TWO SERMONS
PREACHED AT KETTERING ON THE 31st OF MAY, AND THE 1st OF JUNE, 1842,
BEFORE THE
BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY,
SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN CELEBRATION OF ITS FIFTIETH YEAR;
WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING.

LONDON:
SOLD AT THE SOCIETY'S HOUSE, 5, FEN COURT, Fenchurch Street;
AND BY HOUSTON AND STONEHAME, 66, PATERNOSTER ROW.
1842.
congregations who will not this year contribute something to the jubilee fund. The objects proposed to be accomplished by it have already been brought before the public. They are all, not only important, but intimately connected with the great purposes of our mission. The free-will offerings of this season, with the zeal and activity which they will call forth, will, we trust, remove many obstacles out of the way of our missionary efforts, give to its operations a new and vigorous impulse, and enlarge the sphere of its labours, especially on the continent of Africa. And let it be our answer to any inquiries why new efforts are to be made, why a large, a generous, and a voluntary offering is this year to be presented to the sacred cause; "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."
A SERMON.

Isaiah xl. 31.

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.

It is the part of wisdom to converse with the past; and scarcely less culpable is it than foolish to suffer the times in which we live to pass away without an attempt to rescue from oblivion the events and transactions by which they are marked. The divisions of time, the result, as they are, not of human but of divine arrangement, seem as though they were especially intended to aid us in our efforts. Devout men in every age, and the great instructors of mankind, have availed themselves of the periodical recurrence of remarkable epochs to review the course of providence, and to gather up and enforce the principles they have developed of the divine government, or the lessons they have taught of human duty.

The two faculties by which man as an intellectual creature is chiefly distinguished, are those by which he can identify himself at once with the past and the future. Memory enables him to retrace the steps of his earliest years, and, aided by history, he mingles with remote generations, calls up before him the men and the manners of former times, and lives amidst occurrences which transpired ages ago; while imagi-
be changed, till it become instinct with the vital grace of the Spirit and resplendent with the beauties of holiness, the end may be considered certain when the first impulse has been effectively given. The insertion of the leaven secures the leavening of the whole mass.

These, then, as it has occurred to me, are some of the points of view in which our position and capacities for missionary work may be advantageously contrasted with those of the men who commenced it. And if, in circumstances so dissimilar to our own, they, gathering on this hallowed spot, “solemnly agreed to act in society together for the purpose,” and did so in the spirit of Carey’s magnanimous principle—“Expect great things, and attempt great things,” what ought not we to do? Here, while standing on the ashes of one of those holy men, and as if in the conscious presence of the glorified spirits of them all, we are ready, after their example, to devote ourselves afresh to this great service. We follow them to the altar of God, and lay our sacrifice where theirs was consumed; desiring nothing so much as that we may be counted worthy to tread in their footsteps, and, after a few more years of pleasurable toil in promoting the same cause, to unite with them in the everlasting anthem, “Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

II.

If, then, having arrived at an epoch in our missionary history, we are now prepared to renew the consecration of ourselves to this blessed work, indulge me still further with your attention, my honoured brethren and fathers, while I venture, with much diffidence, to offer a few suggestions on points which seem to me of essential moment to its prosperity, and to our own honour and comfort in conducting it. On this part of my subject also, while indicating some of the necessary conditions of success, I shall be materially aided by bearing in mind the sustaining and directing principles of our revered predecessors, and in advertising as occasion may serve to their example.

1. Allow me then to suggest the necessity of our cultivating a cordial love for one another.

Need I remind you how much of the charm of our mission is derived from the strong affection which bound together the hearts of its founders? They were men of diversified character and intellectual endowment, differing much from each other in the mental peculiarities by which they were severally distinguished: but they “loved one another with a pure heart fervently.” Nor do I think it possible to attribute too much of the salutary influence they exerted upon the age in which they lived to this cause. Having its origin in love, the mission grew and flourished, for it was fostered by a band of brothers; and, if it is yet to flourish, it must live upon the same aliment. It must be fostered by a band of brothers still.

When Jehu was on his way to Samaria to overthrow the temple of Baal, “he lighted,” says the inspired historian, “on Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him; and he saluted him, and said to him, Is thine heart right as my heart is with thy heart?