

SERAMPORE LETTERS

BEING THE UNPUBLISHED CORRESPONDENCE OF
WILLIAM CAREY AND OTHERS WITH
JOHN WILLIAMS

1800-1816

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sermons bore upon the meditated mission to the heathen, Sutcliff's subject being "Jealousy for God," from I Kings xix., 10.

After the meeting Carey, with almost agonizing earnestness, pressed immediate action, urging that something should be done that very day towards the formation of a society to propagate the Gospel among the heathen.

The ministers recommended him to publish his "Thoughts," and soon afterwards his pamphlet appeared under the title of *An Inquiry into the Obligations of Christians to Send the Gospel to the Heathen*. The next Association was held at Nottingham on the 30th of May, 1792, and Carey was appointed to preach. His sermon on this occasion has ever since been remembered as having laid the foundation of the Baptist Missionary Society. He took for his text: "Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtain of thy habitations. Spare not; lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes; for thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles and make the desolate cities to be inhabited." From this text he deduced and enforced the two principles which were embodied in the motto of the Mission, "Expect great things; attempt great things." And such ardor did he put into his discourse, and so ably did he expound his views, that the ministers at length came to the resolution that "a plan should