

THE MISSIONARY HERALD.

ANNUAL REPORT.

WHEN the first missionaries, sent forth by our Divine Lord to preach the gospel of the kingdom, returned to tell him of their success, he rejoiced in spirit and gave thanks. The anniversaries of our religious societies bring together the servants of Christ from all parts of the earth, bearing the tidings of sinners saved, and God glorified in the gospel of his Son. It is meet, therefore, on such occasions as these, that the church should rejoice and be glad. In this spirit would the Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society present to their friends the Sixty-fifth Report of its proceedings; and, although they are not distinguished by any striking events calculated to awaken unusual interest, they have been marked by a steady progress abroad, and peace and concord at home.

Very seldom do these anniversaries occur without occasion for the expression of grief on account of the loss of valued friends or missionaries. The Committee are thankful to report that no missionary has fallen during the year; and in their own ranks one place only has become vacant, that occupied, for five-and-thirty years, by the Rev. W. Groser, whose catholic spirit, thorough independence of thought and action, combined with great courtesy, integrity, and prudence, secured for him the highest esteem and regard.

The changes which have taken place in the field abroad, owing to severe illness, or greatly impaired health, have been unusually numerous. Mr. Williams has arrived from Agra, and Mr. Morgan, of Howrah, is on his way home, there being reason to doubt whether he will survive the voyage. Mrs. Capern has been again compelled, by broken health, to leave Nassau, and her husband will also soon quit a station which he has occupied for nearly twelve years with unquestioned ability and success. From similar causes Mr. and Mrs. Davies have left Ceylon, without any expectation of returning thither again. Mr. and Mrs. Webley have but recently returned to Haiti, and Mr. and Mrs. Allen departed for Ceylon only a few days ago.

NEW MISSIONARIES.

The Committee are not able to report any large accession to the mission band. Mr. and Mrs. Kerry happily arrived at Howrah a few days prior to Mr. Morgan's departure. Mr. Broadway, for many years connected with another Missionary Society at Benares, having been baptized and become connected with our mission in that city, offered his services to the Committee; and as the offer was accompanied with the highest testimonials from his former colleagues as to his mastery of the vernacular tongue, his integrity, ability, and zeal, the offer was accepted, and Mr. Broadway has proceeded to Monghir, to take the place of Mr. Parsons, removed to Agra. Mr. Gamble, formerly of Trinidad, where he was brought to the knowledge of the truth under Mr. Law's ministry, expressed a deep and earnest desire to return thither and preach the gospel in connection with

his former pastor. He gave up his secular engagements, placed himself under the instruction of Dr. Angus, supporting his family out of his little property, and at the close of last session renewed his offer. The Committee, sympathising with his self-denial and devotedness, and satisfied with the progress he had made in his studies, gladly accepted it; and he has entered on his labours at Savannah Grande with great ardour and encouraging tokens of success. It will be seen from these statements how little progress has been made in the scheme for sending out twenty new missionaries to India. The Committee have been able to do little more than keep up the number formerly in that field. Removals by death, or by ill-health, which necessitates an abandonment of mission work are so frequent, that they have to report an increase of three European missionaries only since the proposal to consolidate and extend their Indian mission was first announced.

FRANCE.

MORLAIX.

The mission in Brittany has yet to contend with great difficulties. The decree requiring Government authority to legalize meetings for public worship, obliges our friends to hold only very small gatherings of the people. Mr. Jenkins does not think that he is in a position to apply, with any prospect of success, for the required authority; and after the experience of the two years last past, during which they had to meet three lawsuits, he deems it desirable to avoid the risk of renewed prosecutions. He endeavours to carry on the work by preaching to small companies, by extending visits from house to house, and distributing copies of the Scriptures and suitable tracts. He expresses his satisfaction with the teachers, whose labours are continued in the face of priestly opposition, and not without success. He has recently succeeded, after many efforts, in obtaining permission to have the Breton and French tracts, and other religious books, stamped in Paris; they can now be freely distributed, notwithstanding the continued opposition of the préfet of the district. These quiet, unostentatious, yet persevering labours, have produced a visible effect on the people, who receive Mr. Jenkins and the teachers with a growing interest and approval.

WEST INDIES.

The arrangements made by Mr. Capern in the northern division of the Bahamas with his successor, Mr. Davey, promise, if his health be spared, that this interesting and successful mission will continue to be blessed with prosperity. Mr. Davey is anxious to have some one stationed at Nassau who can take his place while he is visiting the out-islands. One of the students at Calabar, Jamaica, has expressed a desire to occupy this post, and Mr. East speaks in very high terms of his piety and talents. The Committee deem it best, however, to wait Mr. Capern's return before any step of this kind be taken. On the whole, the state of the churches has been satisfactory. Difficulties have arisen in some of the churches in regard to the support of their pastors; but Mr. Capern has done his best to enforce on these churches the duty of sustaining among themselves a native agency, for it is only by such, in so thinly peopled a country, that

the churches can be kept alive. The Committee trust that his successor will not be less zealous in upholding a policy which has hitherto been so beneficial.

In the southern division of the Bahamas, Mr. Littlewood at Inagua, and Mr. Rycroft at Turk's Island, have carried on the work successfully during the past year. The former has suffered a severe bereavement in the decease of his wife, who was in every respect a help-meet in the Lord. His labours, too, have been somewhat interrupted by severe illness, which rendered a few weeks' repose necessary. Notwithstanding these hindrances, the cause has steadily advanced. Mr. Rycroft reports the formation of a church at East Harbour, in the island of Caicos, a new settlement, to which many had gone from other places, in the hope of bettering their condition; and having since his return to this station been able to visit most of the out-islands, he is more sensible of the improvement which has taken place after an absence of three years, than if he had been labouring during that time among them.

In the latter part of 1856, a fearful hurricane swept over Inagua, and the adjacent islands in the southern, and over Ragged Island in the northern division of the Bahamas. The destruction of property was immense. Very few houses remained standing, and the mission property suffered severely. As soon as the tidings of this calamity reached home, an appeal was at once made through the London religious press, and in a short time £135 7s. 5d. were sent for the relief of the sufferers, and to help the brethren to repair the damaged chapels. Among the people themselves this calamity seemed to have produced some happy results. A renewed and revived attention to public worship was exhibited, while brethren of every name united heartily with each other in sympathy and effort; and it is hoped that the community of interest and feeling thus awakened may continue to be cherished for years to come.

HAITI.

The arrangements made by Mr. Webley for the supply of his pulpit during his absence in this country, and which were detailed in the previous report, did not prove so satisfactory as was anticipated. On his return, he found the church in great disorder, and the congregation very much divided and scattered. Scandals had arisen which needed both wisdom and care to repress: discipline had to be exercised in several cases, and the missionary was deeply grieved and discouraged. Sustained, in a good degree, by the sympathy and confidence of the Committee, Mr. and Mrs. Webley renewed their efforts, and in a short time peace was restored, offenders were humbled, and sought re-admission to the church. There is reason to hope that these troubles, the first which have befallen this church since its formation, have been over-ruled for good. From recent communications, the Committee learn with thankfulness and pleasure, that the Word is once more blessed in the conversion of several persons to God, and the recent anniversary meeting of their Mission auxiliary was attended by upwards of 600 inhabitants of Jacmel.

TRINIDAD.

Mr. Law continues to prosecute his labours with his accustomed diligence. He, too, speaks of souls brought to Christ, of peace prevailing in the church, as well as a spirit of liberality, inducing the people to give largely out of their poverty towards liquidating the remaining debt upon

their beautiful and commodious chapel. The arrival of Mr. Gamble to assist him in the country stations, was a source of great joy, and Mr. Law having introduced him to his new sphere, and commended him to the affection and prayers of the people, now feels relieved of a considerable load of anxiety. Mr. Gamble's station is one of much difficulty, and requires great physical exertion, owing to the distance of the stations from each other, and the want of good roads, and needs much wisdom and care in managing the people, who, though simple-hearted in their piety, are very ignorant, very impulsive, and fond of excitement, and a somewhat noisy manifestation of feeling in their public assemblies. The endeavour to repress these unseemly exhibitions has led to the secession of several persons at two of his stations. But the Committee feel persuaded that his affectionate temper and forbearing spirit will soon win them back to a love of sobriety and order.

A F R I C A .

CLARENCE.

During the past year the church has again been disturbed by the presence of the Romish priesthood, who came with the avowed intention of extinguishing it. The information having reached Mr. Saker, he at once came over to advise with and assist Mr. Diboll. The arrangement sanctioned by M. Guillenard, the Spanish Commissioner, in 1847, permitted the residence of ONE missionary. Mr. Saker, therefore, reported himself to the British Consul as the *agent* of the Baptist Missionary Society, entrusted with the duty of taking care of its property. He could not, therefore, be sent away because there were *two* missionaries at Clarence. Of this arrangement the priests seemed to be ignorant, and Mr. Saker and Mr. Diboll maintained that, unless they could show that they possessed authority competent to set it aside, it was the law of the island; and they should request the British Consul to protect them from molestation. Having no such authority, they could not prevent the church from holding its meetings; and the chief of them soon left the place, with the avowed purpose of seeking enlarged powers from the Spanish Government. But the members of the church, without exception, have expressed their determination, in case of need, to emigrate to the continent, rather than lose their religious privileges. Meanwhile, both Mr. Saker and Mr. Diboll are resolved to act firmly but cautiously, to submit to the laws, but to claim and exercise their rights under those laws. No further annoyance has arisen, except that the governor has prohibited Mr. Diboll from baptizing any persons except British subjects. Whether he has the *legal* right so to do, is questionable; and if the brethren find that he has not, they will not submit to his mere dictation. Should he proceed to any extremities, they well know how to maintain their rights as British subjects, as well as their privileges under the present laws of the island. The Committee have watched these proceedings with much interest, and have not left their brethren without repeated assurances of every help they can render them. In the present state of affairs it has not, however, appeared necessary to seek the interference of the Government at home. Since the foregoing remarks were written, the Committee have heard with great satisfaction that all the priests have departed for Spain, and the brethren are once more left in possession of the field.

BIMBIA.—CAMEROONS.

Mr. Fuller reports more favourably of Bimbia. He has spent much time there during the past year. Many of the evils which drove him away in 1855 have vanished. The people are slowly returning to listen to their teacher; and the unhappy and cruel strifes which raged among the proximate tribes, and which rendered both life and property unsafe, have, for the most part, died away.

On his return to Cameroons, Mr. Saker resumed his translations and printing. He has not altered the arrangement which left Mr. Horton Johnson pastor of the church. He is there doing his own proper work, and directing the work of others, and encouraging them in it, and always prepared to assist and advise with them.

The new year opened auspiciously. Part of the previous night was spent in devotional exercises, and at five in the morning many assembled in the chapel. After an introductory service, Mr. Johnson baptized eight hopeful converts; "one of them," to use Mr. Saker's language, "a chief, who has been walking a lowly path for many years." Of this chief he further writes, "in the days wherein we had to fight our way with the wild beasts of the desert, he alone of the chiefs stood by us—often too timid to take a decided part with us, but never against us. For many long years he has listened attentively to the word, and for three years past has been quite decided for God. . . . His long intercourse with us, and consistent life, has won the respect of those who were opposed to him; and now, with his wife, he has made this public attestation of attachment to Jesus and his cause. Another of these hopeful ones is the wife of our principal chief, or king, as he is sometimes called. She has walked a long time consistently, and is now admitted to our communion with a confident hope that her path will be holy. Another, now received, was the inquirer who suffered such rude treatment at the hands of a wild rabble at Bell's Town some months since. Her path, thus far, has been through much sorrow; but we hope it is the path to the kingdom. Others give equal hope that they will walk worthy of their high vocation. From the water we returned to the chapel, and closed the solemn service. We met again in the afternoon, and communed at the table of the Lord. At six o'clock our services closed, and we were thankful to begin the new year so happily."

 CEYLON.

Mr. Carter's health has been seriously interrupted. For many months he was wholly unable to preach. He is now happily restored, and has resumed active service. He has been able, notwithstanding his bad health, to attend to the studies of the three Singhalese youths who have been under his care, with a view to the ministry. In one of these he has been bitterly disappointed. The others continue steadfast to their purpose, and are making commendable progress in their studies.

Mr. Davies's health having given way, and Mr. Allen being in England, the churches in Ceylon have been left very much to themselves and their native pastors. They do not appear to have suffered materially from the inability of the European brethren to discharge their duties as formerly. Dr. Elliott, deacon of the Pettah church, Colombo, has kindly endeavoured to supply the lack of a pastor's services; and to preserve the connection

between the parent and native churches around Colombo, deputations have been sent to them to inquire into their state, and to promote their welfare. This proceeding has been attended with very pleasing results.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

SERAMPORE COLLEGE.

To provide for the loss of Mr. Denham's services during his absence in England, Mr. Sampson, one of the brethren sent out in 1855, was removed from his station at Alipore, and he will continue to give his best support to the institution until Mr. Denham's return. His labours in the college will be an excellent preparation for his missionary work, when he is able to return to it. Meanwhile, his assistance is a great relief to Mr. Trafford, who would otherwise have had a burden thrown upon him far too heavy to be borne.

The removal of Mr. Johannes, one of the masters in the college, to take the oversight of the station at Bishtopore, and the severe and protracted illness of Mrs. Sampson, which compelled Mr. Sampson to remove with her for awhile to Monghir, occasioned considerable interruption in the studies of the pupils in the college. It was deemed advisable to omit the public examination at the end of the session, which closed with less satisfaction than usual to Mr. Trafford and his colleagues. Of most of the youths who have left the college, he speaks in favourable terms, and expresses a strong conviction that some of them are the subjects of divine grace.

From the Report of the Calcutta Auxiliary, the Committee rejoice to learn that the BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION continues to confer upon its numerous pupils the benefit of a plain English and scriptural education, and the supply of funds has been equal to its necessities.

The INTALLY INSTITUTION, which stands in direct relation to the Society, has enjoyed more prosperity than in the preceding year. The Committee have consented to provide the salary of a European head master, while the other expenses have been chiefly met by the Calcutta Ladies' Auxiliary. Since the beginning of 1856, a small fee has been required of the pupils. This charge has not, as was feared, lessened the number of scholars; for the attendance has considerably increased during the year. About one hundred and twenty are present daily, the number on the books being, of course, still larger.

The BOARDING SCHOOL FOR NATIVE CHRISTIAN GIRLS at Alipore, under the general superintendence of Mr. and Mrs. Pearce, and of which Miss Packer is the teacher, has prospered remarkably during the year. It contains forty-one pupils, chiefly the children of native Christians in the south. The elder girls have made good progress in the tasks allotted to them, and visitors express themselves as highly gratified with their neat, cheerful, and intelligent appearance.

Mr. Pearce superintends, for the present, the theological class of eight students, removed from Serampore College in consequence of Mr. Denham's absence in England. They have been encouraged to engage in preaching to the heathen; and they have been instructed by him, through the medium of their own language, in scriptural and general knowledge, in the principles of Bengali grammar and composition, and have made very creditable progress in their studies. Their diligence in study, and their correct deportment, awaken very lively hopes of their future usefulness.

CALABAR.

The session recently closed has afforded the tutor and the friends of the college great encouragement. The examination of the various classes was satisfactory. The number at present in the institution is unusually small; but the pupils in the Normal School have increased. The churches in Jamaica have nobly redeemed the pledge they gave last year in regard to Mr. Pinnock. He was publicly set apart to mission work at Spanish Town early in the present year; and the event has given a new interest to the affairs of the college, and awakened fresh zeal for the Society in the churches. Mr. Pinnock is now on his voyage to this country, and the Committee hope, when they have had an interview with him, to see their way to his employment in Africa.

Though not connected with the Society, yet, as the Committee have granted the use of a portion of their premises to the Jamaica Normal School Society, it will gratify all who continue to cherish an interest in that island, to know that a gentleman has been just sent out to take charge of the pupils who are training up for schoolmasters, the want of qualified teachers having been long and severely felt. It is hoped that this new society will be the means of providing well-trained masters for the various schools.

TRANSLATIONS.

The Committee learn from the most recent communication of Mr. Wenger, that the Sanskrit translation of the Old Testament has advanced to the 21st chapter of Proverbs; and a separate edition of the Psalms has been printed in the Bengali character, with the Bengali translation subjoined.

The printing of the third edition of the entire Bible in Bengali has advanced to the 9th chapter of the Second Book of Kings, and the preliminary revision of the text, to the commencement of Nehemiah. But no separate portion of Scripture has been published during the year.

Mr. Parsons has carefully revised the text of an edition of Matthew and of Mark, in Hindi, in the Deva Nagari character, and 5,000 copies of each have been printed.

Having been advised by the brethren in India that a careful revision of the Hindi version of the Scriptures was now become indispensable, the Committee acted upon a suggestion made by Mr. Underhill, that Mr. Parsons should be requested to undertake this work, for which, they were assured, he is well qualified. To carry out this object, to which Mr. Parsons, after much hesitation on account of the great responsibility of it, consented to devote himself, it was deemed advisable that he should remove to Agra, where he would enjoy peculiar advantages, in the midst of a Hindi-speaking population. Before removing to the north-west, he was directed to spend some time in Calcutta, to confer with Mr. Wenger on certain practical questions connected with the work. For five weeks, several hours of each day were devoted to a careful examination of the Gospel of Matthew, and those parts of Luke and Mark which are peculiar to these two evangelists. It was found easy to agree upon the great principles of scriptural translation, faithfulness, perspicuity, and a suitable diction—popular but not vulgar—but perfect harmony between the

Bengali and Hindi translations was not considered attainable, or important, inasmuch as each language has its own peculiarities, and some degree of latitude must be allowed to the well-considered and conscientious views taken of particular passages by independent translators.

In Africa, Mr. Saker now mainly devotes his time to perfecting the work of previous years of incessant labour. He has acquired such a knowledge of the language that he thinks he can give it grammatical form and order. Considerable progress was made prior to his recent visit to England, when finding health and strength failing, and fearing lest, in case of his decease, his knowledge should be lost to the mission, he put forth efforts beyond his strength to complete the grammar in a condensed form. While at home, this elementary work received a careful examination, and he availed himself of the valuable suggestions of learned friends. He has now begun a larger grammar, and hopes, ere long, to finish it. Meanwhile, useful elementary school-books have been prepared, and the translation of the Scriptures, and the printing of such portions as are finished, proceed satisfactorily. In addition to those already printed, Mr. Saker has succeeded in getting the Psalms and Romans to press, and a few copies have been struck off. The printing of the whole is, however, deferred until he receives a suitable supply of the accented letters from England.

INDIA.

The Committee have great satisfaction in reporting that Mr. Underhill has completed the work which he was deputed to do. His labours, during an absence of two years and a half, have never been interrupted by illness. In all his various journeys, and in the voyage out and home, a gracious Providence has been over him for good. From the brethren generally he has received unequivocal proofs of kindness, and of their desire sincerely to co-operate with him in furthering the object of his visit. In the conferences which have been held there have been concord and peace. Differences of opinion, calmly stated and discussed, stirred up no strife, but rather led to satisfactory conclusions. Mr. Thomas, the superintendent of the Calcutta press, has facilitated to the utmost of his power the arrangements proposed in regard to that establishment, and cordially agreed to transfer to Mr. Lewis the duties of financial secretary of the Indian Mission. The Committee have felt the sincerest pleasure in transmitting to Mr. Thomas, resolutions expressing their deep sense of the ability, zeal, and uprightness with which he has discharged the varied and onerous duties devolving upon him.

In the return of Mr. Underhill the Committee heartily rejoice. They devoutly thank God for the goodness and mercy shown to His servant. They congratulate him on the successful termination of his arduous mission, which he has fulfilled with honour to himself, and benefit to the Society. They trust that the knowledge and experience gained by him, during his protracted residence in India, will be found eminently beneficial to the mission for many years to come.

In the stations occupied by your missionaries in the north-west, the Word of God has been uninterruptedly proclaimed by them, assisted by the native preachers. Till Mr. Mackay's settlement at Delhi, its Hindi population had heard the word of life from one solitary native preacher since Mr. Thompson's decease: and Muttra, the centre of Krishna worship, has been similarly destitute since the departure of Mr. Phillips.

Mr. Evans now occupies this sphere of labour. Schools have been usefully established at both stations.

At Chitoura the experiment of a native pastorate has been going on, and on the whole, satisfactorily. Difficulties have arisen in the management of the temporal affairs of the converts since Mr. Smith's return to England. Violent storms have levelled their workshops and dwellings. Several members of the church have been expelled for immorality. But discipline has been maintained; the precious have been separated from the vile, and greater purity of communion attained. The native pastor retains his office and fills it with acceptance.

The mission in the central provinces of the Bengal presidency has enjoyed the services of the brethren throughout the year. Preaching is its chief characteristic. The missionaries extend their labours to the indigo districts of Tirhoot and Purneah, in northern Bengal, and to the sacred city of Gya. Every day the crowded streets of Benares—the city of Shiva—the roads round Patna, where Mahommedans crowd, the open streets of Monghir, where the Hindi-speaking population dwell, witness their endeavours to draw souls to Christ.

In the lower districts of Bengal where the missionaries labour, omitting Calcutta, there are 61,184 towns and villages, containing a population of 12,988,430 persons, to whom they have done their best to make known the glad tidings of the gospel. Alas! how few are they amidst this overwhelming mass of immortal beings! And there are yet as many more who have never heard a missionary's voice! From these vast districts, teeming with population, almost all forms of violent opposition have vanished away. Crowds listen, and apparently with cordial assent, to the gospel message; but conversions are comparatively rare. Multitudes hear, but few obey the voice of Christ. The labour is incessant, but the fruit gathered is small. Yet it is obvious to the most casual observer that the sentiments and feelings of the people are undergoing a great change. Pilgrims to idol-festivals diminish every year. Cruel rites, long sanctioned by custom and the highest priestly authority, are put down by Government as nuisances, and scarcely a murmur of disapprobation is heard. The marriage of Hindoo widows is now legalized, which will extinguish a vast amount of profligacy and crime. Natives of influence and wealth are advocating female education, and a movement has begun in the north-west provinces which bids fair to extend all over India. Who that knows what the state of the country was prior to the advent of missionaries, and looks at it now, but must admit that Christianity has been the prime agent in effecting these marvellous changes! It is slowly but surely pervading the entire mass of the people.

Nor has that kind of success, for which the servants of the Most High long and pray, been wholly wanting; at almost all the stations conversions have taken place, and additions to the churches followed. Of this, the statistics of the Bengal Baptist Association will furnish a sufficient illustration. It embraces 29 churches, and to these have been added by baptism, letter, and restoration, 378. They have lost by death, dismissal, and exclusion, 210, giving a clear increase of 168. In these churches there are 1,737 members, 39 boys' schools, with 1,165 pupils, and 16 girls' schools, with 269 scholars. There are also 26 Sabbath schools, with nearly 500 in attendance. All these churches have not been equally prosperous—some of them indeed are very small—but it is worthy of note, that a very large proportion of the increase is in the district of Barisaul, where some native Christians have suffered the bitterest per-

secution; no less than 104 persons having been baptized there during the past year.

NATIVE CHURCHES AND NATIVE AGENCY.

Since the last report was presented, the two native churches in Calcutta have been sorely tried by dissensions. The one in Intally was dissolved, and has been reconstituted under the joint pastorate of Mr. Lewis, and Ram Krishna. The former pastor, and those who seceded with him, have erected a chapel in which divine worship is regularly carried on. This event, which threatened to extinguish these churches, seems likely to develop the principle of self-reliance, and to strengthen it; while the separation of discordant elements, and their combination in other forms, may probably conduce to greater peacefulness, and the bringing out of an energy which has not hitherto shown itself.

These difficulties were not unforeseen. The transition from a state of dependence to one of independence would supply new tests of the reality of the work of God among these converts, and lead to a display of character but little expected. One fact, however, is visible. The whole body of the native converts have maintained a profession of Christianity. It is a new thing in Bengal for native Christians themselves to erect a house of prayer. In this the Committee cannot but rejoice, though the origin of their separation from their brethren was an occasion of sorrow and pain. The pastor of the other native church at Colingah retains his post, and is labouring with much usefulness and zeal.

The Committee mention, with pleasure, another instance of the formation of a native church, under two native pastors, at Sewry, in Birbhoom. Mr. Williamson, our venerable missionary there, speaks most encouragingly of this step in advance. The day is evidently approaching when this scriptural action in the Bengal churches will become the rule, instead of being, as now, the exception. The Committee will give unremitting attention to the fostering of this spirit of self-reliance, in the hope that all the churches will be pervaded by it.

In the previous report, the Committee had the pleasing intelligence to announce that two native brethren had been sent into the district of Baraset, to inquire into the practicability of establishing a mission there. Subsequently two preachers connected with the native church at Serampore were publicly set apart as missionaries, and they have begun their work with a good prospect of success. A body of young men, educated in the Government school in Baraset, ignorant indeed of Christianity, but who had shaken off the fetters of superstition, gave these brethren a cordial welcome. Brahmins, Zemindars, and rich Baboos, as well as the lower castes, have sought their acquaintance, and an open door is set before them in the neighbouring villages. The Committee regard this experiment with great interest and hope. Should it ultimately succeed, the way will be prepared for a larger employment of native agency, *without European superintendence*, which has hitherto been deemed indispensable. The small expense of such agents is not their only recommendation; for their knowledge of native customs, habits, modes of thought and expression, and their own native manner of life, give them peculiar facilities for reaching the hearts of their countrymen.

Should it please God to bestow a large measure of His blessing on the efforts now making to raise up a native ministry, it will be incumbent on our brethren most carefully to cultivate the minds of those converts whose

piety and ability may indicate a fitness for mission service. The rapid spread of knowledge in Bengal; the growing influence of European literature; the hold which religious works, that are a power at home, are beginning to take there; the starting up of questions—social, political, and religious—hitherto confined to the West, render it indispensable to prepare a class of men fitted to grapple with the new phases of sentiment and opinion daily presenting themselves, and to meet the quickened mind of India, now rising up from its deep degradation, and awakening from its long sleep. From the School of the Prophets, founded at Serampore College, a few such have gone forth; and it is hoped that the class hitherto instructed by Mr. Denham will supply many evangelists and pastors, who will scatter over the whole country the seeds of divine truth. The Committee are most anxious that the appeal which their honoured brother is now making in this country for additional funds to put the college into an efficient state, will be generously responded to. The success which has hitherto attended it, leads them to indulge the hope that the object will be speedily accomplished.

The Committee cannot close this part of their report without adverting to the case of the native church at Baropakya, whose persecutions and sufferings were described at some length in the report for the past year.

The judgment of the magistrate which condemned the rioters having, on appeal, been reversed by Mr. Kemp, the judge of the district, no time was lost in obtaining authenticated copies of the judgment, and of the evidence. These were translated by Mr. Page, and subsequently published in a pamphlet, with a running commentary, by Mr. Underhill. It produced a deep sensation, and all candid readers of it saw, at a glance, how utterly opposed the judgment was to the evidence.

The case having been formally brought under the notice of Mr. Halliday, the Lieut.-Governor of Bengal, the Sudder or Supreme Court of Bengal was directed to call for the papers in the case, and to report thereon. That court condemned Mr. Kemp's judgment, and he has been reprimanded by his superiors. This decision has stayed the violence of the persecutor, and given increased security to the peasant. However unwilling missionaries may be to risk collision with the authorities of the countries in which they labour, past events have shown that circumstances will arise which imperatively require them to employ all legal means for the defence of the rights and liberties of the poor and the oppressed. The gospel of Christ is intolerant of injustice and wrong. This is not the first time that your missionaries have had to confront the social evils which are rife in every heathen land, and to lift up their voice in defence of the interests committed to them; and it is again our privilege to rejoice that their efforts have not been vain. Out of this incident, comparatively trivial in itself, measures will arise which will improve the social condition, and secure the personal liberty, of the hitherto oppressed ryots of Bengal.

The publication of these facts, as well as the papers read before the Calcutta Missionary Conference in August, 1855, have greatly affected public opinion in India. The press has taken up the subject most warmly, and an exciting but salutary controversy has been going on ever since. The Committee of this Conference presented a memorial to the Governor-General, respectfully but earnestly requesting him to issue a commission to inquire into the Zemindary system, indigo planting, and the tenure of land, more particularly in regard to the ryot, as well as to the administration of law, and the police. The Indian Government have declined to

grant this request, not, as your Committee have reason to believe, because they deem the allegations on which it is founded to be untrue, but because they consider such a step to be inexpedient, not to say perilous. Meanwhile, the brethren have appealed to the Imperial Parliament, and the Hon. A. Kinnaird was requested to bring the subject before the House of Commons. To assist him in this duty, Mr. Underhill's pamphlet, and other documents illustrative of the whole case, were sent to the Court of Directors of the Honourable East India Company, and to a large number of members of both Houses; and the subject would have been brought under discussion ere this, had it not been for the recent unexpected dissolution. The Committee are, however, prepared to take steps to insure its early consideration in the newly-elected House.

THE FINANCES.

This important part of their duties has given the Committee much anxiety. During nearly every month of the year the receipts were below those of the previous year, and its income was not more than an average one. Including £2,000 appropriated in India, it amounted to £21,402 2s. 2d.; the expenditure to £21,100 2s. 5d.; leaving a balance of £301 19s. 9d. in the Treasurer's hands. The total income of this year is £21,752 19s. 10d.; the expenditure, £22,039 0s. 9d.; leaving a balance of £286 0s. 11d. *due* to the Treasurer. The present income is *exclusive* of any Indian funds, the Committee not having carried to account any proceeds of the Mission Press, as Mr. Underhill had only time to balance its accounts on the eve of his departure from Calcutta. The increase in the Society's income for the present year is £2,065 2s. 4d.

Now, it must be frankly stated that this increase is not owing to any augmentation of the receipts from the usual sources of income. It has mainly arisen from the generosity of an unknown friend, and, as the Committee believe, not even a member of the denomination, who has *twice* placed in the banker's hands to the Society's credit, donations of £1,000; and he would have given yet more, but from an apprehension that he might thereby damp the ardour and repress the liberality of the Society's friends. He now waits to see the result of the annual meetings; and if his gifts should quicken the liberality of others, he will be prepared again to render aid. It will, therefore, greatly depend on those present at these services, whether this pecuniary help be secured or not.

The Committee have great satisfaction in reporting the success of the appeal which they made to the churches for a contribution to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, on the first Sabbath in the year. They only desired that communicants on that occasion might have an opportunity of *increasing* their contributions at the Lord's table, and that what was beyond the sum usually given, might be sent to the Treasurer. They wished most carefully to avoid any interference with the claims of poor members. The circular was sent to about one thousand churches. Many of these could not comply with the request, their poverty—not their will—standing in the way. A considerable number sent no reply. But three hundred promptly responded to it, and expressed the pleasure they felt in performing a duty and enjoying a privilege. The Committee believe that these churches have been much benefited by the effort. It has awakened tender sympathy for the widow and orphan, and increased their interest in the Mission itself. The amount received was rather

over £500; and it was exceedingly gratifying to observe how many of the poorest churches evinced their liberality and zeal.

Your Committee cannot charge themselves with the neglect of any proper means to increase the income. They have supplied information on the subject as occasion offered, and have faithfully made known to the churches the necessities of the Society, and urged its claims upon them. Some progress has been made in the appointment of district secretaries, for the purpose of seeking out new subscribers, and endeavouring to prevail on those who now subscribe, to increase their contributions; for it can scarcely be doubted that the increase in the amount of subscription, except in a few rare instances, bears no proportion to the increase of the means of doing so. This arrangement has been resolved upon too recently to tell materially upon the current year's income. One thing, however, is certain, that the means which the Committee have at their disposal are not adequate to maintain present operations. These cannot go on for another year without involving the Society in debt, unless its friends resolve to support it more liberally. Any enlargement of them, with their present resources, is simply impossible.

Any one who has paid the smallest attention to the incomes of missionary societies, must have observed that they have been, for some years, almost stationary. The question is often asked—What is the cause? It is a fact which creates surprise, and it is generally felt to be a painful one. The rapid enlargement of home operations—the efforts made by all denominations to erect new places of worship—the constant multiplication of religious and philanthropic institutions—the shifting of large portions of the rural population into the towns, whereby many churches that formerly were among the largest contributors, have fallen into the ranks of the smallest—and the tendency of wealth, population, and trade to gather round large centres,—may, in some measure, account for this fact. Moreover, the increased pressure of taxation, the high price of the main articles of subsistence, and the want of employment among large sections of the working classes, have had their influence in keeping down the income of missionary societies during recent years. But your Committee have a strong conviction that there is another cause which lies deeper. It is to be feared that there is not so much the want of means, as of the disposition to give. An intense desire for wealth, a love of show, and an effort to emulate the manner and fashion of those above them, have seized on the middle and lower classes, and led to an expenditure which their means do not warrant. These evils have crept into the church of God, and done great mischief there. If they are allowed to prevail, it is obvious that every year there will be still less to devote to the cause of Christ. This is hardly the place to enter on a discussion of the remedy; but surely it is neither intrusive nor unnecessary to press home upon the consciences of Christians their obligations to Eternal Love, and their unquestioned responsibilities to the perishing heathen, whom, under God, they alone can rescue from spiritual bondage and death, in the hope that they may be led to faithful self-examination, and to resolve that henceforth their support of the Saviour's cause shall be regulated by a just law of proportion, and “according as God hath prospered them.” The Committee offer these remarks in no censorious spirit; it is rather a subject for lamentation. They are made in the spirit of fidelity and love, and from a deep sense of the duty they owe to their brethren in Christ, and to Him whose servants they are.

It may be, however, that we are to be taught another lesson by these facts,—that it becomes our duty to revive once more the principles on which we are conducting our enterprise. Its founders, from the hour that they fairly embarked in it, boldly avowed their conviction that the evangelization of the heathen was to be carried on by native converts. They relied on European agency only to do the preparatory work, and to assist and direct the movements of those who were raised up, by their instrumentality, to preach the gospel. It can scarcely be questioned, that in later days we have considerably departed from this practice. The work has been too much thrown on Europeans, who have been both missionaries and pastors. Of necessity, such agency is expensive, and becomes increasingly so. The question will force itself on thoughtful minds—and other considerations besides the expense, direct attention to it—is European agency, in its present form, indispensable; ought it to form our chief dependence for diffusing the knowledge of God and of his Christ; or should it not rather be employed in developing the gifts of native churches, teaching them the great lesson of self-reliance, and in directing their operations with affectionate assiduity and care? Your Committee have not wholly neglected this subject, as the facts stated in the previous pages of this report will show. They are more than ever convinced that it cannot be indefinitely postponed. It is even now pressing, and demands a most serious and deliberate consideration. They deem themselves fully justified in thus recording their convictions, by the fact, which almost every missionary confirms, that the larger proportion of converts is the fruit of native agency.

CONCLUSION.

Amidst all our mistakes, deficiencies, and short-comings, thanks be to God, His kingdom is rapidly spreading throughout the world. The yearly history of individual Societies may afford no very striking proofs of progress; but viewed as a *whole*, that progress has been both rapid and extraordinary. It is not necessary now to enumerate the obstacles which our predecessors had to encounter, nor to dwell on their early perils, their apparently unrequited toils, or their marvellous exertions, and the immediate results. Enough for the present purpose, that we briefly survey what has come under the observation of nearly all who may read these lines.

In the tide of events which has rolled over the world during the present century, overturning ancient dynasties, and changing systems of policy and science, there is none more strange and wonderful than the rise and progress of the mission power. At home it has conquered prejudice, softened our spirit, promoted brotherly love among all sections of Christ's flock, made us feel what an odious and bitter thing bigotry is; and, extending its influence beyond the church, it has repressed great social evils, imparted a new impulse to philanthropy, infused tenderness into the administration of law, excited a more earnest regard for the poor, the outcast, and the criminal, and called into existence almost every religious and benevolent institution which aims at benefiting mankind.

Abroad it has mastered every written language, and reduced the majority of barbarous tongues to form and system, and translated into them all, the whole or part of the Divine Oracles; it has grappled with the worst forms of superstition and sin. It has humanised the cannibal of the isles of the Pacific, broken the bonds of the slave, proved the Negro to be a

man, with a soul to be saved, and a heart to fear and love God. All over the vast continent of India it has extinguished the suttee fire, put down infanticide, is abolishing the celibacy of Hindoo widows, and proclaiming the doom of polygamy. *The Friend of India*—no mean authority on such questions—tells us “that for years it has been evident to all men with eyes that the whole fabric of Hindooism is breaking up;” and asks, in a tone of triumph only to be justified by the truth—“Who believes in Hindooism now? Not the Hindoos;” for while the changes in the customs and religion of his forefathers are going on, and threatening to destroy them, “no one raises his hand.” Moreover, it has changed the manners and habits of European residents. Once they were a by-word and a reproach. Now they are observant of the forms of decency, and equal the average of men at home, while there are to be found among them a large number of the most generous supporters of Christ’s cause, and some of the brightest ornaments of the Christian profession. Even governments—the last bodies to admit such facts—have now found out that, in dealing with the wilder races, there are no such effectual civilizers as Christian missionaries. The public authorities, in 1812, wished to drive out the “fanatics” from India; but now, when refusing their requests, they couch their refusal in courteous terms, and admit that “much is due to their earnestness and experience.”

Leaving the past, what have we recently seen? “An entire race,” destined perhaps to become a nation, “has eagerly embraced Christianity, and now maintains its own pastors, builds its own places of worship, and if called to suffer martyrdom, dies with the name of Christ upon its lips.” The Karens have done this. The Christians in Madagascar, who have suffered persecutions as severe as those which fell on the first disciples, have defied all opposition, and in the prospect of death in the most appalling forms not one has proved unfaithful. While nearly the whole of the African coast south of the equator is being fringed round with churches, Krapf and Moffatt have opened up its eastern and southern interiors. And all at once Dr. Livingston has burst upon us, making us familiar with whole tribes in the heart of the continent, gentle, and partially civilized, but knowing nothing of the world beyond them, except that there was a great “tribe who loved the black man,” and that he belonged to it.

Patriots and philanthropists! This cause has again and again commended itself to you as employing an agency most favourable to the elevation and freedom of man. Scholars! No class of men have promoted your object more effectually than missionaries. Men of commerce! You push your enterprises into barbarous regions of the earth, and often find your path opened and made easy, for the missionary has been there before you. Men of science! How rapidly have missionaries enlarged the boundaries of your knowledge; and we rejoice that in these latter days you have frankly and generously acknowledged it. If it were permitted us to glory, we might glory in the men whom the mission power has called to its service.

But, while all boasting is excluded, we will magnify the grace of God in them, for their honour cometh from above. They are the servants of the Most High, chosen and qualified by Him to make known His mercy to a guilty world. Their names and their deeds will never die! Their piety and their work alike ennobled and humbled them. The greatest, perhaps, among them all, and whose labours will shine out most conspicuously in the history of missions, when that great record shall have been

written, felt that he was less than nothing in the presence of the Eternal. He lived, and died, and was buried, and no costly monument marks the spot where his mortal remains repose until the resurrection-morn. No panegyric is inscribed on his humble tomb; but these affecting lines are:—

“A guilty, sinful, helpless worm,
On Thy kind arms I fall;
Be thou my strength and righteousness,
My Saviour and my all!”

In this spirit of self-abasement we approach thy throne, O God! We reverently bow before thee! *Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory for Thy mercy, and Thy truth's sake. Thou hast done great things for us, whereof we are glad. Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are all Thy ways, Thou King of saints.* We again commend this thine own cause to thy watchful care and effectual blessing! In His spirit who came into this world to do thy will, and to give His life a ransom for many, do we desire at all times to come to the mercy-seat, rejoicing that it is our exalted privilege to lift up our hearts to Thee in His words who hath taught us to pray: *Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen!*

Subscriptions and Donations in aid of the Baptist Missionary Society will be thankfully received by Sir Samuel Morton Peto, Bart., Treasurer; by the Rev. Frederick Trestrail and Edward Bean Underhill, Esq., Secretaries, at the Mission House, 33, Moorgate Street, LONDON; in EDINBURGH, by the Rev. Jonathan Watson, and John Macandrew, Esq.; in GLASGOW, by John Jackson, 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.
