

# Missionary Register.

Vol. I.

MARCH, 1820.

No. III.

## Scottish Missionary Society.

BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE BAPTIST  
MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

THE commencement of this Society, was marked by a spirit of prayer, and reliance upon the leadings of Divine Providence, which was an earnest of the future eminence, among similar institutions, to which it has since attained. From the time that the attention of the Baptist Churches was first directed to the state of the Heathen, and the duty of attempting their conversion, the object was seen in its full importance. It was considered as possessing not merely a secondary claim upon the time and attention of some of the most distinguished men, as to talent and learning, which that church has numbered among its members. The business of the Society has been conducted by men whose piety and abilities had given them pre-eminence among their brethren; and they conceived the work, to be of such primary importance that they devoted their time and talents to it with the most unwearied diligence. The labours of their first secretary, the Rev. Mr Fuller, are still fresh in the recollection of many in this part of the Island; and the proceedings of the Society since his removal, abundantly testify that the same zeal and activity are still exercised in its support.

The first active steps in the formation of the Baptist Mission are ascribed to Mr (now Dr) Carey, whose name has since become so familiar to every friend of Missionary exertion; and whose indefatigable and enlightened labours have so eminently contributed to raise the Society from its humble origin to its present flourishing condition. From the period of his first call to the ministry, he had discovered an anxiety respecting the conversion of the Heathen, which directed his studies into those

channels which qualified him, in so peculiar a manner, for the part he was destined to take in this great work. Although obliged, by the very small stipend he received from the church, to contribute to the maintenance of his family by manual labour, he found time to acquire the knowledge of various languages, particularly Latin, Greek and Hebrew; and made himself acquainted with the geography, population, and religion of the various nations of the earth, and with the labours of Christians both in early and later ages in propagating the Gospel.

As early as the year 1784, at an association of Ministers and Churches in the Baptist connection, held at Nottingham, it was resolved to set apart an hour on the first Monday evening of every month for prayer for the revival of religion, and for the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom in the world. It was not however, till the year 1792, at the annual meeting of the same association, that any active endeavours to engage in such an attempt were made. The minds of many of the ministers present, had, however, been prepared for such a proposal, both by Mr Carey, who, in conversing with his friends, never failed to press its importance and practicability; and also by two sermons, which dwelt much on the subject, and which had been preached by Mr Sutcliffe and Mr Fuller, at a Ministers' meeting at Clipstone, in the preceding year. At this association at Nottingham, Mr Carey himself was one of the preachers, and his sermon bore still more directly upon the object to which his attention was so earnestly directed; and such was its effect, that a resolution was passed "that a plan should be prepared against the next Ministers' meeting at Kettering, for forming a Society for propagating the

gospel among the heathen." In October of the same year, the ministers met at Kettering, and after the public duties of the day were over, retired to prayer. They then solemnly pledged themselves to God and to each other, to make a trial for introducing the gospel among the heathen; and a small sum, little exceeding £18, was immediately raised among themselves for present purposes. An appeal to the public was suspended till a more specific object could be proposed to their consideration. A month had not elapsed, before the Committee appointed to carry into effect the wishes of this meeting, were informed that Mr J. Thomas, who had formerly acted as surgeon to one of the Company's ships, had for some years preached the gospel among the natives in Bengal, and was then in London, endeavouring to raise a fund for a mission to that country. It was also understood, that he was desirous of engaging a fellow-labourer to return with him to the work. The Committee, after due enquiry, being fully of opinion that a door was now open for a mission to the East Indies, resolved to invite Mr Thomas to go out as one of their Missionaries, and to endeavour to furnish him with a colleague. Mr Carey being present, and his mind towards missionary work well known, was asked if he were willing to accompany Mr Thomas. To which he readily answered in the affirmative.

An appeal was then made to the religious public. The necessary expenses of their outfit were soon collected, and after some difficulties and delays, Mr Carey, accompanied by his whole family, set sail with Mr Thomas for India, on the 15th of June, 1793.

In July of the year following, accounts were received of their safe arrival in India. The letters upon

the whole contained as much encouragement as could be expected; and it was not till afterwards that the Committee learned, that for the first three or four months, Mr Carey had been reduced to great straits and trials. Through various unforeseen occurrences, the investment made for their support was sunk; and they appeared to be, for a time, left without any apparent means of subsistence. Providence, however, did not abandon them: a benevolent friend was raised up for their present supply; and shortly afterwards, they judged it expedient to accept the superintendence of two indigo manufactories, in the neighbourhood of Malda, as a source of maintenance. For, with a degree of disinterestedness which ought ever to be remembered to their honour, they had, before quitting England, expressed their intention of claiming support from the Society, only till they were able to support themselves. And how nobly this pledge has been redeemed, will appear from the fact, that the Divine goodness has not only given the inclination, but has also added the ability, to them and their successors at Serampore, to devote upwards of £50,000 acquired by themselves to the sacred cause.\*

During the first year, the numerous and powerful obstacles which tend to impede the progress of Christianity among the Hindoos, were brought forcibly before the minds of the Missionaries; and, joined to this, they also suffered considerably from some of the diseases of the climate: met, however, by the spirit evidenced in the following extract from a letter of Mr Carey, their operation did not check his exertions.

"I am sometimes disheartened, not only by the superstitions of the

Hindoos, but by the infidelity of Europeans, who all tell me the conversion of the natives is impossible. In England I should not be discouraged by these representations of unbelievers, but here I have no faithful brother to sympathize with me, nor am I yet able to make the experiment by preaching the gospel. All my hope is in God, all my comfort arises from him. Though the superstitions of the natives were a thousand times stronger than they are, and the Europeans a thousand times worse; though I were deserted by all, and persecuted by all, yet, my hope fixed on that rock, would rise superior to every obstruction, and triumph over every trial. I feel happy in this, that I am engaged in the work of God; and the more I am employed in it, the more I feel it a rich reward. Indeed, I would rejoice in having undertaken it, even though I should perish in the attempt. What is there in the whole creation worth living for, but the presence and the service of God? I feel a burning desire that all the world may know this God and serve him."

As soon as their health was recruited, they established schools at their respective factories, and preached every Lord's-day, and frequently on others. Mr J. Fountain was sent out to join them in 1796. They also met with a valuable addition to their body in Mr Fernandez, senior, who was first converted by their ministry, and afterwards became the pastor of a church at Dinagore. During their residence in the neighbourhood of Malda, Mr Carey nearly completed the translation of the Scriptures into the Bengalee language; and about fifty youths were instructed in reading and writing. In the spring of 1799, four other

\* Report of Bristol Auxiliary Society.

Missionaries were sent out, two of whom are still alive (Dr Marshman and Mr Ward.) On their arrival in India, they were not permitted to settle on the British territory, in the neighbourhood of Malda; and it became a question whether Mr Carey should join them at Serampore, or whether they should labour separately. On mature deliberation, though with some reluctance, Mr Carey acquiesced in the wishes of his brethren, and agreed to go to Serampore. The seat of the mission was accordingly transferred to that place early in the year 1800. Mr Carey waited on the Danish Governor the day after his arrival, and was received in a very friendly manner. The number of Missionaries being now so much increased, it became necessary to make some arrangements for a plan of domestic government. One of the regulations agreed upon has been followed by the most important consequences, and has proved a principal means of the support and extension of their labours. It was "that no one should engage in any employment of a private nature, but that whatever pecuniary profits any of them might realize, should be appropriated to the general purposes of the Mission."

The removal of the station to Serampore proved to be highly beneficial. The facilities which it offered for the printing operations, and the near neighbourhood of Calcutta, rendered it peculiarly important as a Missionary station. A printing-press was immediately erected, and they began to print the Bengalee Bible; and those who had acquired the language, commenced preaching the gospel, both in the town and neighbourhood. Early in June a Bengalee school was established, and a system of instruction commenced, which has since spread so widely, and pro-

mises to be one of the most important engines in the work of evangelizing this part of the world. Important, however, as their arrangements were, for future operations, the Missionaries had hitherto laboured among the Hindoos with little or no success. Thirteen years had now elapsed since Mr Thomas first entered on the work; and in the course of that period, his hopes had frequently been disappointed by deceitful, or at least unfruitful, characters. Mr Carey also, though he had not relaxed in his labours, felt much discouraged. By desire of Mr Thomas, who came about this time on a visit to Serampore, a weekly prayer-meeting for the success of the mission was begun.

In November of this year, Mr Thomas was requested to visit a man of the name of Kristno, whose arm was dislocated. After reducing it, he talked to him of the salvation through Jesus Christ: the man was deeply affected, and wept like a child. It pleased God to bless these affectionate efforts of Mr Thomas. Kristno and his family were gradually impressed with the great truths of the gospel, and shortly afterwards renounced caste, by eating publicly with the Missionaries. He was to them the first fruits of the Gentiles. On the 28th of December, he was publicly baptized; and his family afterwards made a similar profession of faith in the Saviour. He became himself a preacher of the Gospel; and the last reports received from the Mission state, that this "earliest of Hindoo Evangelists," still continues to labour with faithfulness and success, though he begins to feel the infirmities of age.

In the following year, some other natives of both sexes were baptized; and this occasioned a temporary removal of the children from the Bengalee school, under the apprehension, that they would all be

made Christians. This alarm, however, soon subsided, and the children returned again to school. The Missionaries began now to observe that more attention was excited to the objects of the Mission, and some of the natives whom they had the happiness of baptizing were Brahmins, the highest of the castes into which the Hindoo population is distributed, and of whom it had been confidently affirmed by persons who wished to overwhelm all Missionary attempts, by arguments drawn from their local knowledge of the state of India, that not one would ever be induced to embrace Christianity. We should not omit to mention, that about the end of this year, Mr Carey was appointed teacher of the Bengalee and Sungskrit languages, in the lately instituted College of Fort-William. He was afterwards advanced to the rank of Professor in the College, with a salary of about £1400 per annum; the whole of which, agreeably to the established rules of the family, he devoted to the purposes of the Mission.

The great object of the Mission continued in each succeeding year to make gradual progress; and notwithstanding the disappointments and discouragements which the Hindoo character too often furnished, the labours of the Missionaries were rewarded with much success. The plan of employing native teachers was extensively adopted, and seemed to be followed by the happiest effects. The number of native converts in the year 1800 was 1; 1801, 5; 1802, 7; 1803, 13; 1804, 14; 1805, 29; 1806, 23; and 1807, 9.

In the course of a few years, these numbers were considerably increased; and in the year 1811, the Missionaries no longer spoke of themselves as a single Mission, but as an association of 5 Missions, divided according to the different languages of the countries. In the year 1814, the number baptized of various nations since the commencement of the mission, amounted to 765. Upon comparing this number with that stated as the result of their labours up to the year 1807, which was only 104, we see with what an accelerated progression the work of the Lord was now advancing. The last accounts, up to the conclusion of the year 1817, state the whole number baptized in these 17 years, (including those from various nations of Europe, brought to the knowledge of the truth in India,) at nearly 1200.—Of this number we believe about 600 were natives.

Our limits preclude an attempt to follow the details of the establishment of the different Missionary stations. We shall merely present our readers with a list of them, as they at present exist; and then proceed to notice the other branches of Missionary labour, which have particularly distinguished the Baptist Mission: viz. The translation of the Scriptures, and the establishment of Schools.

#### Mission Stations.

In this list the stations are arranged according to the date of their formation. The names of the Missionaries who have gone from England, are printed in italics.

		MISSIONARIES, READERS, &c.	
DATE.	STATION.	W. Carey, J. Marshman, W. Ward, J. Randall; Flatman, Solomon, Holodhar.	
1799.	Serampore,	J. Lawson, W. Yates, E. Carey, J. Penny, W. Pearce, W. Adam; Sebukram, Kishora, John Peters, Petrusc, Panchoo, Gorachund.	
1801.	Calcutta,	J. Fernandez, Nidhiram.	
1804.	Pinsapore,		

DATE.	STATION.	MISSIONARIES, READERS, &c
1801.	Cutwa,	<i>W. Carey</i> , Jun. J. Hart, Gangalee, Gour, Bularama, Shiva, Kanta, Vishnuva, Jugumuhun, Pudma, Mut'h-oora, Shreenivasa.
1807.	Sahegunj, Jessore,	W. Thomas, Didhera, Ram Soondura, Hureedas.
1808.	Malda,	Kristno.
1809.	Digah,	<i>W. Moore</i> , J. Rose, Kureem.
1812.	Columbo, Ceylon,	<i>J. Chatter</i> , H. Siers.
1812.	Surat,	C. C. Aratoon.
1812.	Chittagong,	H. Peacock, Reveira, Khepoo.
1813.	Batavia, Java,	<i>W. Robinson</i> , Diering.
1814.	Allabad,	L. Mackintosh, Secta-rama, Nriputa.
1815.	Guyah,	Rughoo.
1816.	Monghir,	<i>J. Chamberlain</i> , Briadabund, Hingham Misser.
1816.	Moorshudabad,	<i>S. Sutton</i> , Frankishna, Kashee.
1816.	Dacca,	Leonard, Ram presaad.
1816.	Dum dum,	Ram mohun.
1816.	Benares,	W. Smith, Shiva Chundra, Lukshmina, Gunga Ram.
1816.	Samarang, Java,	<i>G. Bruckner</i> , <i>J. Phillips</i> .
1817.	Delhi,	J. T. Thompson.
1817.	Cawnpore,	Nripot sing.
1817.	Midnapore,	Da Cruz.
1818.	Sumatra,	<i>N. Ward</i> .
1819.	Rajpoothana,	<i>Jabez Carey</i> .

Stations have also been occupied by the Society's Missionaries in the West Indies, both at Kingston and Spanish Town, in Jamaica; but the death of Mr Rowe, the removal of Mr Compeer, and the illness of Mr Coultart, have retarded the progress of the Mission: and recent accounts report the death of Mr Kitching, who was settled at Kingston. Mr Godden, who reached the Island on the 9th of April last, and settled at Spanish Town, is now, therefore, the only European Missionary of the Society in Jamaica. The Society has, however, the advantage of much assistance from Native Preachers. To one of them, in particular, Moses Baker, a very honourable testimony is borne, as having laboured faithfully for thirty years, in the midst of calumnies and persecution.

#### Translations.

At Serampore, the Baptist Missionaries enjoyed peculiar facilities both for translating and printing the Holy Scriptures in the Oriental languages. Dr Carey's connection with the College of Fort Wil-

liam, enabled them to obtain the assistance of learned natives from most of the different countries of India: and the extensive premises which had been purchased at different times by the Society, were well adapted for carrying on the operations of the printing department. Besides dwelling houses for the Missionaries, they contain school rooms, a hall for public worship, a mill for the manufacture of paper, a type foundry, and an extensive printing office. This last building was destroyed by fire in the year 1812; and the loss sustained by the Missionaries was immense. They received, however, a pleasing testimony of the interest with which their exertions were regarded by the Christian public. Contributions to the amount of upwards of £10,000 were immediately made in Britain to repair the loss. Considerable sums were also raised for the same purpose in Bengal, and in America.

The great undertaking of publishing the Scriptures in fifteen Oriental languages, was announced in the year 1806; and the work

has been carried on to an extent exceeding all expectation and example. The Missionaries, by their own Society, by the British and Foreign Bible Society, by the liberality of Christians in Britain and America, and by their own literary labours, have been enabled to translate the Scriptures in different degrees into thirty-six languages, and to print a considerable proportion of them. By the latest accounts it appears that the whole of the sacred volume has been translated into five languages. In the Bengalee, which was the translation first completed, a second edition of the Pentateuch, and a fourth of the New Testament, are already in circulation. Of the remaining four, one is in the *Sanskrit* language, which is the dialect of the learned in India. In a sixth language the New Testament and Pentateuch are printed, and the historical books are in the press. In a seventh, (the Chinese) the New Testament is printed, and the Psalms are in the press. In five others the New Testament is completely printed; in fifteen others it is in the press; and in nine more it is in the progress of translation. Translations are also carrying on by Missionaries from the Baptist Society in the islands of Java and Ceylon, which are not enumerated in the above list. The last Report of the Society mentions that 13 printing presses are now engaged in this hallowed work. Besides the translations of the Scriptures, and several hundred thousand tracts, in various languages, many works of a distinguished literary character have issued from the press at Serampore, tending in no small degree to facilitate the acquisition of the knowledge of the languages, and manners, and customs, of the Eastern nations.

#### Native Schools.

The diffusion of the blessings of education among the Hindoos had, from the earliest period of the Mission, been considered an object of the most essential importance. The schools first established were conducted according to the native plan; but a few years since, the school system was greatly extended by a judicious adaptation of the system of Bell and Lancaster to the circumstances of the country. 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 several 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. The Missionaries have also prepared a system of education in the Bengalee and Hindoostanee languages, consisting of tables, containing the elements for spelling, reading and accounts; also, copy-books containing lengthened copies on all those subjects which may best enlighten the minds of heathen youth: the elements of geography, history, astronomy, arithmetic, &c. are included in these copies, which are afterwards committed to memory. By the last accounts we learn that upwards of one hundred and twenty schools, comprising more than nine thousand children, are now in connection with the station at Serampore.

## Native Schools.

## SCHOOLS, CHILDREN.

At Calcutta. Benevolent Institution. . . . .	1	220
Other Schools . . . . .	2	50
Serampore, and its neighbourhood . . . . .	92	7188
Cutwa . . . . .	11	854
Moorahudabad . . . . .	3	200
Dacca . . . . .	7	507
Dinagore . . . . .	1	50
Digab, and its neighbourhood . . . . .	3	100
Chittagong . . . . .	1	80
In Ceylon . . . . .	3	150
	126	9349

Connected with these enlightened and comprehensive views on the subject of education, is a plan for the establishment of a College of Serampore for the improvement of native Pastors and Missionaries.

Dr Carey and his brethren, are anxious to see this realized before their removal from the scene of their labours. (For a particular account of this proposal we must refer to our 1st Number, page 9.)

The Funds of the Baptist Missionary Society are applied to the general purposes of the Mission, and to the specific objects of Translations or Schools. Benefactions are sacredly appropriated to the particular purpose expressed by the wishes of the donor. Both the general and particular objects of the Institution have met with liberal support, and the sums collected at various times in Scotland have been very considerable.

The domestic receipts of the Society last year, amounted to about £8000.

# MISSIONARY TABLE.

The measures at present in operation for propagating the Gospel among Heathen and Infidel Nations are chiefly conducted by 13 Societies. The number of Missionary Stations is 191. These are occupied by 337 Missionaries, and 64 Native ditto. Total, 401, exclusive of Schoolmasters and Catechists.

ASIA.				AFRICA.			
In INDIA there are . . . . .	Stat.ons. 55	Miss. 86	Native do. 48	Western Africa . . . . .	Stat.ons. 13	Miss. 9	Native do. 4
CEYLON . . . . .	16	23	1	Southern do. . . . .	19	35	7
Other ISLANDS, including N. Holland	9	12	—				
NORTHERN AND WESTERN ASIA . . . . .	7	19	1				
				Total in AFRICA . . . . .	32	44	11
Total in ASIA . . . . .	87	140	50				
				EUROPE. Shores of the Mediterranean, &c.			
					4	5	—
AMERICA. N. including GREENL. & LABRADOR	14	45	—				
WEST INDIES . . . . .	43	72	—	EUROPE . . . . .	4	5	—
ISLANDS IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN . . . . .	5	17	3	ASIA . . . . .	87	140	50
SOUTH AMERICA . . . . .	6	14	—	AFRICA . . . . .	32	44	11
				AMERICA . . . . .	68	148	3
Total in AMERICA . . . . .	68	148	3				
				Total . . . . .	191	337	64

## SOCIETIES.

Established		Stations.					Missionaries.		
		Europe	Asia	Africa	Amer	Total.	Mis.	Nat. do.	Total.
1698	Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.....	—	3	—	—	3	occupied by 2	6	8
1701	Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts.....	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
1709	Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1
1732	United Brethren.....	—	1	3	27	31	87	—	87
1786	Wesleyan Missionary Society.....	—	11	4	26	41	64	2	66
1792	Baptist Missionary Society..	—	24	—	1	25	36	37	73
1795	London Missionary Society .....	2	13	14	8	37	76	6	82
1796	Scottish Missionary Society .....	—	3	—	—	3	11	1	12
1800	Church of England Missionary Society.....	2	21	10	—	33	27	9	36
1809	American Board of Missions.....	—	5	—	5	10	21	3	24
1814	American Baptist Society .....	—	1	—	—	1	4	—	4
	Danish Missionary College.....	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	2
	Netherlands Missionary Society.....	—	4	—	—	4	5	—	5
		4	87	32	68	191	337	64	401

## TABLE,

*Shewing the Progress and Present State of the British and Foreign Bible Society.*

### EXPENDITURE.

1st year.....£691 : 10 : 2	10th year.....£84,052 : 1 : 5
2d year.....1,637 : 17 : 5	11th year..... 81,021 : 12 : 5
3d year.....5,053 : 18 : 3	12th year.....103,680 : 18 : 8
4th year.....12,206 : 10 : 3	13th year..... 89,230 : 9 : 9
5th year.....14,565 : 19 : 7	14th year..... 71,099 : 1 : 7
6th year.....18,543 : 17 : 1	15th year..... 92,237 : 1 : 4
7th year.....28,302 : 13 : 7	
8th year .....32,419 : 19 : 7	Total £704,840 : 4 : 9
9th year.....69,496 : 13 : 8	

### MEANS OF SUPPORT.

To support this expenditure, there are, Auxiliary Societies in England, 169	
Wales, .....	19
Scotland, .....	52
Ireland, .....	5
the Colonies, &c. 26	
	271
Having Branch Societies.....	366
Total.....	637

	Bibles.	Testaments.	Total.
The Bible Society has issued in Great Britain,	1,025,027	1,261,341	2,287,268
on the Continent,	53,200	276,800	330,000
Total	1,078,227	1,538,141	2,617,268

*By the aid of the Brit. and For. Bible Soc., the following Bible Societies have been formed.*

Societies.	Auxil.		Societies.	Auxil.
Switzerland . . . . .	11	—	Mediterranean . . . . .	2
France . . . . .	3	3	Greece . . . . .	1
Hungary . . . . .	1	—		
Germany . . . . .	33	8	Total in Europe, exclusive of England . . . . .	64
Prussia . . . . .	3	13	Asia, . . . . .	10
Russia . . . . .	2	171	Africa . . . . .	3
Sweden . . . . .	1	12	America, . . . . .	64
Norway . . . . .	1	—	England, . . . . .	271
Denmark . . . . .	4	15		
Poland . . . . .	1	—	Total number of Societies and Auxiliaries	1213
Netherlands . . . . .	1	44	in the world . . . . .	1213

### Translations.

The Bible Society has promoted the translation, printing, and distribution of the Scriptures, or parts of them, in 34 languages or dialects of . . . . .	
Europe, 83	Asia, 3
Africa, 6	America, 6
126 of which † 78 were never printed before, 8 are retranslations, almost 40 are reprints. [new works,	
126	

The Societies abroad are known to have issued 1,407,727 copies of the Scriptures. British and Foreign Bible Society, as above, 2,617,268

† Many of these have not as yet issued from the press.

Making a Total of . . . . . 4,024,995 copies of the Scriptures circulating through the world, or preparing for circulation, in ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIX Languages.