

must utterly fail, and it was triumphantly said, that instead of making converts, the Missionaries would teach the Heathen our vices and learn theirs. This argument is now given up, converts are multiplying in all lands; but, the Missionaries are still accused of coming far short of their promises.

We are naturally sanguine and even many of the most devoted friends of the Missions looked for much greater success than has yet attended them; but the ways of God are not as our ways. It was perhaps excusable when arguing without experience, and consequently without a knowledge of the difficulties which had to be surmounted, to expect the greatest success. From recollecting the progress of the primitive Disciples, and that the Apostles never preached without adding something to the Church, we looked for the same effects from the Sermons of our Missionaries, and felt a disappointment when after years of laborious exertions, little or no impression seemed to be made upon the Heathen. But it is unreasonable to expect such an extraordinary interposition of the Spirit as accompanied the labours of the Apostles. The present Missionaries possess many advantages not given to those ancient servants of God, and with the Scriptures in their hands, their superior knowledge, the more common influence of the Spirit, will be found equal to the accomplishment of their object. But it is a work not measured by days and months, or even years; it may appear to the mere human eye to languish and fail, when it is making in secret the most rapid progress. In a Christian Country, for example, you have no difficulties to conquer in making a man a Christian, compared to those which meet you in converting a Heathen; the former is like a cleared field, you have only to sow the seed, and pray to God to give it increase; but the latter is the same field in a state of nature, covered with trees and brambles, which must be all cut down, grubbed up, and cleared, before you can attempt to sow any of the seed—and even then, the crop will be often small and imperfect, the prejudices leave rankling weeds—there is much ignorance and remains of superstition which require many years to eradicate and remove—and after all, the same amiableness, simplicity, and sweetness of Christian temper and disposition, may not be effected. Even among ourselves, we find that those who are eminent for their personal religion do not find it the work of a day—it is after frequent combats with their own hearts, ardent prayers,