

THE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

TO THE

THIRTY-THIRD GENERAL MEETING

OF

THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY,

USUALLY CALLED

THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY,

ON THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1827.



WITH

LISTS OF CONTRIBUTORS,

&c. &c.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL MEETING.

LONDON:

SOLD BY WESTLEY AND DAVIS, STATIONERS' COURT, LUDGATE STREET;

J. NISBET, BERNERS STREET, OXFORD STREET;

T. D. CLARKE, BRISTOL;

W. OLIPHANT, SOUTH BRIDGE, AND WAUGH AND INNES,

HUNTER SQUARE, EDINBURGH;

AND LA GRANGE, NASSAU STREET, DUBLIN.

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REPORT

OF THE

LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

1827.

ON a retrospect of the past twelve months, the Directors see abundant cause for thankfulness to the Great Author of all success, for the continued marks of his favour towards the Society. From the several stations, with few exceptions, the intelligence has been of a cheering and encouraging character. The spirit of missionary zeal, both at home and abroad, is evidently on the increase; and, although some circumstances have occurred during the year to give exercise to faith, nothing has transpired, either to shake our confidence in the stability of the Society, or to diminish our hopes of its progressive efficiency and success.

DEPUTATION.

The Deputation sailed from Singapore* for China, on the 1st of October, 1825, and on the 14th of that month reached Macao, whence, after remaining there about three weeks, they proceeded to Canton, and arrived in that city on the 5th of November. At Canton they continued till the 5th of December, when they embarked on their return to Singapore. From Singapore they proceeded to Malacca, and arrived at that Settlement on the 15th of January, 1826. The 6th of February they left Malacca for Pinang, where they arrived on the 9th of that month. The 11th of March they left Pinang for Calcutta, which they did not reach before the 16th of April. Since their

* See Report for 1826, page 3.

arrival in Bengal, they have visited the Society's stations at Chinsurah, Berhampore, and Benares. They afterwards returned to Calcutta, and have subsequently proceeded to Madras. Before finally quitting India, it is probable they will visit some of the principal stations of the Society within the latter Presidency.

We shall now proceed, as usual, to give a brief abstract of the foreign proceedings of the Society, premising only, that the returns of the number baptized, admitted to communion, &c. except stated to the contrary, are for the year terminating in May 1826.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC.

GEORGIAN (OR WINDWARD) ISLANDS.

TAHITI.

WAUGH-TOWN,
District of Matawai;

HANKEY-CITY,
District of Pare.

CHARLES WILSON, *Missionary.*

On the departure of Mr. Nott for Europe, the care of the above-mentioned stations devolved upon Mr. Wilson, together with that of Wilks' Harbour, until the removal of Mr. Pritchard to the latter in November 1825. The number baptized by Mr. Wilson, from May in that year, until the period of Mr. Pritchard's removal, was, for the three stations, 31 adults and 33 children. Subsequent to the settlement of Mr. Pritchard at Wilks' Harbour to May 1826, the number baptized, belonging to the districts of Pare and Matawai, was 14 adults and 32 children. The members in the churches of these two districts amounted at that time to about 400; candidates for communion, 87; those for baptism, 7. Couples married, during the year 1825-26, eleven.

Among those lately baptized are several young persons who unhappily had adopted some of their former pernicious customs. Some who were baptized several years ago, and who had afterwards relapsed into sin, have renounced their

and two or three good teachers like Auna, whose return they also solicit.

Extracts of a Journal kept by Toteta, received in this country, afford a favourable specimen of the piety and intelligence of this Tahitian Teacher.

The Sandwich Mission continues in a prosperous state. The results of an examination of the schools of Honoruru and its vicinity, on the 19th of April, 1826, exhibited such evidence of improvement, and advancement in civilization, as excited the surprise of the foreign visitants there. The schools examined comprise upwards of 2,000 scholars.

The Gospel of Matthew, in Hawaiian, translated by Mr. Bingham, then just finished, and another translation of the same Gospel by Mr. Richards, were produced on this occasion.

The state of things at the missionary station near Byron's Bay, Hawaii, (Owhyhee,) is very interesting and encouraging. The new place of worship, which is much larger than the former, is uniformly crowded. The Sabbath-school flourishes beyond expectation. Family worship has been universally established. Schools are rapidly increasing in all the eastern parts of the island.

The place of worship at Lahaina, in the island of Maui, is filled every Sabbath with attentive hearers, and additions are, from time to time, made to the church. At Lahaina and its vicinity, the number of schools is about 20, containing nearly 400 scholars. The total number under school-instruction, in the island, is about 800.

The chiefs manifest a very commendable zeal as to the erection of places of worship, six of which have been built, or are being erected, in Maui.

Measures have been adopted to introduce Christian Instruction into the island of Fanai, and four teachers have been promised to the natives of Morakai, several of whom had visited Lahaina, importunately entreating the missionaries to send them instructors.

The moral effects of the labours of the missionaries are evident, particularly in Maui and Hawaii. They have, however, had to contend with difficulties; but they nevertheless *feel assured that a good work has been commenced, which they confidently expect will spread and extend itself till the whole of these lands shall be blessed!*

ULTRA-GANGES.

CHINA.

ROBERT MORRISON, D. D., *Missionary.*

LEANG-A-FA, or (Afä,) *Native Teacher.*

Dr. Morrison and family arrived safe at Macao on the 19th of September. During their voyage, they suffered much from the effects of a vertical sun, from tempestuous weather, and other unpropitious circumstances; but we are happy to add, that, up to the 24th of October, the date of the latest communications from Dr. Morrison, they were in tolerable health.

On board the *Orwell* prayers were performed morning and evening, and a regular service on the Sabbath, when the weather and other circumstances were favourable.

The first Sabbath after his arrival, Dr. Morrison resumed the religious services he had been accustomed to perform previously to his visit to Europe.

During Dr. Morrison's absence from China, Leang-a-fä composed, among other works, a small volume, in Chinese, containing explanatory notes on the Epistle to the Hebrews. Of this work, considering the few advantages Afä possessed, Dr. Morrison speaks favourably. Afä had also written a small Essay in favour of the Christian Religion, entitled, *The True Principles of the World's Salvation*; in which he points out the necessity of a Saviour, and shows that Jesus Christ has made an atonement for sin. He directs the attention of his countrymen to the Bible, which, he informs them, European Christians have, at a great expense, caused to be translated into Chinese, printed, and given to the people. He had likewise drawn up a short account of several interesting conversations, held at different times, with certain of his countrymen, who had casually taken up the Bible when he was himself present. Since Dr. Morrison's return, Afä has drawn up a brief statement of the religious progress of his own mind while under the tuition of the late Dr. Milne at Malacca, which, at length, issued in his determination fully to embrace Christianity.

The above statements relative to Leang-a-fä, however in themselves pleasing, derive additional interest from the almost universal rejection of the Gospel by the inhabitants of China, with which

they stand contrasted. An empire is here presented to our view, containing 150 millions of souls, involved in gross spiritual darkness; while standing, as it were, on its utmost verge, we behold a single individual of that empire defending the existence and perfections of the true God, the necessity and efficacy of our Lord's atonement for the sin of the world, and inviting his countrymen to read the Scriptures, which have been translated for their use, as containing words by which they may be saved. May this light, small indeed and comparatively dim, increase more and more, until it shall at length break forth in all the brightness of meridian day.

So fully persuaded is Dr. Morrison of the importance and utility of Comments on the Scriptures, in reference to converted and inquiring heathens, that, while the present obstacles to preaching the Gospel in China continue, he conceives he cannot more profitably employ his time than in composing Explanatory Notes on the Chinese Bible.

PENINSULA OF MALACCA.

JAMES HUMPHREYS, DAVID COLLIE, SAMUEL KIDD, JOHN SMITH, A. M. JACOB TOMLIN, B. A.	}	<i>Missionaries.</i>
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Station, TOWN of MALACCA.

The appointment of the Rev. Jacob Tomlin to this station, was noticed at the last anniversary. Mr. Tomlin sailed in the ship *Florentia*, Captain Aldham, for Calcutta, on the 20th of June, and we trust has long ere this arrived at Malacca.

Mr. Samuel Kidd, who in the latter part of the year 1825 left this station for Pinang, to take the charge of the mission there, during the absence of Mr. Beighton, (who had taken a voyage of health to Singapore,) returned to Malacca in the following February.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith, with their companions, arrived at Madras on the 11th of September. On the 28th of the same month, they left that Presidency for Malacca, where they arrived safe on the 22d of October, having touched at Pinang on their way.

Chinese Schools.—The number of these schools is seven, containing from 240 to 250 boys. They are all conducted on de-

cidedly Christian principles. The Deputation visited and inspected each of them in January 1826, and, so far as they were able to judge, were satisfied both with the progress of the boys and the principles on which the schools are conducted.

Malay Schools, &c.—The local government has engaged to support two native schools, one Malayan, and the other Tamil. A free-school, to be supported by the inhabitants, has also been opened. It contains about 170 Malay boys, who are instructed in the principles of Christianity. These three schools are under the superintendence of Mr. Humphreys, who has the charge of the Malay branch of the mission, and whose attainments in Malayan qualify him for preaching therein. The Malay inhabitants of Malacca are supposed to exceed 10,000.

The Deputation state, that, in their opinion, a prominent object in schools, established in heathen countries, should be, the training up the elder boys to be schoolmasters, it being reasonable to suppose that those who have been so educated, will feel much less attachment to idolatry, and be better fitted, both intellectually and morally, for promoting the object of the missionaries, than the present native schoolmasters are.

Worship in Chinese, &c.—The Chinese services continue to be performed every morning and evening in the College-Hall, when all the students attend. On the Sabbath, beside three short lectures, there are other religious exercises, adapted to imbue the mind with truth, and to impress it upon the conscience.

The foundation of the Chapel, which is being erected at this station, was laid on the 28th January, 1826, at the time the Deputation were there. A considerable number of persons, of different nations, attended on the occasion, who were respectively addressed by Messrs. Tyerman, Collie, and Humphreys, in English, Chinese, and Malayan.

The dimensions of the Chapel, which has been secured to the Society, are 40 feet by 30. The missionaries state, that the subscriptions on the spot, towards defraying the expense attending its erection, have exceeded their most sanguine expectations; but they hope, nevertheless, that friends at home will aid them in the work.

The missionaries still continue to itinerate in the interior of the district of Malacca, for the purpose of preaching to the

Chinese, on which occasions they are uniformly accompanied by some of the students belonging to the Anglo-Chinese College. The latter assist in collecting the people together for worship, in leading the singing, &c. The missionaries express a hope, that by thus taking the Chinese youths, belonging to the College, with them on their preaching tours, they may be gradually trained for the work in which, it is earnestly desired, they may eventually engage, viz. preaching the Gospel to their fellow-countrymen.

Mr. Kidd employs a portion of his time in going out among the people and conversing with them upon religious subjects. To such as are able to read he gives tracts; to such as are not, he explains a portion of some suitable book.

Works prepared, or in progress.

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|---|---|
| 1. Small book in English and Chinese, consisting of Colloquial Phrases; with a few Hints on Geography, History, &c. &c. | } Printed for the use of the Students in the A. C. College. |
| 2. An Abridgment of Sacred History | |
| 3. A Brief Outline of Divine Revelation | |
| 4. Extract from Dr. Watts' <i>On the End of Time</i> , in Chinese, printed at the expense of the Religious Tract Society. | |
| 5. An English Translation of the ancient Chinese Work entitled <i>The Four Books</i> , &c. | |

Mr. Kidd has translated into Chinese several sermons on the leading doctrines of Christianity, some of which have been printed and put into circulation. By this method, he is enabled to promote his own improvement in the language, and, at the same time, provide useful books for the heathen.

ANGLO-CHINESE COLLEGE.

From June 1825 to June 1826, six Chinese youths were received on the foundation, and two during the same period left the College. The number of students on the books, at the termination of the above-mentioned period, was twenty; of whom seventeen were supported by the College funds, and three by private individuals. There were, at the same time, six candidates; some of whom, it was probable, would be admitted on the foundation. Two Dutch youths attend the College, for the purpose of acquiring the English and Chinese languages. The total number of students, exclusive of an evening class, con-

sisting of Chinese and Portuguese, who are learning English, was 28.

Two of the students are natives of China. One of them, whose age is twenty-one years, has, in the course of little more than twelve months, acquired such a knowledge of English, as enables him to translate from it with tolerable ease and accuracy. He has already made a Chinese translation of Keith's *Treatise on the Globes*, and, it is probable, he will shortly be capable of translating English works, generally. The other young man manifests great steadiness of character, and is diligently employed in storing his mind with the leading truths of Revelation. Both of them are likely to return to China, at the expiration of their term of study.

An English gentleman, recommended by Dr. Morrison, who entered the College in September 1825, has made such attainments there, as qualify him for usefulness among the Chinese. This individual has been engaged by the Committee of the *British and Foreign Bible Society*, to travel in the countries of the Indian Archipelago, for the purpose of distributing the Scriptures.

In reference to the moral and literary progress of the pupils, the missionaries, in their Printed Report of the College for 1826, from which the preceding information has been chiefly drawn, make the following observations:—

“ We feel deeply concerned that we cannot gratify the generous supporters of the Institution by relating any particular instances of conversion as the result of our labours; nor have we the satisfaction of being able to say, that their progress, in a literary point of view, has been such as we could have wished. Many obstacles lie in the way, the force of which can be fully felt by those only who come into actual contact with them.

“ We trust, however, that ground has been gained during the past year. At least, a considerable degree of information, which of all others is infinitely most important to man, has evidently been acquired. The youthful mind has been stored with those great truths *which are able to make men wise unto salvation, through faith that is in Jesus Christ.*”

Miss Maria Newell, whose offer of service to go out to Malacca to assist in the promotion of Native Female Education the Directors had accepted, and whose respectable attainments in Chinese justify the hope of her usefulness in that department of the mission, embarked, with several other missionaries, on the 11th of April, in the *Roxburgh Castle*.

SINGAPORE.

C. H. THOMSEN, *Missionary.*

Native Schools.—Here are three Malay Schools, of which two are for boys and the other for girls; and one Chinese. In the former schools about 30 children receive Christian Instruction, and in the latter school 12. The Malay children attend irregularly, and their progress is small; the Chinese regularly, and their proficiency is considerable.

Malay Preaching.—One of the Malay services has been, for the present, suspended, in consequence of the dispersion of the people of the place where it was held, by a fire that consumed nearly 200 houses. The services at the Chapel are continued as formerly, but the attendance seldom exceeds twenty. Of these, however, some make good progress in Christian Knowledge.

A Malay female, who formerly shared in the benefit of the school, after a suitable term of probation, has been baptized. She is the first adult native who has, in this way, manifested her desire to put on the yoke of Christ.

Distribution of the Scriptures, Tracts, &c.—The number of these, in Chinese, Malay, and English, put into circulation during the last year, was upwards of 6,500. The chief part consisted of tracts given either to Chinese settlers or to those on board the junks, who received them with apparent interest, and sometimes applied for them with earnestness. In the distribution of Malay tracts, Mr. Thomsen, beside supplying the prows in the harbour, avails himself of opportunities of leaving copies in the shops of the Chinese, to be given to their Malay customers.

Printing-Office.—About 25,000 Malay tracts have been printed during the past year, of which part have been sent, for distribution, to Malacca, Pinang, and Batavia. The Malayan translation of *The Acts of the Apostles*, in course of printing at the former station, is not yet completed.

Mr. Samuel Dyer, appointed to this station, embarked, with Mrs. Dyer, in the Roxburgh Castle, on the 11th of April. Mr. and Mrs. Dyer, having each of them already made considerable progress in the attainment of Chinese, proceed to

their appointed station, with the pleasing expectation of entering, shortly after their arrival, upon direct missionary labours. This will be the more desirable, as the Chinese branch of the mission has been, for some considerable time, in a languishing state, from the want of suitable labourers; and it is our earnest hope this accession will contribute, under the divine blessing, to place this department of the mission on an efficient footing.

Mr. and Mrs. Dyer are among the first-fruits of the efforts made in our own country to communicate the oriental languages to missionaries prior to their going out to their stations in that quarter of the world.

PINANG.

Station, GEORGE TOWN.

THOMAS BEIGHTON, *Missionary.*

Mr. Beighton's health was much improved by his visit to Singapore,* whence he returned to Pinang, in December 1825.

Malay Schools.—These schools have been increased to six, of which five are for boys and one for girls. The number of the former on the School-Register is 127, of the latter 38; making a total of 165. Mr. Beighton finds much of his hope of usefulness among the Mohammedans, in many of whom a decline of prejudice is perceptible, on the Christian Instruction disseminated by means of the Native Schools.

Malay Worship.—On every Sabbath morning the missionary explains the doctrines of the Gospel to a small congregation of Malays, partly consisting of the teachers and scholars belonging to the schools. In the afternoon, he visits one or other of the schools, and gives an exhortation to the children, and to such adults as may attend from the immediate vicinity. Of the adult Malays who hear the Gospel, several of whom appear to make progress in the knowledge of the Scriptures, the number is increasing. Some who privately acknowledge the divine authority of the New Testament, fear to avow their conviction openly.

* See Report for 1826, page 32.

English Worship.—A lecture, preached by Mr. Beighton at the Chapel on Sabbath evenings, is attended by several of the more respectable Europeans of the settlement. This service, which has proved very useful to individuals, tends generally to keep alive an interest in favour of the mission. A church was formed on the 11th of July, 1826. Among its members are a gentleman and his lady, residents in Pinang, who have lately renounced Popery.

The state of religion, generally, among the European residents when compared with what it was seven years ago, exhibits proofs of decided and gratifying improvement.

In the Mission Chapel, which the Deputation describe as an excellent building fitted up with great neatness, a gallery has been erected during the past year, the expense of which has been defrayed by J. Cross, Esq., Deputy Commissary of Ordnance. We are happy to add, from advices recently received, that the debt upon the Chapel has been reduced, during the past year, by subscriptions on the spot, to less than £100.

The population of Pinang, according to a Census taken up to 31st December, 1825, amounted at that time to nearly 38,000 persons; of whom nearly 14,000 were Malays and Bugguese, and about 7,500 Chinese. Since the period mentioned, numerous migrations from the surrounding countries have raised the population, according to the statement of a respectable individual in Pinang, to 55,000.

JAVA.

Station, BATAVIA.

W. H. MEDHURST, *Missionary.*

Chinese Schools.—The number of these is four; three in the Fokëen, and one in the Canton, dialect. Pleasing evidence is from time to time afforded of the improvement of the children in Christian Knowledge, while the ideas they imbibe of the folly of idolatry, Mr. Medhurst thinks, may reasonably be expected to prepare their minds for a more candid attention to the truth, and a more ready reception of it, at a future period of life. He has commenced, for the benefit of the adherents to the mission, an English School, which is under his own immediate superintendence.

Native Preaching.—The Chinese and Malay Services, on the Sabbath, are continued. The Chinese Service is seldom attended by any except by the teachers and children belonging to the schools; but Mr. Medhurst considers the non-attendance of others as attributable to the indifference felt by the Chinese to all religion, rather than a bigotted attachment to their own. Mr. Medhurst still preaches every Friday evening in Malayan, and with more encouragement than formerly. Every Wednesday afternoon he delivers an exhortation to the patients in the Native Hospital, and every Thursday evening expounds the Scriptures to a few persons who formerly enjoyed the labours of Mr. Robinson, Baptist missionary, and of the late Mr. Deering.

The Canton and Fokkēn colloquial dialects having now become comparatively familiar to Mr. Medhurst, he feels little difficulty in addressing the people. In the evenings he goes from house to house, conversing with all who manifest any disposition to listen to him. At places of public resort he usually procures auditors, but is seldom able to collect half-a-dozen together at one time; what, therefore, he cannot effect by preaching to large assemblies, he endeavours to make up by the frequency of his addresses to numerous small auditories.

English Congregation.—Mr. Medhurst's English Congregation has been still further reduced, by the departure of European residents from Batavia, chiefly in consequence of the war which has lately prevailed in Java. Among the respectable Europeans who formerly attended the English Services at the Mission Chapel, and have been removed by death, we are deeply concerned to record the name of the late George Livett, Esq., who has for many years been a steady friend and supporter of the mission. This respectable and benevolent individual died on the 22d of April, 1826.

Printing-Establishment.—During the past year, Mr. Medhurst has printed a new Tract, in Chinese, *On the Redemption by Jesus Christ*; a *Dialogue between an Englishman and a Chinaman*, and a *Reply to a Printed Hand-bill of a Chinese*, which hand-bill maintains the absurd proposition, that because European Governments, and natives of Europe, in certain alleged particulars, violate the principles of justice, &c. therefore the Christian Religion is to be refused. Accordingly, the drift of

the latter two tracts is to show, that, not Europeans, as such, but those only who, in character, resemble Jesus Christ, are really Christians.

The mission books circulated among the heathen in Batavia are frequently read, and form the subjects of conversation and discussion among them, when the missionary is not present. From these facts Mr. Medhurst derives a measure of encouragement, hoping that the leaven has at length begun to work, which, in process of time, will leaven the whole lump.

The Chinese Magazine, edited and published by Mr. Medhurst, continues to be acceptable to that part of the public in Batavia, &c. for whom it is designed.

In October last, Mr. Medhurst performed a missionary tour along the eastern coast of Java, during which he visited Sourabaya, Taggal, and Samarang. Sourabaya he considers as in many respects eligible for a missionary station. The Chinese there are a more respectable and more intelligent class of men than at many other places, and have more leisure, as well as more inclination, for religious inquiry. One family of considerable influence, has, for six generations, abstained from the worship of images, and has renounced, generally, the grosser parts of Buddhism. There is also here a small body of Christians belonging to the Dutch Church, who manifest a truly missionary spirit, and are disposed to further, to the utmost of their power, missionary objects in this quarter. They have employed a person to translate the New Testament, from the Dutch Version, into the low, or vernacular, Malay. Mr. Medhurst has engaged to interest himself in furthering this design, and has accordingly written to the missionaries, at different stations, who have made proficiency in Malay, to lend their aid for its accomplishment.

While in this part of Java, Mr. Medhurst visited the Aborigines in the mountains of Tengger, who prefer the original religion of Java, and have never been induced, either by fear or persuasion, to embrace Mohammedanism. *

* This race of Mountaineers is mentioned in the late Sir Stamford Raffles's History of Java; and the district in which they reside has been recommended by the late Governor General, the Baron Van der Capellen, as the most eligible field for missionary labour in the island of Java.

During his tour, Mr. Medhurst had many opportunities of conversing with the people, and distributing tracts.

AMBOYNA.

Station, TOWN of AMBOYNA.

JOSEPH KAM, *Missionary.*

From the latest communications of Mr. Kam, which are dated in March 1826, it appears, that, in the latter part of the preceding year, he performed another missionary tour among the islands of the Malayan Archipelago. During this journey, he not only visited the islands of Kisser and Leti, where he had called on a former tour, but also the following, which lie further to the southward, viz. Moa, Lahor, Roma, Damma, Luwan, Cerematta, and Babar. He likewise visited the Arroo Islands, which are situated at a still greater distance, in a south-easterly direction. The aggregate population of these several islands is computed to consist of between 19,000 and 20,000 souls. As Mr. Kam's report of this tour has not come to hand, we are unable to give further particulars.

Mr. Kam mentions, that, at Amboyna, persons from time to time offer themselves as candidates for baptism.

During February 1826, five Native Teachers were sent from Amboyna to several of the Molucca islands, situated to the south-east and south-west, in consequence of applications previously received from the inhabitants. Beside the above-mentioned, two Teachers, natives of Banda, have been sent to that island, in compliance with their own earnest desire, to instruct their countrymen in the knowledge of the Gospel.

Mr. Kam's Malay translation of the First Volume of the Rev. Mr. Burder's *Village Sermons* is now in circulation. A copy of this work has been received in this country.

due proportion of the passage-money, embarked, with Mrs. Crow and family, for England, in the *Barrosa*, Captain Hutchinson. They sailed from Port Louis on the 5th of September, and arrived safe in England on the 12th of December last.

On Mr. Crow's departure from Quilon, the mission there was placed under the superintendence of Mr. Ashton, assistant missionary from Nagercoil. He has collected a native congregation, consisting of about twenty persons, who assemble every Sabbath afternoon, when a service is performed, in which he is assisted by the Reader, *Rowland Hill*.

The Readers,* beside visiting the bazaars and other places of public resort, itinerate in the neighbouring villages.

The Native Schools, which contain about 300 children, are in an improving state.

The Gun-Lascar, named *John Carter*, one of the fruits of Mr. Crow's labours, and who was baptized by him a short time before he left Quilon, holds fast his profession in the midst of opposition.

Mr. J. C. Thompson, from the Mission College, who has been appointed to succeed Mr. Crow, at Quilon, embarked, with Mrs. Thompson, on the 10th of April, in the *George*, accompanied by Mr. W. B. Addis, appointed to the same station as Superintendent of the Schools, and Mr. and Mrs. Miller, destined to Nagercoil, as before mentioned.

RUSSIA.

ST. PETERSBURGH.

Mr. Knill continues to prosecute his useful labours, with such instances of success, from time to time, as gladden his heart and animate him in his work.

Mr. Rahmn, who still remains in this country, has, during the past year, rendered useful services, connected with the official business of the Society.

* The names of the Readers at present employed in this part of Travancore, that of *Rowland Hill* excepted, have not been received.

SIBERIA.

SELENGINSK.

EDWARD STALLYBRASS,	} Missionaries.
WILLIAM SWAN,	
ROBERT YUILLE,	

Seminary for Buriat Youths.—The number of youths at present in the Seminary is six. They are instructed in Greek, Latin, Russ, English, and Mongolian; in the Mathematics, in General Knowledge, and in the Scriptures. They make good progress in the several branches of learning, and render useful services in the literary department of the mission, particularly in transcribing manuscripts, &c. The number of youths admitted since the commencement of the Seminary is fourteen. Some of them, from local causes, remained but a short time in the Institution; yet they did not quit it until they had learned to read and write their own language, and made such progress in other valuable attainments, as cannot fail to be of great use to them in the course of their future life.

Native Services.—The missionaries still continue steadily to preach the Gospel to the Buriats, chiefly dependants on the mission, but hitherto without apparent success.

Translation of the Scriptures.—The Mongolian translation of the New Testament was completed during the past year, and considerable progress has been made in that of the Old Testament. The importance of this translation of the Scriptures will be more fully appreciated, when it is considered that Mongolian is spoken and understood, not only among the Buriats, but extensively in Chinese Tartary, and, in a south-westerly direction, among the inhabitants of all the intermediate country, from Selenginsk to Tibet.*

Mr. Stallybrass has again visited the missionary station on the Ona. He was absent from Selenginsk about two months, during which time he availed himself of such opportunities as occurred of preaching the Gospel to the people.

* The Mongolians *proper* are subjects of the Chinese Empire, and the *Kalkas* and *Eluths*, also under the same Government, use the same language.

The Lamas in that quarter are zealous in their attempts to make proselytes among the *Shamans*,* and have built two new temples. The people in this part of the country appear to be less under the influence of prejudice than the other Buriats.

Mr. Yuille has visited Kaiachta, and was received in a friendly manner by the Russian Director of Trade, and by the military chief on the Chinese frontier. The former presented to him a valuable work in the Mongolian language.

Towards the close of the past year, Mr. Swan visited a tribe of Buriats who inhabit that part of the country which lies along the shores of the Baikal, near the mouths of the Selenga. He conversed with the Taisha and principal people; endeavoured to direct their minds to the importance of education, and informed them of the existence of the Seminary at Selenginsk. They were fully aware of the importance of learning to read and write Russ, and several of them seemed inclined to send their children to the Seminary, but were prevented on finding that the missionaries seek no remuneration for the instructions they impart. A plan of *doing good disinterestedly*, they regard as justly liable to suspicion.

There are few parts of the world, perhaps none, in which the Society has stations, where more formidable impediments are to be overcome by missionary labours, than those which (independently of the moral causes which operate everywhere) exist among the Buriats. These arise principally from their want of education, their deeply-rooted superstitions, and the influence of their priests. Mr. Swan, in a letter to the Directors, has the following remarks on this subject, which we cite, not only because they are adapted to make a powerful impression as to the nature of some of the difficulties with which the missionaries at this station have to contend, but also because of their intrinsic value, as viewed in reference to other missions similarly circumstanced, and also as they are calculated to excite, in a peculiar manner, the sympathies of Christians, and to prompt their prayers in behalf of such missionaries as labour

* *Shamanism* is considered as the most ancient religion of the inhabitants of the Buriats, Tongats, Kamschatdales, Laplanders, and, prior to their reception of Christianity, also of the Finns. It consists partly of a kind of adoration paid to fire, a reliance on amulets, &c. without any regular observances, (such as fasting, prayer, and sacrifices,) and is unsupported by books and an order of priesthood, as is the case with *Lamaism*.

from year to year amidst circumstances of a like discouraging nature.

Obstacles to the Success of Missionary Exertions in Siberia.

“Most of the Lamas now decline, as much as possible, all discussion. They are, generally speaking, unwilling to hear us, when we would make known to them the way of salvation, and even avoid speaking in favour of their own tenets. Some, indeed, either less cunning or more confident in the supposed goodness of their cause, will still attempt to defend it; but they evidently show that they are neither willing to be convinced of their errors, nor to forsake them, even should they be convinced. One of them, the chief Lama of a temple, lately closed a discussion with me to this effect: ‘I am an old man; my system of faith I have held too long to change it now. It is therefore in vain for you to argue with me, for I will die as I have lived, a disciple of *Shigimuni*.’* ”

“Every Christian mission established in a heathen country has a direct tendency to excite and keep up inquiry, and much may be done in sapping the foundations of an erroneous system before any outward change is apparent. In such a scene of labour, the direct communication of the Gospel must ever be accompanied with the declaration of its exclusive claims, to be believed and obeyed as the only true doctrine of salvation to a world of sinners. Many heathens, and none more than the priests themselves, are ready to admit that the religion of the Bible may be very good for those who already profess it, while they maintain that their own books and manner of worship are equally good for *themselves*. A great point is gained when the people see the fallacy of this argument, for they must then admit the necessity of inquiring in earnest, *what is truth?* and however unwilling to submit to the holy and humbling doctrine of the cross of Christ, they cannot but have serious doubts and misgivings as to their own idolatry.”

It has been the constant desire of the Directors that the benefits of education should, as far as possible, be imparted to the Buriats, and they have accordingly, from time to time, brought before the missionaries the great importance of establishing schools in Siberia for their benefit; not, however, under any impression that the missionaries themselves were not also fully alive to the object. On this subject Mr. Swan makes the following remarks.

Importance of Native Schools in Missionary Operations.

“We had not been here long before we saw the peculiar importance of adopting some plans for the promotion of General Education among the people,

* *Shigimuni*, a celebrated ancient prince, that introduced a reformed system of Buddhism into Tibet, and other countries of the East, and who is worshipped under that name by the Mongolians; under the name of Xaka by the Tibetans; and in China under that of Fo, or Fūh. He is considered the father of the Lamaite religion.

in connexion with the preaching of the Gospel, and the translation of the Scriptures; and every succeeding year has deepened the conviction, that the *young* demanded our especial attention. And when we speak of the education of the young, it must be understood, that this includes, not merely instruction in the arts of reading, writing, &c. but the inculcation of Christian principles, both by the use of Christian school-books and the direct instruction communicated by the teacher; so that it is, strictly speaking, a *Christian education*. Some friends of the cause, not perhaps properly advertng to this, appear, to me, to undervalue *schools*, as a leading object of the attention of the missionary: but even were nothing more done than teaching the youth of a heathen nation to read by means of native teachers, surely this, when the Scriptures are ready for circulation among them, is no small matter. Ignorance is emphatically the mother of *their* devotion, and, in many cases, ignorance of their own as well as of other religions; and accordingly the *Lamas*, in these parts, as if they were sensible of this, while they themselves must learn to read, in order to utter the words of their voluminous *noms*,* keep the meaning of them concealed under the veil of an unknown tongue.

“Our various communications have shown what difficulties we have met with in our attempts to establish schools among the Buriats, and in how small a degree our wishes are yet realized. Three or four years ago, we endeavoured, without success, to engage the chiefs of the people to aid with their influence in the formation of native schools over the whole extent of the country. We contemplated being able, eventually, to take a general superintendence of such schools, and at length to furnish able teachers of Buriat youth from a Seminary to be attached to the mission. This Seminary we were enabled to commence, and it is still continued; and though not carried to the extent we desire, we have no reason to be discouraged, either as to the attainments or character of the pupils that have been trained in it. Indeed, we consider it as matter of special gratitude, that we have been permitted to do what *has been done*.”

MEDITERRANEAN.

CORFU.

ISAAC LOWNDES, *Missionary*.

On the approach of winter, Mr. Lowndes resumed his Greek Lecture, and had a very pleasing attendance. He was happy to observe, among others, some who had attended during the preceding season.

The Greek Sabbath-School still contains about 40 scholars, who commit to memory portions of the New Testament, and the Catechisms of Dr. Watts.

* Books containing their theology, morals, metaphysics, &c.

The attendance on the English services has been more encouraging during the past year, and Mr. Lowndes has reason to hope that he has not laboured in vain.

The English Sabbath-School is in a more promising state, and is better supplied with teachers.

The printing of Mr. Lowndes's *English and Modern Greek Lexicon* is finished. Of the Grammar prefixed, 200 copies have been printed separately; he has reason, however, to regret, that of the Grammar he did not print a larger number of copies, as the demand for them is greater than he is able to meet.

The printing of the Greek and Albanian Testament, carried on under the superintendence of Mr. Lowndes, has advanced as far as the *First Epistle to the Corinthians*.* Another Albanian tract, making the fifth, has been sent to press.

Portions of the New Testament, in Albanian, have been forwarded to Constantinople, for distribution.

Dr. Watts's Catechisms, in Italian, have been printed.

The translation of the Rev. Mr. Scott's Essays, into Modern Greek, is finished, and will shortly be sent to press. The translation of the Rev. Mr. Bickersteth's Treatise on Prayer is in progress.

Mr. Lowndes has been amply supplied by Mr. Wilson with tracts and elementary and other school-books, for sale and gratuitous distribution; and he has introduced Mr. Wilson's Greek Spelling-book into several schools. He has also received books, for distribution, from the Rev. Mr. Jowett, of the Church Missionary Society.

The lamented fall of Missolonghi closed up an important channel for the distribution of books in Greece. Mr. Lowndes, however, has been enabled to open a communication with it, through the medium of a gentleman resident in the Morea, who has engaged to take measures for putting into circulation copies of the Scriptures and tracts, supplies of which have been consigned to his charge, for that purpose.

Mr. Lowndes has again visited Cephalonia and Zante, and has made arrangements for promoting a constant and extensive cir-

* From subsequent communications we learn that it has advanced as far as the *Epistle of Jude*. Copies of the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles, in Albanian, have been received by the Society. Also copies of the English and Modern Greek Lexicon, complete.

SUNDRIES.

Donation from J. Bogue, Esq. (son) & Mrs. Parker and Miss Bogue, daughters of the late Rev. David Bogue, (D.D.)	100 0 0	Anonymous, Proceeds of Silver Buckles sold ..	2 0 0	Hoxton College, 5th annual subscription, by "Joseph"—Gen. xxxiv. chap. and 22 ver.	3 0 4
An Invalid	2 0 0	Bank of England Note, (No. 19415)	10 0 0	Shakespeare's Walk Chapel—Left in the Chapel by a Stranger, per Mr. Summerland	1 0 0
Collected by Ann Henley	1 1 11	C. Frances	1 0 0	Ditto ditto, per Ditto ..	0 12 6
A Friend to the Gospel	1 0 0	Collections after Missionary Prayer Meetings, per Rev. R. Saunders	0 11 0	Two Sisters, per Mr. J. King	1 0 0
A Juvenile	0 10 0	Camberwell, Proceeds of Old Coins sold,—by Mrs. Pirie	5 8 9		
A Thank-offering	2 0 0				
Donation from "Thanks"	5 0 0				

ABSTRACT OF THE COUNTY AUXILIARY SOCIETIES.

Page	COUNTY SOCIETIES.	1827.	Total.
xx.	Bedfordshire		211 5 10
<i>ibid.</i>	Berkshire	378 17 5	2302 9 3
xxi.	Bucks, North	117 4 10	543 11 3
<i>ibid.</i>	South	96 15 0	404 11 1
xxii.	Cambridgeshire	188 0 3	2967 8 10
xxiii.	Cheshire	350 2 8	3466 18 9
xxiv.	Cornwall	318 14 8	2920 13 3
xxv.	Devon, East	239 1 1	666 13 9
xxvi.	North	45 8 0	290 16 6
xxvii.	Plymouth, Devonport, and Stonehouse	176 13 7	1279 14 1
xxviii.	Essex	739 7 7	5920 12 5
xxxi.	Gloucestershire	345 11 4	3965 0 6
xxxiii.	Herts	234 13 11	1822 10 10
xxxiv.	Huntingdonshire	49 11 11	592 13 6
xxxv.	Kent	766 0 2	3881 12 11
xxxvii.	Lancashire, East	1288 9 0	13491 13 2
xxxviii.	West	691 1 5	2833 8 0
xxxix.	Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Derbyshire	625 14 10	4072 5 5
xli.	Lincolnshire, Brigg	60 0 0	738 13 10
<i>ibid.</i>	Gainsborough	58 5 3	576 16 10
<i>ibid.</i>	Lincoln	85 0 0	946 3 8
<i>ibid.</i>	Ditto, South	68 16 6	68 16 6
<i>ibid.</i>	Middlesex	104 5 10	1491 19 11
xlili.	Norfolk	210 0 0	1540 1 0
<i>ibid.</i>	Northampton Association	873 3 10	1243 10 4
<i>ibid.</i>	Newcastle	117 2 2	1750 11 4
xlvi.	Shrewsbury	103 10 0	1571 15 3
<i>ibid.</i>	Somersetshire—Bristol	384 13 10	13416 19 4
<i>ibid.</i>	Auxiliary	264 12 8	2925 8 5
xlvi.	Bath	95 0 0	1060 0 0
<i>ibid.</i>	Staffordshire	148 8 5	148 8 5
xlvi.	Suffolk	342 7 1	2729 16 4
<i>ibid.</i>	Surrey	169 4 4	230 11 3
xlvi.	Sussex	480 19 7	2959 9 5
xlvi.	Warwickshire, Staffordshire, and Worcestershire	1832 7 0	15063 4 11
<i>ibid.</i>	Wilts and East Somerset	630 5 10	2480 7 7
<i>ibid.</i>	Yorkshire, Hull and East Riding	327 2 11	4491 9 7
liii.	North Riding	200 12 10	2260 10 10
<i>ibid.</i>	West Riding	1994 6 6	19391 1 4
lvi.	Wales, North Wales Association	804 7 0	6141 10 4
<i>ibid.</i>	Ditto Auxiliary Society	342 10 8	2987 12 0
lvii.	South Wales Ditto	427 12 2	4749 11 7
lxii.	Hibernian Society	300 0 0	4078 10 6

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ERRATUM.

xxii. Bucks—Chesham, Rev. J. Hall and Friends (omitted)..... 5 1 7

DISBURSEMENTS,

For the Year ending 31st March, 1827.

SOUTH SEA MISSIONS, including Salaries and Supplies; Expenses of the Mission to the Aborigines of New South Wales; Balance of former Accounts paid the Rev S. Marsden; also the Equipment of Three Missionaries	4700	8	11
CHINA AND MALACCA, including Salaries, Expense of Printing Establishment, Alteration of Mission Premises, and Furniture, Native Readers and Schools; also the Equipment and Passages of Two Missionaries	2287	11	10
ANGLO-CHINESE COLLEGE—Amount of Payments on its behalf	549	5	5
Less Contributions received in England	188	12	0
	360	13	5
SINGAPORE, including Salary, also the Equipment and Passage of a Missionary, &c.	985	6	0
JAVA, including Salary, Expenses of Printing Establishment, Repairs of Mission Premises, and Schools	713	2	0
PINANG, including Salary, Schools, and Teachers	914	17	5
INDIA—Calcutta, Chinsurah, Berhampore, Benares, and Surat, including Salaries, Arrears of Salaries for 1825, Native Readers and Schools; also the Equipment and Passages of Two Missionaries	6540	14	2
Madras, Vizagapatam, Cuddapah, Belgaum, Bellary, Bangalore, Chittoor, and Travancore, including Salaries, Native Readers, and Schools, Printing Establishment; also the Equipment and Passages of Six Missionaries and Families	7813	1	5
	14353	15	7
GREEK ISLANDS, including Salaries, Printing Establishment, Rent of Chapel, and Mission Premises	983	7	7
SIBERIA	471	16	9
SOUTH AFRICA, including Salaries and Expenses at the several Stations, also the Equipment and Passage of a Missionary, &c.	6671	0	0
ISLE OF FRANCE, including Salary, and £100. voted by the Board of Directors, towards the Erection of the Mission Chapel at Port Louis	455	17	6
MADAGASCAR, including Salaries, the Equipment and Passages of a Missionary and Family, and two Missionary Artisans; the Passage of a Missionary Artisan and his Wife from Port Louis to Madagascar, also a Loan for the Establishment of a School Repository, and for the introduction of Manufactures	2521	15	7
WEST INDIES—Berbice	303	4	11
Demerara	306	5	10
	609	10	9
CONTINENT OF EUROPE	210	0	0
MISSION COLLEGE. Making the requisite Alterations in the Premises, and Repairs: furnishing House, Studies, and Dormitories, Taxes, Insurance, &c.	1715	13	11
Salaries of Tutors, and Allowances to Students; also for the Maintenance of Students at Gosport, and subsequently at Hoxton	1897	15	1
Travelling, Board, and Incidental Expenses of Students and Missionaries, and of removal from Gosport	646	6	8
	2544	1	9
MISSIONARY FAMILIES.	4250	15	8
For the Passage of Mrs. Chambers and Family from Madras, Mr. and Mrs. Crow and child from Bombay, Mr. Nott from the South Sea Islands, Mr. Canham from Madagascar, and for the support of Missionaries who have returned to England	2089	12	0
Allowances to Widows and Orphans of Missionaries in England	327	17	2
	2417	9	2
PUBLICATIONS.			
Paper	759	11	4
Printing and Binding	748	6	0
	1507	17	4
SUNDRIES. Salaries of the Home and Assistant Secretaries, the Accountant, Clerk, and Messenger, and Poundage to the Collector	1019	17	6
Rent, Taxes, and Insurance for the Society's House	259	0	9
Repairs, &c. for Mission House and Museum, including Freight and Charges upon Idols, and other Curiosities	189	3	5
Travelling Expenses of Ministers, for the purpose of forming and visiting Auxiliary Societies, and obtaining Collections	515	0	0
Expenses at the Annual Meeting, the previous Meeting of the Auxiliary Societies, and for the Travelling of the Preachers at the Anniversary	141	14	11
Stationery, Missionary Boxes furnished to Auxiliary Societies, Advertisements, and Books for Library	131	9	2
Postages, Carriage of Parcels, and other incidental Charges	553	7	5
	2809	13	2
	£47233	19	2
Less Amount of Acceptances belonging to the preceding year, included in the above Sum	3780	9	0
Total	£43453	10	2