

THE

CHRISTIAN HERALD.

VOLUME VI.

His name shall endure for ever : his name shall be continued as long as the sun, and men shall be blessed in him : all nations shall call him blessed. *Psa. lxxii. 17.*
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. *Isaiah xi. 9.*

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"if you had read it, you could not have spoken as you did; I hope, however, that you will read it; in which case I have no doubt that your sentiments respecting it will be changed." The Colonel promised that he would read it. He did so; the divine blessing accompanied it, and he became a Christian.

About the beginning of the present year, Dr. F. of F. a physician of celebrity, but a professed infidel, was suddenly taken ill. On hearing of his illness, Col. S. his intimate friend, visited him, with a view of conversing with him on religious subjects, as he could not bear the thought that his friend should die an infidel. He earnestly intreated him to read the Bible. "No Colonel," replied he, "you know my sentiments concerning that book. I do not believe a word of it. I hope, therefore, you will not mention it to me any more." The Colonel perceiving that it would be of no avail to urge it any further, said, "I have a book in my hand, which, as it is not the Bible, you will perhaps allow your lady to read it to you. At all events I will leave it with you." Having said this he took his leave. A few days after, the physician sent for him, and said to him on his arrival, "I cannot be sufficiently thankful for the book which you requested me to read. By the blessing of God it has produced a complete change in my views. I now believe the Bible to be the word of God, and hope, by the divine aid, to comply with its requirements." The book was, "The Gospel its own Witness."

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

BAPTIST MISSION.

MISSIONARY COLLEGE AT SERAMPORE.

Notwithstanding the many obstacles presented by the state of society in India, the Baptist missionaries at Serampore have baptised about 600 natives, Hindoos, and Mussulmans, most of them gross idolaters, and some of them brahmins of the highest cast. The dreadful errors and moral degradation in which these converts were involved, greatly retard their progress in the Christian life: still, however, the change which has been produced in their views and conduct is said to be highly encouraging: many appear to be preparing for a blessed immortality; and some, already departed, have left the most pleasing evidence of their having been rendered meet for "the inheritance of the saints in light." A number of these converts, brahmins and others, have, for some time past, been employed as distributors of tracts, readers of the scriptures, and preachers. Their talents, though subordinate, have been so blessed, that a number of converts, the fruits of their ministry, have been baptised. Tarachund, a Hindoo of the writer cast. converted by reading the New Testament in Benga-

lee, without an instructor, is said to be an excellent poet; a great part of the Bengalee hymns in the Serampore hymn-book are his composition, as well as an interesting work on the doctrines of the gospel contrasted with the Hindoo religion.

Many of the readers and preachers were educated in the Protestant, Roman Catholic, or Armenian churches; and are capable of every acquirement necessary to the most acceptable discharge of the ministerial office in the Bengalee or Hindoost'hanee languages. The pure natives in the list of native readers and preachers were, with two exceptions, Hindoos. These preachers are connected with about seventeen Christian churches, the greater part of the members of which were heathens.

Dr. Carey and his brethren have published translations of the whole of the sacred volume in five important languages of the east; namely, the Sungskrit, the Mahratta, the Hindce, the Bengalee, and the Orissa. A great part of the Bible has been printed in the Chinese, and the whole is in regular progress through the press. The New Testament has been published in six other languages, and several more are in the press. In this most important work, the translators are assisted by learned natives from all parts of India. Should the life of Dr. Carey be spared for a few years longer, it is trusted, that he will have prepared the holy scriptures for the greater part of India; and hopes are given, that in the course of this and the following year, the whole of the divine records will have been published by Dr. Marshman, for the many millions in China.

A few years since, an address to the public, under the title of "Hints relative to Native Schools," was published at Serampore. The encouragement received from all parts of India enabled the publishers to extend their schools, till at length the scholars amounted to eight thousand heathen children: they might have been fifty thousand, if the funds had been sufficient; for the villages continued to send deputations to Serampore, from the distance of ten and twelve miles, with petitions for schools, till notice was obliged to be sent, that no more schools could be established, for want of funds.

But the chief plan which Dr. Carey and his brethren are anxious to see realised before their removal from the scene of their labours, is, that of a college at Serampore, for the improvement of native pastors and missionaries. The persons at present employed as Christian teachers in India would be considered in this country as very inadequately qualified for so important a charge; but the missionaries, considering the urgency of the case, thought it right to do what they could; and they express a hope that this part of their plan has been attended with some degree of success. The work of teaching, in India, they remark, is more like "crying in the wilderness," and "disputing in the school of Tyrannus," than the method used in England, of instructing men by

prepared discourses. Indeed, the state of society and of Christian knowledge in India, would, at present, hardly allow of the more refined method pursued in the pulpits of this country. For this more popular method of instruction, some of the native teachers are tolerably well qualified; but for want of a more enlarged view of the Christian system, they cannot answer the many inquiries made by their hearers, nor are they capable of explaining the mysteries of the gospel in the manner they ought. Many of these native teachers, when converted, have hardly been capable of reading, and are still in a state of deficiency very painful to the missionaries.

In these circumstances, Dr. Carey and his brethren have for some time past been very anxious to establish a seminary in which the case of native pastors and missionaries should be met; and, trusting in God that they should not be disappointed in these desires for completing the plan, they have bought a piece of ground adjoining the mission premises, on which there is an old house, and which, for the present, may be sufficient; but they are anxious to see, before their removal by death, a better house erected. A row of small rooms for the students is immediately wanted.

The Catholic Institution at Penang, for training up Chinese converts; and a similar one at Malacca, established through the liberality and efforts of Dr. Morrison, in conjunction with the Rev. Mr. Milne; and that which has been proposed by the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, might be mentioned as offering arguments to support the necessity of the object: but the pressing necessity is too evident not to be seen by the most superficial observer. At present, there is not one minister for each million of British subjects, even if we include every clergyman and every missionary now to be found in that country; and nearly half of these are confined to districts, which do not comprise more than twenty square miles; yet our native subjects in India do not amount to one half the population of Hindoost'han. The pecuniary resources, and the number of missionaries required for the instruction of all these millions, can never, therefore, be supplied from England. It is on native preachers that the weight of this work must ultimately rest, though the presence of European missionaries will also be indispensably necessary for many years to come.

The superior fitness of native preachers is argued from the difficulty of Europeans acquiring a foreign language; from the heat of the climate, which incapacitates them for very active services in the open air; and from the facility with which natives journey from place to place.

The native preacher, under a tree, or even in the open air, can address his countrymen for hours together, without feeling more fatigue than that which attends similar labours in England: he can also find access to his own countrymen, and, which Europe-

ans cannot have, to the lower orders of his own countrywomen, in every place : he can subsist on the simple produce of the country, can find a lodging in almost any village he may visit ; and he knows the way to the hearts, as well as to the heads of his countrymen without difficulty. The European cannot travel without carrying along with him his food, and accommodations for sleeping, as there are no public inns ; and hence a boat or a palanquin is quite necessary. Thus the expense of travelling to an European is very considerable ; while the Hindoo preacher, subsisting on ten shillings a week, including travelling charges, will find that amply sufficient to carry him all over the country. Nor ought the expenses of giving to the English missionary an education, his outfit, his passage money, and the large salary he requires there to maintain him, to be forgotten in the comparison between a native and an European missionary.

Besides the improvement of converted natives who may be selected for the work of the ministry, or for missionary employment, Dr. Carey and his brethren hope that some of these pious Hindoos may be capable of acquiring a higher education ; and that, after becoming good Sungskrit, as well as Hebrew and Greek scholars, they may be successfully employed as translators of the divine word into languages, with the structure of which they will be perfectly familiar. The dialects of India are so numerous, that it can hardly be expected that the holy scriptures will be very soon rendered into all of them ; and when that shall have been accomplished, their improvement and perfection can only be hoped for through the revision of learned Christian natives. The children of English missionaries, who may be called to the work of the mission, will find in this college an education which may prepare them to become efficient agents in the instruction of the heathen.

It is further intended, that a respectable but inferior education should be given at this college, to a number of the children of converted Hindoos and Mussulmans, so as to qualify them for situations in life, by which they may procure a decent livelihood, and educate their families. Hereby some amends may be made to their parents and themselves, for the deprivations to which they have been subject by the loss of cast ; and thus will be wiped away the dreadful reproach common throughout every part of India, that the Feringees (the Christians) are sunk the lowest of all casts in vice and ignorance. This college is also proposed to be open and gratuitous to all denominations of Christians, and to as many heathen scholars as choose to avail themselves of its exercises and lectures, provided they maintain themselves.

The ground for the erection of the buildings necessary for this seminary, was purchased during the past year, after the plan, published all over India, had received the sanction and patronage of the most noble the Marquis of Hastings, his excellency Jacob

Kresting, Esq. the governor of Serampore, and other distinguished personages.

Before Mr. Ward left Serampore to visit England for the recovery of his health, he had begun to give practical effect to this plan, by superintending the instruction of a number of youths, who may be considered as the first pupils of this seminary. A letter from Serampore, dated in February last, says, "the number of youths in the college is thirty-one, of whom twenty-three are Christians; they are going on well." We since learn, that two native professors had been appointed; the one for astronomy, and the other for the Hindoo law. The scholars had been removed into the house already purchased; but the rooms for the accommodation of the students had not been erected, for want of funds. As soon as pious teachers shall have gone from England, and shall have entered on their work, the number of pupils will present a large field for labour.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Further extracts from the Nineteenth Report.

To the SEVEN MISSIONS of the society, mentioned in the last Report, there is a prospect of adding an EIGHTH, for Bombay and the west of India. In these various missions, there may now be reckoned upward of ONE HUNDRED CHRISTIAN TEACHERS, at above FORTY STATIONS; and, in the schools connected with these stations, there are under education, as has been before mentioned, upwards of SIX THOUSAND CHILDREN, beside MANY ADULT SCHOLARS. At these stations, the gospel is preached and made known by conversation and publications, to many thousands of the heathen; and the first fruits of that abundant harvest, which awaits the faith of the Christian Church, are continually gathering in.

The Committee have received, since the last anniversary, offers of service under the society from more than sixty persons. Of these offers, about one half have been accepted: most of these persons are under preparation for their future labours, and the rest have proceeded to their respective destinations. The whole number of persons who have left this country during the nineteenth year, to promote the objects of the society, including adults and children, is nineteen; and there remain at present, twenty-three under preparation.

In conclusion, the Committee would direct the attention of the members to the very peculiar character of the times in which we live.

We are labouring in a pacified world! The sword is beaten into the plough-share, and the spear into the pruning-hook. The elements of discord seem to be enchained as in a prison. The