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Religious Intelligence.

TRANSLATION OF THE SCRIPTURES.

To all who feel an interest in the translation of the Scriptures into the languages of India.

The following statement is respectfully submitted by the subscriber, who would also observe that he, in company with Mr. Lawson, from England (who is also a proficient in the beautiful and important art of engraving on wood) is now in this country, waiting for conveyance to join the missionaries, and should any contributions be made in aid of the translations, by individuals, societies, or congregations in the United States, such contributions may be forwarded to Robert Rals on, Esq. of Philadelphia, or to any of the gentlemen whose names are subjoined, which will be faithfully transmitted by them, through the missionaries, when an opportunity offers to sail for that country.

WILLIAM JOHNS.

Surgeon to the Baptist mission in India, and Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, in London. Now at Deacon Lincoln's, Charles street.

Boston, October 31.

It is presumed that the American people are partially acquainted with the number of languages into which the scriptures at Serampore in Bengal, under the superintendance of the Baptist Society in England, are translating the Holy scriptures; but for the sake of those who may not be informed, and to bring again the subject into the view of those who have before liberally aided the design, the following compendium is laid before them:

The translations have been making into twelve languages, viz—1. the Bengalee. 2. the Orissa. 3. The Telinga. 4. the Guzeratee. 5. the Kurnata. 6. the Mahratta. 7. the Hindoostanee. 8. the Seek. 9. the Song-kait. 10. the Burman. 11. the Chinese. 12. the Phibe of Bootan. Besides the printing of the Malayala and the Tamil. These numerous languages are spoken by an immense population, a comparative view of which is here given.

Languages.

1. Bengalee. Spoken by a population equal to that of the U. States of America.
2. Sangskrit. Root over all India.
3. Orissa. Equal to Ireland.
4. Hindoostanee. Equal to France and Italy.
5. Guzeratee.
6. Chinese. Over all China, 300 millions.
7. Telinga. Equal to England.
8. Kurnata. The same.
9. Seek, or Sikh.
10. Thibet.
11. Mahratta. Equal to Great Britain.
12. Burman. Bernmah, 70 millions.

All of whom are idolaters! and though more or less civilized, the greater part are the subjects of the most cruel superstitions. To mention one instance only: "Thirty thousand widows according to some accounts are immolated annually on the funeral piles, with the bodies of their deceased husbands."

The present state of the translation is highly encouraging, and marks the zeal and perseverance of the persons engaged in the work. The Bengalee bible in 5 volumes 8vo. has been completed for some time, and has reached even the 3rd edition. This work was the result of sixteen years labour. The New Testament and Pentateuch are printed in Sangskrit; the New Testament and the Old Testament from Job to Malachi, in the Orissa language; the New Testament in the Mahratta and in the Hindoostanee, is printed. In the Chinese the Gospels by Matthew and Mark are printed off, and the New Testament will shortly be published. In 1809, the translations had proceeded to the end of Ephesians. The printing in the Burman, and also in the Seek is begun. The Telinga and Kurnata may be commenced this present year 1811; the Kurnata and Guzeratee have been hitherto delayed by circumstances, chiefly of a pecuniary nature. The translations of all are much farther advanced than the printing, and the missionaries express a hope that ere long, "All the nations of the East will hear in their own tongues the wonderful works of God." Besides the above, the Serampore missionaries are printing the Malayala, translated from the celebrated Syriac version, under the direction of Mar Dionysius, bishop of the Syrian Christians; and also the Tamil, translated by a valuable deceased missionary.

It would be no easy task to fix any precise period for the completion of this great work, but from an estimate made in 1809 by Dr. Carey, some conjecture may be formed. Four years had been assigned by him, in 1807, for the translation of the New Testament into ten languages; but the labor and expense attending the Chinese (not included in the number) seem to protract that expectation. He adds, "In two years three of the ten versions have been so completely revised as to be actually printed off, and five more of them were at that time brought to the press."

The character of these men may be best read in their works. It may, however, be proper to say, they who know them well believe them to be translators of ability and fidelity. The testimony of Dr. Buchanan does honor to them and to himself. "Dr. William Carey, and Mr. (now Dr.) Marshman, are men whose names will probably go down to the latest posterity in India, as faithful translators of the holy scriptures."

The proficiency of the young men engaged with Dr. Marshman in the Chinese, two of whom are his sons, one in the 17th, the other in the 16th year, and the third, the youngest son of Dr. Carey, in his 10th year, has attracted the attention of the right honorable the governor general of India. Lord Minto, an extract of whose speech to the college of Fort William is here given: "Three young men, I may say boys, have not only acquired a ready use of the Chinese language, for the purpose of oral communication, but they have achieved, in a degree worthy of admiration, that which has been deemed scarcely within the reach of European faculties and address. I mean a very extensive and accurate acquaintance with the written language of China. I have read the account of the examination in Chinese, which took place at Serampore, with great interest, and recommend it to the liberal notice of those whom I have the honor to address. I must not omit to recommend the zealous and persevering labours of Mr. Lassar, and of those learned and pious persons associated with him, who have accomplished, for the future benefit of that immense and populous region, Chinese versions in the Chinese character, of the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, throwing open that precious mine, with all its religious and moral treasure, to the largest association of population in the world."

An additional testimony may be mentioned. The Asiatic Society and the College of Fort William united to grant to the missionaries at Serampore an annual stipend of 4500 sterling, to defray the expense of printing the Sacred Veda with a translation.

Dr. Carey is the author of Sangskrit, Bengalee and Mahratta grammars, and is preparing a dictionary of the Sangskrit, Bengalee, and English languages, and proposes to publish a collation of Sangskrit and Hebrew roots.

The excellent Mr. Ward is the author of a work entitled "Account of manners, customs, &c. of the Hindoos," with numerous engravings of the Hindoo costume, a second edition of which is published in England. This work exceeds 2 volumes 4to.

As it respects the advantages which the Baptist missionaries possess for the important work of publishing the scriptures in the eastern languages, we need only mention their local situation (within 15 miles of Calcutta) their long residence in India; their valuable library of clerical authors on scripture; a foundry for types of the various eastern characters; ingenious natives under their direction to cut the block for printing the Chinese version; learned natives retained by them to assist in the different translations; printing presses, with every convenience for printing; and one of their number, (Mr. Wood, formerly a printer in England) to superintend the setting up of the types, &c. These advantages stamp an importance on this establishment which can scarcely be surpassed.

The patronage which these translations have received, is calculated to confer the public esteem.

1. Many wealthy and philanthropic individuals resident in India; amongst whom was the late worthy Mr. Grant, who a few days previous to his decease, bequeathed them 5000 dollars for the translations.

2. The friends to the holy scriptures in Scotland of all descriptions, have repeatedly and liberally contributed to this object.

3. The British and Foreign Bible Society, that grand and peculiar institution of modern times, has voted annually for three years nearly 5000 dollars. The New York Bible Society have also aided the design.

4. The people of the United States, who almost unsolicited, furnished above 8000 dollars in the years 1805 and 7; a supply mentioned by the missionaries with peculiar gratitude.

In taking a view of the expenses already incurred, the mind is affected with pleasing astonishment at the efforts which have supported the work undertaken by a society whose funds at its commencement in 1792, were only 132s 6d sterling, less than sixty dollars;

From 1800 to 1809 the money received from various sources for the translations, amounted to the sum of 39 584 dollars and 17 cents. There was expended within the same time 36 445 dollars 72 cents, leaving a balance of rather more than 3000 dollars, which was even at that time more than absorbed by the versions in the press exclusive of types, &c.

Previous to 1809, the missionaries had not made heavy drafts on the society in England, but since that period they have drawn considerably, amounting to 21,333 dollars in the last year, as stated in a letter just received by missionaries now in this country, from the Rev. Dr. Fuller, the venerable secretary to the society, who adds, "notwithstanding collections lately made in Scotland, amounting to 5777 dolls. we are not able, at present, to meet our demands, and it may be a year ere we shall be, for our funds are considerably more than exhausted."

The manner in which the scriptures have been received by the natives, will afford satisfaction to the contributors, as it has served to encourage the hearts of the unwearied labourers. So early as 1803, the New Testament, the first volume of the Old, the Psalms, and a part of Isaiah, were finished in Bengalee and "began to be a good deal read by the natives." Some came to Serampore from a great distance to enquire about "the new Shaster." One was heard to say, "This Shaster will be received by all India, and the Hindoos will be come one Cast." Another had carried about with him a copy of the New Testament, which was

nearly worn out by reading. Besides giving away copies to those who apply for them at the missionary settlement, the missionaries, native and European, carry them in their tours through the country, and in most places find the people eager to receive them.

Often is the poor Hindoo seated under the shade of the trees, reading "this wonderful book." A native of talents has been for some time stationed in Orissa, near the famed temple of Juggernaut, the Moloch of Hindoostan; the road to which, for fifty miles, is strewn with the inhuman bones of self murdered votaries; and here this messenger of peace is frequently seen accosting his idolatrous countrymen amid the scattered remains of their brethren and fathers, and presenting them with the word of life in the very "language of Juggernaut."

From the extensive intercourse which subsists between India and Christian nations; from the protection afforded to the missionaries by the English government of Bengal; from the success which has attended them, from the high estimation in which they are held by the Christian world, and above all from the importance of the case itself; may we not anticipate the continued and increasing patronage of the American public. Can we doubt that the friends of the Bible in this western world will cheerfully come forward a second time to aid in giving back "the lamp of life," to a hundred millions, inhabiting the east, whence "we have derived our light, life, and hope of immortality."

The following ministers whose names are subjoined fully concur in recommending the above object to the attention and exertions of the Christian public.—Contributions raised for this purpose will be committed to their care, and by them will be transmitted according to the design.

Rev. Dr. LATHROP,

Dr. GRIFFIN,

Dr. ELIOT,

Dr. BALDWIN,

Mr. CHANNING,

Mr. BUCKMINSTER,

Mr. LO WELL,

Mr. HUNTINGDON,

Mr. COLLIER,

Mr. EATON, of Boston &

Mr. BOLLES, of Salem.

Political.

From the Boston Palladium.

Many persons have never seen the naturalization of Mr. Madison as a French subject. We therefore, copy it, for our readers, into to day's paper. Citizen Genet, now the worthy advocate and idol of the democratic party, informed the public, a short three years ago, that he conveyed to the French government the answer of our president, couched in such terms of cordial pleasure and satisfaction, as to divert for a moment the attention of Robespierre from his sanguinary meditations. Of the value of gifts and compliments from such a quarter a true estimate may be made, after perusing the sequel of the extract. Most men will concur with us in preferring an adoption by the Shawanese or any other tribe of natural savages, to that of the monsters, whose flattery so much elevated poor Madison.

At a sitting of the National Assembly of France, of the 25th of August, 1792—

Several people appeared at the bar one of whom, M. Chemer, thus addressed the Assembly:

"Legislators! at a moment when a National Convention is about to raise the French constitution to the level of the Declaration of rights, all those who in different countries of the world, have enlightened mankind, and contributed towards the progress of liberty, ought to be considered as allies of the French people. This alliance you must strengthen by a glorious adoption. When Rome became free, and mistress of the world—had subjugated all the thrones of the universe kings solicited the honor of being raised to the dignity of Roman citizens. It is not tyrants that we propose to adopt in the name of the French people, but bold philosophers who have sapped the foundation of tyranny. Decree to virtuous talents and love of liberty, an illustrious and worthy reward, and let the benefactors of mankind be declared French citizens. Among those benefactors, we ought particularly to distinguish those whose enlightened writings have tended to procure liberty to America and France—PAINÉ, the immortal author of Common Sense, and of that excellent work, the Rights of Man—MADISON, who has explained with great depth the system of reason—DOCTOR PRISTLEY who has acquired as much glory by his misfortunes as by his virtue and his genius—MACKINTOSH, who has with great eloquence and strength of reasoning refuted the amplifications of Mr. BURKE against the French revolution—PYTALLOZ, MARACHOWSKI and others, have doubtless, contributed to diffuse light over the globe, and do honor to the present generation."

"Referred to a committee.—Reported, and agreed to.

"France declares them to be her children since they are those of liberty.

"M. Jean de Bric, presented the following proposal for destroying the kings and generals who are now fighting against the liberties of France. He requested permission to raise a body of 1200 volunteers, who shall bind themselves by oath to go and attack, individually and collectively, and by every possible means, the kings and generals now at war with France. These tyrannicals, to be called (les Doze Cents) the 'Twelve Hundred,' to be armed with poignards and pistols.

"This plan was decreed, and the 5000 were going to settle the pay of these desperadoes, when Monsieur Verniaux, Masurier and Biers, requested that it might be sent to a committee for reconsideration, as such a measure would induce the enemy to make reprisals and consequently give rise to a war of the most horrid kind.

"After a long debate the plan was referred to a committee."

We do not object to any article of the warlike preparations with which this report of the committee of foreign relations concludes, as far as they go. But we look upon them to be materially inequitable. If it is meant to take Canada, the addition to the army is vastly inferior to what it ought to be. Militia cannot be relied on for operations of any great extent, or for service of a long duration. Volunteers, such as can be favourably distinguished from militia, are not to be relied on. Another deficiency respects the navy, which ought to be immediately enlarged or laid by a totally useless. There is no medium. It is too small as an instrument to chastise England, or to afford our coast and commerce any valuable protection against her.

The arming of merchantmen meets our peculiar approbation—and we should extremely regret to see the intrigues of Bonaparte's adherents prevail in frustrating the salutary measure. If armed merchantmen cannot cope with British men of war, the trade ought to be protected by powerful escorts of the public navy, against the exercise of any act of foreign indignity not warranted by the law of nations. But the utility and the expediency of arming the merchantmen would be peculiarly evinced in the repression of French and Dutch piracy. The marauders which line our coast and infest our cities, would be so cramped and harassed as to spoil their projects, and render buccannery a trade not much worth. We should then hear of comparatively very few burnings of our vessels and robberies of our citizens. The vessels, which might have occasion to visit the Baltic, would be early placed out of danger from the common robberies of the Danes and French. For most of the piracies have been perpetrated there by a force calculated to infest only an unarmed trade. It may be objected, that the armed merchantmen will be restrained by instructions accompanied with the demand of security, from exercising their power against any vessels but those of Great Britain. Could such a restriction be enforced, we grant that nobody would go to the expense of arming; for scarcely a British cruiser is to be met with against which a merchantman could effectually defend herself; there being no British privateers. Should congress act so unwisely as to limit the force to be power only, it would be war but not war begun in that declared and magnanimous form, which is the spirit of our democratic preservers promise. Still it is not to be expected, that an American having provided himself with the means of defence, could amply receive insult or injury from equal or inferior force, merely because the aggressor was a French freebooter or a piratical Dane.

As to the money necessary to accomplish every public purpose, to signalise our revenge, ensure justice, and render the glory of democracy triumphantly resplendent, that is the smallest consideration of any. Since the Smiths have straggled from grace, Mr. Gallatin's eyes have been opened. He has discovered, that 40,000,000 of dollars may be borrowed at shaving interest, and in case that fails, larger duties may be laid upon the dead carcasses of commerce, and we may receive another filip from internal taxes. When we laugh at his ways and means, and their annual inconsistency as he happens to be in good or ill humour with his patron, we by no means wish to be understood that the resources of the nation are insufficient to maintain its honor and avenge its wrongs. These resources are double at least what they were when we drew the sword and threw the scabbard away in the war of the revolution. Wise and patriotic statesmen would draw them forth and render them efficient for every purpose for which they might now be required.—But whether they can be beneficially wielded by the men in power is another question, which would be solved soon after the war commenced; when if they proved incompetent, if they did not manifest their humiliation by retiring, the sublimed spirit of the people would correct their errors and remedy their folly. War is in some respects a distressful season, but it is the parent of noble feelings, and the touchstone, in republics, of real talents and worth. Some juggling becomes high treason: and want of capacity, a certain passport to contempt and oblivion.

It is now nearly thirty years, since the general peace closed the scene of American glory in arms. A recurrence to that period freshens indeed the memory of much evil and suffering, but it inspires the heart with hope and confidence in any struggle which is necessary to be repeated for objects the most precious to patriotic pride, such as swelled the bosoms of the heroes of that day. But it must never be forgotten that they were too stern stuff to be converted into the tools of personal ambition or of individual passion.—They fought for their country and under her banners, but disclaimed to be seen near the dirty streamer of faction, so it will be again. As we will purify the political atmosphere and break down the encroachments which chicanery fortifies itself in undue prerogatives. Idiots who bellow in public bodies will be sent to Bedlam, and impostors to the stocks.—All the public virtues will be refined and hallowed; and we shall again behold at the head of government, citizens who may rival the immortal men of 1776, when the dignity, firmness and