

admitted into the Christian Church became every day stronger and stronger. At length Messrs. Ewart and Macdonald, who separately had conversations with him, concurred with me in the opinion, that he gave satisfactory evidence of being a sincere believer, and was prepared to make an intelligent profession of faith in Christ. A wish was expressed that I should administer the sacred rite; but I declined, on the ground that it was a fit and becoming thing that the missionaries should baptize those whom they were instruments in converting, and that the time had arrived when they might do this without endangering the interests of the Institution. I, therefore, proposed that, as Mr. Ewart had baptized Mohendra, Mr. Macdonald should baptize Khoilash; and he, after some little hesitation, consented. The service took place on Thursday week, the 15th inst., in the library of the institution, in the presence of upwards of two hundred natives, and a considerable number of Europeans, chiefly members of my congregation. The rite was administered, as I have said, by Mr. Macdonald, and I concluded with prayer. The service was felt to be deeply interesting.

I entertain not the slightest doubt of the sincerity of the young convert. It is upwards of two years since it first struck him that Christianity came from God; and, what supplies food for melancholy reflections, this impression was produced on his mind through the instructions of one of the native monitors, who has never himself embraced the Gospel. The impression seems to have left him for a time; but it afterwards was again called up by something he heard in the course of his attendance at the Institution; and became gradually stronger, till it took the entire possession of his soul, and determined him to leave all for Christ.

During the time of his confinement in the country he made no secret of his determination eventually to become a Christian, whenever he was spoken to on the subject. His friends sometimes asked him to give them some account of Christianity; and when they observed the warmth of feeling with which he talked of it, they would say to him, "We see you love it; well, you may love it *in your heart*, only do not make a public profession of it." His father left no means untried to turn him from his purpose. Supposing that he wished to become a Christian, just to be able to eat beef and drink beer and wine, (this is a very prevalent notion among the Hindoos,) he actually offered to supply him with these interdicted articles of food in a room by himself; if he would only lay aside his intention. At other times he appealed to his kindly affections, which are very strong; sought to win him over by promises of money, or to terrify him by threats; and represented to him that his adoption of the name of Christ would bring lasting disgrace on all his family. But he remained firm, withstanding insults, remonstrances, entreaties, and menaces; and never concealed from his

friends that he would one day yield to his firm convictions, and openly avow his belief in the religion of Christ.

During the time Khoilash remained with me, I never could observe in him the faintest trace of relenting or misgiving on the review of the decided step he had taken. His prevailing feeling was joy in having been brought into circumstances in which he had the prospect of having the wish of his heart gratified; and especially after he was baptized, it might have truly been said of him, "He went on his way rejoicing." But he was occasionally sad when he thought of being separated from his father and grandmother (his mother is dead) and other friends, for he has a very affectionate heart; and at such times I used to tell him that he was not required to love them the less, but only to love Christ more and that Christ had made express and most abundant provision in the Gospel for the comfort of all who were tried as he was. He was evidently comforted by this; and on one occasion he said to me, "I am very sad sometimes when I think of my friends whom I love; but then I betake myself to prayer, and joy comes to my heart." This is very touching! And what an interesting comment on the Apostle's words, "Be careful for nothing, but in every thing by prayer, &c.; . . . and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus!"

Khoilash has returned to the Institution; and it is gratifying to observe, that the publicity of his baptism has not in any degree, so far as I am aware, impaired the attendance. It is also a most gratifying circumstance, and one which I think may be regarded as hopeful, that the other lads associate freely with Dwarkanath, Mohendra, and Khoilash; and are not at all scandalized by their being Christians.

You will hear by the same overland despatch which conveys this letter, that Mr. and Mrs. Smith have arrived in excellent health, and are now my guests. Your committee have, I think, been very fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Smith; and I expect he will prove a valuable accession to our mission. I may be mistaken; but I think I can see in him the elements of powers which, when matured and brought out, will qualify him for taking up the position which has been occupied by Dr. Duff.

The following note from Mr. Mackay will be read with gratitude and joy; as intimating his restored health, and his unabated zeal in the great cause from which he was compelled for a season to withdraw.

*Extract from a Letter of Rev. W. S. Mackay to Dr. Brunton; dated Van Diemen's Land, 9th July 1839.*

"I have been much pressed to remain here; and if a fair prospect of usefulness,—kind, amiable, and intelligent relations and friends,—a climate which has already done wonders for my recovery,—and nearly all that could make