

men should be educated at Basel itself, and then be recommended to the English societies. From that moment those two men conspired to carry out that project. The Central Committee of the German Christian Society in Basel was invited to take up this work as a part of their activity. The committee thought such an establishment ought, as was the case in Berlin, to be carried on as a private school. After some delay Spittler received permission from the Basel government to open such a missionary institution. Thereupon he urgently requested his friend Blumhardt, who from 1803-1807 had been in Basel as theological secretary of the German Christian Society, to organize such a new establishment. But he did not see his way to take charge of such a private enterprise.

In September Steinkopf arrived in Basel and induced Spittler to form a special committee for the purpose of carrying out his project. The Rev. Von. Brunn (President), the Rev. Mr. Wenk (Secretary), the merchant, Mr. Marian-Kuder (Treasurer), Prof. Lachenal and the Rev. Mr. La Roche were won over to the plan. On September 25, 1815, they held, with Spittler, their first meeting as a mission "collegium" in the parsonage of St. Martin's Church. Blumhardt was now called to take charge of the work. As a married man he requested a salary of 1,000 florins. This the timid committee did not feel able to guarantee, and went about to appoint an unmarried man who was a candidate for holy orders. At this juncture, at a session of the committee held October 3, Steinkopf came to the rescue by promising contributions from England; and he pointed out that the city of Basel, out of gratitude for its preservation during the recent war, should contribute toward the spread of the kingdom of God throughout the whole world. At any rate, he urged, economical considerations should not deter them from engaging the services of so efficient a man as Blumhardt. Thus Christian Gottlieb Blumhardt came to Basel as the "Inspector" or manager of the Basel Mission Society in the spring of 1816, and on August 26 of the same year opened a mission school with seven pupils.

The important thing to notice is that the Basel Mission was the product of the heads and hearts of a few earnest men, the whole tenor of whose lives was in utter contrast with the rationalistic and chilling atmosphere of the contemporary church in Germany and Switzerland. The society which was founded was not the outcome of a church movement. From this beginning it has been under the control of no organization outside of its committee of private Christian gentlemen, which is self-perpetuating, and which has a large sprinkling of laymen. The society from the first has drawn its funds (voluntary subscriptions) from Switzerland and Southern Germany. Württemberg has especially led the van as regards gifts of money, and supply of teachers and students. The Basel Mission belongs in reality to the old Alemanic