in their views and feelings on religious truth, will naturally, by associating together, sustain and strengthen each other in its profession and advocacy. Agreeably, therefore, to this condition of our nature, the great Lawgiver of the Church has appointed that its members, as far as practicable, shall constantly meet and unitedly act for religious worship and service, that their own growth in Christian character may be assisted, and that the influence of divine truth may be exhibited and diffused around them. Out of the success of the missionary's labour therefore, native churches naturally arisothey increase according to that success -while many of his greatest difficulties will be found to spring from his connexion with them. To understand his

In accordance with announcements principles in all his relations and conmanhood.

> In the first formation of these little is to be cherished and its action directed. the Christian missionary naturally assumes a relation of almost paternal authority and care. They gather around and cleave to him as the teacher to whom they listen for instruction-the benefactor to whom they are grateful for the tidings of salvation. The attention, the sympathy, the direction that are connected with the official relation of pastor, are natural to his mind as the result of his success: towards those whom he rejoices over as the recompense of his self-denial and toil, there "is no one like-minded" with himself "who will naturally care for their state," and he as naturally therefore assumes "the oversight of them in the Lord." A state of infantile dependence and inexperience, is not, however, long to continue. Under the instruction of the scriptures, there will be advancing knowledge; under the divine blessing on Christian labour, there will be increasing numbers. A more perfect and full organization will be the result of such growth, and as a separate and distinct church, with its bishop and deacons, as many as its need may require, it shall stand forth a self-acting and self-governing community, "striving together for the faith delivered unto the saints."

The rapidity of its development will depend on a variety of circumstances right position and be guided by right which we need not specify-probably for a long period, its growth in this a spirit will be intent. The question, country will be slow :- and for the mere sake of having persons to answer to scriptural names, we would not urge the appointment of men for service in the church for which they are neither needed nor qualified; but from the first, such communities must learn to defer to their pastors' authority-and to regard their own subordination as the result of their voluntary choice. Sacred. however, as the relation may be, possibly before long it may abruptly terminate. The voice of providence may call for a removal of the missionary pastor to another sphere, or death may cut down the faithful labourer in the midst of his toil. And now the feeble band that had been gathered by him naturally turn their eyes to those who had first sent him-and according to the wisdom given them to repair the loss suffered. these look out for one to enter into the labours that have been suddenly arrested. Let not such appointment be made irrespective of the sentiments of those who are most to be affected by its fitness or its folly. To a missionary station, or house, or chapel, a committee may have power to appoint without appeal: but we hold it a sacred privilege of a Christian church, to choose its own officersa privilege not at all affected by a consideration of its numbers, or its poverty: and let none with rude or thoughtless minds attempt to set at nought its rightful claim.

A happier issue of a first or a succeeding pastor's labours may be, however, a change of another kind. "The churches enjoying rest and being edified -walking in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Ghost, will be multiplied." The perfection of individual character and the numerical increase of a single church, will not exhaust the desires of an earnest Missionary spirit. On the increase of the

when distinct communities shall be formed, is very rarely to be determined by the consideration of numbers alone. A very small one might suffice to form a first church in a country or districtfour were thought sufficient to form the first baptist church in India: a much greater number would not alone justify a distinct organization, or separation from a community close at hand. The great consideration in forming new churches, we conceive, should be, the difficulty of enjoying Christian intercourse with one already in existence. If, with those who cherish the same faith and observe the same order, we cannot enjoy Christian worship; if our dwellings are so distant that we can rarely meet-or if the community has grown so large, that we cannot assemble in the same house of prayer, or enjoy the benefit of the same pastoral superintendence, then an increase of churches is demanded: but woe be to him-and if in this heathen land, a double woewho separates brethren by exciting strife -and would multiply the companies of Israel, by seducing from their ranks a number, to make himself amongst them a captain of fifty. Two opposite courses, we conceive, are alike to be deprecated, —the bringing converts together from distant places to form a large community, and the separating into small churches a community that live and might act together.

In the midst of this growth and increase of churches, the character of the missionary as primarily an evangelist, should never be lost sight of by himself or his people. The very fact of his being sent from a distant land to preach the Gospel of Jesus to those without a knowledge of it, should remind both that his thoughts ought to reach towards the regions beyond those where Christ is known, and that he is a debtor, should number of the churches, one having such opportunity ever be presented, to preach

the Gospel there also. The demands care of any of our churches will arise on his time and anxiety, which the very from the reluctance of the churches success that God has granted brings themselves to endeavour to stand alone; him, should be viewed with suspicion, and it is not to be concealed that our if not impatience: and both Missionary conviction of the insufficiency of many and people should ever look on their of them to do so, would prevent at connexion as a mere temporary one, present a very hearty and general desire The continued sustentation of Chris- for the trial. There is, we acknowledge, tianity in any place must not depend on a danger of fondling and spoiling, by foreign aid. The primitive history of our caution and anxiety; but there is the church, as well as the necessity of also the opposite error of anticipating the case, must teach us this. We have not perhaps to preach to a people so prepared to receive the truth concerning Jesus, as were the first converts to Christianity in most Jewish and Gentile cities: the national character of those around us has been thought by some more degraded and helpless than that of those who were first wrought upon by the truth—but as our work is to diffuse a knowledge that shall elevate this character, the question is only one of time. The principles on which the first missions were conducted we must seek to act upon in those of our time, and as in the case of the cities of Asia and of Greece, so in those of Bengal, Christianity must not always look for the superintendence and personal ministry of the agents who have introduced it.

The necessity which we thus recognize is not new, either to our own minds. or to the minds of many of whom we have now the oversight. From an early period in the history of our mission, even so far back as 1805,* it has been acknowledged as a thing to be sought after, and during the last few years it has been frequently insisted on by some of us amongst our people. The principal difficulties which we anticipate in an attempt to free ourselves from the

both the providence and grace of God, -his providence, in requiring of the people under our care more than their worldly circumstances allow them to perform—the sovereignty of his grace, in expecting them equal to the discharge of duties for which they have not received the necessary qualifications.

The question bas not infrequently been asked of late, and sometimes perhaps impatiently,—" Why are there so few, or rather, why are there no native Christians sustaining an independent pastoral office among the churches of Bengal? It is generally found that though Europeans make the best missionaries, native Christians are best qualified for the pastorate of the churches. There are at first sight so many advantages on its side that its general adoption is confessedly desirable. If a pastor to be efficient must thoroughly know his people-should sympathize with them-live amongst them-interchange freely thought with them-one of their own nation has manifestly an advantage over a foreigner -one of themselves over a stranger." While much of this is admitted as true, the explanation of the fact we believe is close at hand. An efficient pastor should not only be equal to all these things, but he needs such a degree of moral courage to reprove sin-such a removal from the danger of exercising a petty tyranny by virtue of his officesuch a freedom from party-spirit-such an acknowledged eminence amongst his

[.] See form of agreement, respecting the great principles upon which the brethren of the mission at Serampore, think it their duty to act in the work of instructing the heathen, agreed upon at a meeting of the brethren, at Berampore, on Monday, October 7, 1805.

people through the exhibition of Chris- Several of these churches and co-pastors tian character, and the possession there- might be recommended, some of the fore of moral influence, that few, if any, of our brethren have commended themselves as qualified, both mentally and morally, to stand forth apart from the European missionary, as the leaders of their people. We would distinctly assign this as the chief reason for the omission that is lamented. It may have been that, in some of us, there have been too much timidity and too little confidence in the grace of God, as it might be illustrated in the experience of our brethren. We are not conscious, however, of a desire to retain our hold on these churches through our love of power, nor do we wish to have dominion over their faith: we have no desire to assimilate our work in India to that of our brethren in the pastoral office at home; and those of us most burdened with a pastoral relation, do not shrink from the greater physical labour or self-denial which might be required in making known the gospel to those not yet within the church. When we can find men to take the oversight of those whom we have exhorted, comforted, and charged, as a father doth his children of whom we have been "jealous with a godly jealousy," the readiness with which we left our earliest homes and friends in obedience to our convictions of duty. is an assurance, at least to ourselves. that we shall have strength of faith and love, to leave all our new connexions and associations which may have almost renewed to us in this foreign land the pleasures of home, and go whither divine direction may lead us.

As a preliminary step to such a consummation, several of our brethren, as is well known, have long been in the habit of working with native preachers, who have had, under the European brother's general superintendence, the pastoral oversight of some church or brethren think, to make the attempt to stand alone. There has, for the reasons above stated, been a hesitation in surrendering all right of interference in matters of church-discipline and government. We hope the hesitation will not long continue, convinced that the time will soon come in many places, and ultimately must in all, when, to use the language of the first Secretary of our Society, "the influence which a missionary shall have in a district must be persuasive not authoritative, natural not official, and he must look for it only as the result of superior wisdom and experience."

In the central station, indeed, in which the European missionary may have his residence and home, it will be desirable that he always have an official authority; first of all, for the sake of those who may appear as new converts under his ministry. It would be unnatural to turn every inquirer, whom he has interested with religious truth, into the hands of another; and it appears from apostolic precedent, that where the evangelist or missionary may be who has brought the gospel to a place, there he should be found the most active teacher, and recognized as having chief authority. There was also another fact stated which may receive a special illustration in such places. The great field of the missionary's success, would generally seem to be the congregation wont to assemble at stated seasons with native Christians in the house of prayer, and naturally he would deprecate haste in surrendering a position of usefulness as teacher to such a congregation, if only a very inefficient substitute could be found.

It is thought, that generally it will be the wiser plan that the pastor, as well as the deacons, though he may be station in the district of their labours. thereby a somewhat inferior man, should

be chosen out of the people, and by the poor people who were willing to exert neonle themselves. Various reasons were assigned for the first of these opinions. arising from the remaining influence in many cases of ancient social distinctions in the minds of the converts, and the general attachment to localities which would prevent an individual from another place getting soon to feel at home. And with reference to the second opinion, the repugnance which we have to the imposition on a church of an European missionary, is increased as we think of a native brother thrust upon a people. Naturally we may expect that the advice of a missionary will be asked on such a matter; and in the first surrender of his authority, the missionary's approval of his successor may be thought requisite to the ratification of the church's choice; but we are very generally and strongly convinced that, after independence has been recognized, interference and meddling will impede, rather than advance, the growth of such Christian commu-The question relative to the support of these independent native pastors, is one which has presented a great difficulty in making a general trial of their capacity for independence. The extreme poverty and small numbers of many of our churches in Bengal. preclude the hope of their being soon released from the control of the missionary or the society. While, however, we think that the full independence of action in a church cannot be secured while its support is extraneous, the present poverty of a people should not be held a sufficient reason of itself to prevent the trial of an independent pastorate. It might be consistent with the great object of the missionary society to help, at least for a season, a courage them to make the trial.

themselves for the support of him who laboured amongst them in the Lord. For doing much beyond this duty of supporting themselves, no native church is at present competent. The work of introducing the gospel into new districts, and of awakening the mass of the people throughout the country, must rest with the missionaries, and with those who labour with them as preachers to the heathen. Between the duties of these assistants in mission labour and those of the pastors of churches, and therefore between the acquirements needed by them respectively, there is a difference: and without expressing any opinion as to their relative importance. we would recognize and maintain a distinction. The need of a greater number of efficient men of both classes we have all felt, and would beg of every one interested in our work, to unite in prayer to the Lord of the harvest, to send forth more labourers into this great field, which is truly white unto the harvest.

With reference to immediate action on this important subject, a few words will suffice. Whether there are any churches in Bengal which might be at once left to stand alone, must be determined finally by the brethren to whom such churches have been given in charge. Each pastor, in connexion with his people, can best determine how and when the experiment shall be made, or if it shall be made at all. churches at Johnnagar, Lakhyantipore, Chhobikarpar, andSatheriya, thought the most equal to such a movement, and this Conference, directing their brethren to look up to God for wisdom and strength, would en-

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

CALCUTTA .- In consequence of Mr. Den-|drawback, I believe it will be a material ham's return to England, through ill health, it has been deemed necessary that Mr. Sampson should go to Serampore for a season. to assist in the duties of the college. propriety of this step has been questioned by some of our brethren, as might be expected on a subject where much diversity of opinion prevails. This difference of opinion will do good; it will excite discussion, and when carried on in a Christian spirit, the truth will be elicited thereby. Mr. Sampson very frankly states his own views on the subject, and we are glad of the opportunity of giving him the opportunity of expressing them.

"Of course you have heard, ere this, through Mr. Underhill, of my going to Serampore. My removal there, although only for a season, is viewed by different parties with different feelings. The great controversy at present in the mission field, I find to be, preaching, versus teaching; and I must say I have been rather disappointed at witnessing the spirit in which truly excellent men carry it on. Surely a little charity ought to be exercised. When men, of whose deep and ardent piety there can be no doubt, say that they believe their place is in the class-room, that there they do, while teaching other subjects, preach the Gospel, and that they are conscientiously engaged in the duty to which they believe God has called them, it ought not still to be told them that they are disobeying the great command. And so even respecting my temporary sojourn at Serampore, while some say they are glad on account of it, others say they should be glad if I were going for any other purpose than that of teaching mathematics. Well, the only thing, even in this comparatively trifling affair, is to have a clear conscience towards God and man. It has not been of my own seeking. Mr. Denham, while engaged in committing to their last resting-place the remains of an old and respected fellow labourer, is himself cut down, and obliged to seek renewed health and strength in his native climate. How shall his place be supplied? All the missionaries round about are fully occupied in active labours that cannot be suspended (with the exception of myself). I cannot preach, for I don't know the language. At Serampore I shall have equal facilities for acquiring the language with those I have here, perhaps greater, besides other advantages of no inferior nature. At the same time I shall be occupied for two hours daily at the college. But instead of that being a

help. It will be a most desirable break into the monotonous drudgery of learning a language; besides which, it will give me the pleasure, and no small pleasure it will be, I assure you, of knowing that I am actually doing something. Oh, you cannot think how irksome it is to have nothing of active labour to do. But I must say, and believe me I say it with all sincerity, if I thought that through my going to Serampore I should be delayed a single week from preaching the Gospel, that is, from going and actually proclaiming the love of God to men, I would not go there. Instead of this, however, I think I shall sooner and better be able to do so by being for a while at Serampore, than I shall if I stay here, and therefore I see no reason why I should hesitate about it. I thought it right to be thus explicit and open with you. Believe me, every day I am here, I see more and more the need of labourers in this part of the vineyard of our Master; and my heart has often been well nigh ready to burst when I have seen people passing by in groups of fifty or sixty, when engaged in the absurd ceremonies of their puja, because I have been unable to go out and tell them of their absurdity, and point them to Him, who, being a spirit, requires to be worshipped "in spirit and in truth," Be assured no effort on my part shall be wanting to hasten the time when I shall be able to do this, and God grant I may ever keep it before me as the great object of my life.

You will be glad to hear that my health is thoroughly re-established. The weather at present is most delightful. I shall be glad when the next hot season is past, for then I shall have had experience of all the seasons in India.

JESSORE.-The good work seems to be going on in this district, and Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, lately appointed to it, are now actively and cordially co-operating with Mr. Sale in carrying it on. Mr. Sale writes, under date of December 6.

"I rejoice to be able to say that Mr. Anderson is now entering on his work in the district, and it is our earnest prayer that grace may be given him, and great success follow his efforts. He will, I believe, take charge of Sutberiya and its institutions, and superintend the evangelizing efforts which our strength may enable us to make in the region round about. The station will include parts of the districts of Baraset and Nuddea. as well as a very populous portion of Jessore. Mr. Anderson has made unusually good progress in the Bengali.

We returned last Sunday morning from a a few days ago by our dear brother Parry, tour of nearly six weeks, during which we who has gone to occupy the Cutwa station, visited a good many places, and attended instead of Mr. Supper, who is about to protwo large melas. At both the latter the people heard very attentively; indeed, unwillingness to hear our message is the exception in this district. I had also very interesting conversations with the Zemindars in the neighbourhood. We cannot but hope that good will result from this proclamation of the word of life to high and low.

BERRHOOM .- The rebellion of the Santhals, to which the following letter refers, has happily been suppressed, but not before numerous lives were lost, much property destroyed, and whole villages laid in ruins. Mr. Williamson has returned to his post. For a short time he was cheered by having a partner in his work, Mr. Parry; but that he only enjoyed for a few months. We shall be glad if the Committee can afford him the help he asks. He is advancing into years and needs, more than ever, the presence and active co-operation of a fellow missionary.

"At the date of my last letter I was with my family in Calcutta, having fled from the Santhals, a barbarous people, inhabiting the jungles and hills of Beerbhoom and Bhaugolpore, who were then plundering and burning villages and massacring their inhabitants, chiefly Hindoos. The insurrection has not been permitted, by Divine Providence, to spread to the extent that it was feared it would, and believed by some that it actually had. But in the above-mentioned districts and Bancoorah, the work of destruction has been hitherto allowed to go on, without any energetic measures having been adopted by Government, for which they have been severely and justly blamed. Martial law ought to have been proclaimed, and some instances of condign punishment inflicted at the commencement, instead of which, the affair, however serious, has been trifled with up to the present time. We returned to our station about six weeks ago, and feel ourselves comparatively secure, the station being now occupied by a military detachment.

"While in Calcutta I had the pleasure of being present at our conference meetings, which were very interesting, and conducted with the greatest harmony. It was truly gratifying to hear all our missionary brethren delivering their various concurrent opinions on subjects of such high interest, and especially those of our esteemed and beloved secretary. I had also the pleasure of attending a general conference of nearly all our Bengal missionaries of different evangelical denominations,

"We are now again alone, having been left!

ceed to Dacca, in order to supply more fully Eastern Bengal, which holds out very pleasing hopes of successful missionary operations, indeed, very much beyond that of North-Western Bengal. Another missionary, however, is much wanted at this station, to help me in my declining years and strength. For the last month I have been labouring under a diarrheea, which, although it has not laid me aside from my my work, has much prostrated my strength. I am proposing to go out on my usual itinerating work during the cold season of the year, but have some serious doubts whether I shall be able to go through with it. Let, then, one of your remaining twenty, to be sent out for India, be appointed to Beerbhoom.

"I am sorry I have not as yet been able to do anything respecting a native pastorate. One of our leading men having fallen into sin, our projected plan has been deranged for the present. With the exception just mentioned, the conduct of our church has been, upon the whole, not unbecoming their profession. Instruction and admonition have been almost daily administered to them. The gospel has been preached to the natives around, many approving of what is said, yet no one daring to make a public profession of the Christian religion. They seem to want some more bold than the rest to lead the way, or rather the Holy Spirit to convert them to God. I think I have already mentioned that two persons were haptized in the early period of the year. Pray for us that 'the Word of the Lord may have free course and he glorified."

WEST INDIES.

TRINIDAD .-- As soon after his return as possible our indefatigable brother Law visited his out-stations. The result will be seen in the extracts from his letter of Decemher 10th, which we subjoin. It gives us peculiar pleasure to notice the testimony he bears to the fidelity and zenl of the native preachers. We are not without hopes that, ere many months pass away, some help may be afforded, and a brother, suitable to the occupancy of the out-stations, may be sent to Trinidad. It is gratifying, also, to observe the way in which Mr. Law speaks of the renovating effect of his short sojourn in this country. During his stay here, he missed no opportunity of presenting the claims of the mission to the friends in every place which he visited, whether on the

business of the Society, or to see his relatives Hut the Committee have very properly de-

"I have visited the stations in the country since my return, and I am going to pay another visit this week. The state of things, on the whole, in the country churches is satisfactory. The native teachers and preachers have done their very best in my absence. Their "works of faith and labours of love" have been many, and some of them have been very trying to flesh and blood; but the rich grace of God has abundantly sustained and blessed them. If some of these dear brethren could reside with me in Port of Spain for a few months, I could direct their studies, so as to make them fitter for the Master's use.

"I am glad to be able to inform you that, although my last journey engaged me nearly a whole week, I returned home in perfect health. Every day, from morning till night, sometimes till midnight, I was occupied in either travelling or preaching. The time taken up with each service is generally about seven hours, during which time candidates for baptism are examined, and those approved of baptized; two and sometimes three sermons are preached. The whole is concluded by the solemn supper of the Lord. On these occasions, I have much deep and anxious thought about everything and every one. During this visit, I baptized in all nine Christian men and women. I saw, indeed, the grace of God, and was glad.

"I returned without fever, or any of those distressing ailments I used to have from my country work. It is no wonder that I should be tired and exhausted in the extreme. A good night's rest removes all this fatigue. My visit to England has been a blessing to body and mind.

"Continue to implore the Committee to remember Trinidad, and, as soon as possible, send another missionary into this important field of labour."

BAHAMAS.

NASSAU.—We have been very much concerned, during these past few months, to receive from Mr. Capern distressing accounts of the severe afflictions which have fallen on Mrs. Capern, and some other members of his family. The Committee, anxious to alleviate them in some degree, suggested to him, some time ago, a voyage to the States, and a sojourn there for a few weeks. This was not practicable; and now it seems inevitable, unless Mrs. Capern's life be sacrificed, that she should at once return to England. He is greatly concerned about the expense, being unable wholly to meet it himself.

But the Committee have very properly determined to remove his anxiety on this score. They have, therefore, expressed to him their deep sympathy with him in his affliction, and as a mark of their respect and perfect confidence in his integrity and prudence, directed him to draw for whatever amount he may deem necessary to meet this emergency. By this time, too, we hope Mr. and Mrs. Davey have arrived at Nassau, which will at once relieve Mr. Capern of some portion of his laborious duties. Under date of September 10, he says:—

"My own health, I rejoice to say, is better than it was this time last year. But I am ashamed to think of the amount of care and indulgence I have bestowed upon myself of late. Formerly I performed the services which I have devolved upon others for some months past; and have therefore been resting on my oars. It is really very trying, dear brother, to see a great deal of work that ought to be done, that used to be done, and that would be done, if there were strength adequate to it, left undone. But we cannot be always hale and strong. Oh, that there had been more of the work of faith and love, when the physical frame was capable of more toil.

I am thankful that I can say, I hope the word is not preached in vain here. Hundreds hear it; and some of those, I do persuade myself, hear it with joy and holy fear.

"On the first subbath of the present month, we baptized sixteen candidates, nearly all of whom were young, and most of whom had been children in our subbath schools. The attendance was large, and the occasion solemn and impressive. Others are waiting to be received; and as soon as we are convinced that they have given themselves to the Lord, they will be baptized.

"The good work in the out-islands is, I trust, going on. Our native brethren are at their posts, and some of them are encouraged in their work. The people hear them gladly; and some of the people contribute towards their support as God enables them. But such is their poverty, that they cannot provide an adequate maintenance for their teacher; and we have, therefore, and shall have, to supplement their efforts. I deeply regret that I have been unable, in conscquence of personal and domestic affliction, to go to the out-islands during this year, as I am quite sure much good is generally done by a visit. I hope to be able ere long to go. But I must wait until my wife is strong enough to attend to some duties which, in my absence, necessarily devolve upon her."

In a letter dated October 13, Mr. Capern

acknowledges the Committee's proposal to ing to Mr. East, to see if he had or knew visit the States, and tells them why he cannot act upon it, and also gives some pleasing intelligence in regard to the station:-

"Your most welcome letter of August 29 came to hand by the packet of yesterday. Its contents are to us both important and interesting. And were not the packet to be leaving so soon (for being two days behind her time she sails again for St. Thomas today), I should write you at some length on some of its main particulars.

"But let me now say, that we feel very deeply the kindness of the Committee in so readily acquiescing in the proposal made, we have the pleasure of thinking, with fraternal sympathy by you, that we should have a temporary change. A short sojourn in the States, however, would not answer the end in regard to my poor wife. Our medical attendant has, more than once, assured us that the stamina of her constitution are too much impaired for her to derive any permanent benefit from any but a lengthened stay in a bracing clime. And such a stay would now be impracticable. Besides, she is at present quite too feeble to take a voyage. Since November, 1854, she has, with the exception of about two months, been entirely unable to attend to her domestic duties; and only about four times has she been able to attend a place of worship, though the chapel is not more than eight or nine yards from our house. The doctor now tells us most distinctly, that, is his opinion, she cannot possibly live through another summer here. Under these circumstances, should my wife's life be spared until the ensuing April or May, our desire is, if her strength be equal to the voyage, for her to visit England. And if there be no person there to supply my place. I can for a time continue here. But place, I can for a time continue here. our Heavenly Father's will may, by that time, be clear and plain to us. My own health, I am thankful to say, has materially improved of late.

"I am still hoping that the great Head of the church will raise up some one here to aid the missionary in the work of this station. A native would be very far preferable to a European as an assistant, seeing he would do the same work, and exert, perhaps, as large an amount of influence at a much less cost. He would recognize a superintendence which a European would repudiate. In applying to you to send some one to this station from home, I meant not a colleague but a substitute. For the failing health of my wife, and my own not being good, led me to conclude that I ought to give place to a more able workman, that the cause receive no damage.

of any one in Jamaica suitable for this post. But as Mr. Rycroft returns to Grand Cay, and Mr. Littlewood goes to Inagua, new arrangements will doubtless be made, and such as may meet the wants of this station. Mr. Littlewood will not confine his labours to Inagua. A population of about 500 will not engross the whole of his time and attention; and I have no doubt but he will be willing, as you suggest, to take the superintendence of some of our more distant churches.

"The church at Nassau could support a native pastor. There is a baptist congregation now supporting its pastor. This they do, and no more. They have no schools or native teachers on the islands to support. Our friends raise a much larger sum than they; but we have both teachers (native pastors) and schools to maintain, either in whole or in part. And then take the money that would go to the salary of a pastor here. But such a pastor is an object to be sought. It would, as you observe, be a step in the right direction.' Efficient native teachers. rather than European missionaries, are to be desired for these scattered islanders. Generally the native pastor system works well. A head will be for a time wanted to whom our brethren can look for counsel, books, and pecuniary aid.

"The young man about whom you inquired is with me now, learning his Greek and Latin grammars. His impediment seems to be a nervous affection, which I hope he will get the better of. His preaching is acceptable to the people; and as his character is excellent and his talents good, I have thought it right to encourage him by having him with me for a term. His station was not very far from Inagua, and will fall now, I suppose, under the care of Mr. Littlewood.

TURK'S ISLAND .- Our readers are aware that Mr. Rycroft has been directed to remove from St. Domingo, where his way seemed utterly edged up, to this station, and that Mr. Littlewood, at his own suggestion, goes to Inagua. By this time these brethren are at their respective posts. Mr. Littlewood leaves a united people, and a comfortable home, for a station where he will have to endure great privation. But he goes in the right spirit, and we hope that he will be sustained amidst all his difficulties.

"We are now preparing for Inagua, and expect to leave in about a fortnight. Mr. Rycrost will be here the latter end of November. I should prefer staying till his arrival but for special reasons which seem to "More than once have I thought of writ- make it my duty not to delay. In about

two weeks, a vessel sufficiently large, with allowed for it. I shall anxiously look for a good accommodations, will be going thither, and will take us, with all we have to remove, for £10 or £12, whereas if I had to take prospects, I will extract a few lines of a up a vessel purposely, it would cost full £20. It is also desirable that I should be on the spot to take an advantage of any favourable offer of a plot of ground for mission purposes. Two lots have been lately offered me, each for £60 sterling, both in their natural state, without inclosure or any improvements. Building at Inagua is expensive, there being no direct means of importation from America; every kind of material must be obtained from Nassau-a very dear market, in addition to the high charge for freight from thence. Three hundred pounds -a large sum to collect-would build but a small house with the necessary appurtenances. We require nothing but a comfortable cottage. The small house we occupied during our last visit proved very unhealthy. We suffered much from inflammatory attacks, and severe colds and coughs; but as small as it is, it could not be purchased under 1000 dollars. Not a house can be obtained on rent. During our stay on the island, a respectable man with his family, from America, arrived there, intending to make it his home. The doctor kindly offered them a room for a few days; but, finally, they were obliged to put up with a workshop, where they suffered a good deal until they could erect a small dwelling. If I am not able to prevail on some kind friend to take us in for a short period, I must try to live in our old dilapidated chapel, until I can hear from the Committee on the subject of building.

"We have the chapel to proceed with. Nothing has been done to it since I left. This will consume all our station funds for some time to come. Our hope rests principally with you to furnish the means immediately require I for a mission house. I hope the Committee will kindly consider this matter, and instruct me as to the amount

reply by the return mail.

letter received to-day from the American consul, a dear friend of ours, and a good man, I believe, who has no knowledge of our being ordered to remove to Inagua: 'Matters here are about as usual, nothing doing in the Pond, abundant rains, no sale for our salt, and, worse than all, no provisions, and nothing to buy with; not a bag of corn, rice, meal, butter, or flour.' Our comforts at Grand Cay, as few as they are, will be greatly missed; but we shall not be without consolation so long as we can direct famishing souls to the bread and water of eternal life. I long to be more useful, and hope that I shall consider it no hardship to deny myself a few comforts for the sake of others. dear wife will cheerfully conform to any circumstances, so that Christ's kingdom is extended and God is glorified by our lives; but her constitution is delicate, and any imprudent exposure might interrupt the usefulness for which we wish to live. Oh, for greater devotedness to the cause of God! Oh, for grace to conquer nature! Our dear people here have taken a deep hold on our affections, which will render parting a heavy trial. May the Lord's blessing continue to rest upon them."

Since the foregoing letter was received, we regret to find, by one from Mr. Capern, that Mr. Littlewood and family had been obliged, very suddenly, in consequence of an attack of yellow fever, to go to Nassau. At the time Mr. Capern wrote, he was very weak. but slowly regaining his health; but he was too ill to write himself. We hope, by next mail, to receive good tidings from him. We are desired to say, for the information of his friends, that Mr. Littlewood's address in future will be INAGUA, Bahamas.

HOME PROCEEDINGS.

Mr. Oughton has visited High Wycombe, man two or three villages in the vicinity of Faringdon, Coate, and Standlake, and commenced the Scottish tour during the past month. The secretary has attended meetings at Alie St. and Bloomsbury, with Mr. Allen, who has also addressed juvenile associations at St. Alban's and Keppel St., and been our deputation to Kingston and Tottenham. The

Watford.

We have great pleasure in stating that the Rev. G. Kerry, pastor of the church at Dorchester, having offered himself for Mission service in India, has been accepted, subject to the ability of the Committee to send him forth. Some months will elapse ere that Hon, and Rev. B. W. Noel has visited some can be determined, as the present season is places in South Devon, and Rev. J. Leech- most unfavourable to any one going out with

the view of residing in a tropical climate. Meanwhile we hope this announcement will prove a fresh stimulus to our friends to increased effort that by a competent addition to the funds, the Committee may have no reason to hesitate on that ground.

We are happy to learn from a letter dated Sierra Leone, Jan. 18th, that Mr. and Mrs. Saker had so far proceeded in safety on their return to Cameroons. The early part of the voyage had been very tempestuous, and they suffered accordingly; but after they left Madeira the weather became very fine. Ere this they have arrived at their destination.

Mr. and Mrs. Davey, who left in the "Parana" for the Bahamas on the 17th ult., write from Madeira under date of Jan. 26th, the vessel having put in for a supply of coals, the captain fearing from the great consumption of the previous ten days, that he would not have enough to carry the ship to St. Thomas's. They too encountered very heavy gales of wind in the Channel; but a day's rest recruited them, and, by this time, they have reached Nassau, to the great joy of Mr. Capern, whose domestic afflictions have recently been very severe.

Mrs. Law, who had remained in this country after Mr. Law, owing to a severe accident which confined her to her bed for six weeks, left in the "Tyne" on the 2nd ult. in completely restored health, and expected to be in Trinidad about the 24th, once more to resume her missionary duties in conjunction with her devoted husband.

By last advices from Calcutta we learn that the passage had been secured for Mr. Denham and family in the "Monarch." They may be expected to arrive here sometime in May. The arrangements made to supply his lack of service at Serampore have been adverted to in a previous page of the Herald.

We beg to remind all treasurers and secretaries of local auxiliaries, and all contributors intending to aid the Society's funds, that the accounts for the present financial year will close on the 31st inst. That their contributions may appear in the report, it will be necessary that they be forwarded on or before that day, the earlier the better. We do hope an effort will be made to prevent any debt this year. Very little additional liberality on the part of each contributor will prevent this occurring.

NOTICE TO MISSIONARIES.

We have received several letters lately desiring us to acknowledge in the "Herald" parcels, boxes, and other articles which have been sent out by friends in this country to various stations. We are always glad to comply with this wish; but we hope missionary brethren will not consider this enough. They ought to write direct to the friends who send them. A letter from a missionary is very gratifying. It serves to keep alive zeal, and awakens personal sympathy and regard. Missionaries often complain that this personal sympathy is little felt, and friends here wonder sometimes that missionaries do not appear to feel interest enough in those who help them in this way, to write only a letter. Now such complaints need not be uttered, and would not be, if this hint were duly acted upon. We beg to impress this upon our

dear brethren abroad. It is of more importance than they may, perhaps, think. If a letter, accompanying substantial proofs of a desire to aid them in their work, refreshes and gladdens their hearts, so a letter from them awakens in the hearts of friends at home new zeal, and tends to promote and deepen their concern for the cause itself. May we add, too, that working parties should never send out a box of useful articles without first apprising us of it, stating the value of its contents, and writing to the missionary for whom it is intended, and requesting an acknowledgment. We have tried year after year to get at the amount of what has been done in this way; but hitherto we have failed. May this notice be the means of securing success for the coming year.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

London, April 27th, or churches who have deacons will favour us with an early call. engaged any minister to preach on that day.

It will be a great convenience if brett.ren | would, at once inform us of such arrangein the country, who may have made any ments. The usual list will be ready in a few engagement for the mission Lord's day in days, and we shall be obliged if pastors or

FOREIGN LETTERS RECEIVED.

AFRICA-CLARENCE, Fuller, J. J., Jan. 3. SIERRA LEONE, Saker, A., Jan. 18.

ASIA-AGRA, Underhill, E. B., Dec. 18 and 25.

BARISAL, Martin, T., Jan. 3, BENARES, Underhill, E. B., Jan. 8. CALCUTTA, Thomas, J., Dec. 22, Jan. 8. Colombo, Davis, J., Dec. 29, Jan. 14. CUTWA, Parry, J., Dec. 20. INTALLY, Underhill, E. B., Oct. 8. Monghin, Lawrence, J., Jan. 3. RIVER DAMADA, Morgan, T., Dec 20.

AUSTRALIA-LAUNCESTON V. D. L., Dowling, H., Nov. 2. BAHAMAS - Rycroft, W. K., no date,

received Feb. 16.

NASSAU, Capern, H., Jan. 7 and 8.

HAITI-JACMEL, Webley, W. H., Dec. 28. JAMAICA-ANNATTO BAY, Jones, S., Jan. 23.

CALABAR, East, D. J., Dec. 22, Jan. 24.

FALMOUTH, Gay, R., Jan. 8.

SAVANNA-LA-MAR, Clarke, J., Jan. 10.

SPANISH TOWN, Phillippo, J. M., Jan. 26. MADEIRA, Davey, J., Jan. 26; Saker, A.,

Jan. 8.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The thanks of the Committee are presented to the following friends:-

Mrs. Cozens Upper Clapton, for a parcel of magazines:

Mr. Thomas Stone, Loughton, for two parcels of magazines;

Mrs. Deedy, 40 Dover Road, for a parcel of magazines;

Mrs. Thomas Bartlett, Oxford, for a series of the Periodical Accounts, Eclectic Review, &c., &c.

CONTRIBUTIONS,

Received on account of the Baptist Missionary Society, from January 21 to February 20, 1856.

*. N. P. denotes that the contribution is for Native Preachers.

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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 Treatrail and Edward Bean Underhill, Esq., Secretaries, at the Mission House, 33, Moorgnte 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.

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