

THE
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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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MISSIONS.

THERE are three Missionary Societies in London: the Baptist Missionary Society, formed in 1792; the Missionary Society, in 1794; and the Church Missionary Society in 1800.

There is very little difference among these Societies as to their views of religious truth. In one particular the Missionary and Baptist Societies differ from that of the Church. They assume as a fundamental principle, that their design is not to send Presbyterianism, Independency, Episcopacy, about which there may be difference of opinion among serious persons, but the glorious Gospel of the blessed Lord to the Heathen; and that it shall be left, as it ought to be left, to the minds of the persons whom God may call into the fellowship of his Son from among them, to assume for themselves such form of Church government, as to them shall appear most agreeable to the word of God.

This principle, adopted no doubt in the spirit of conciliation, and for the purpose of promoting peace, concord, and unity, and of opening the doors of the institution to all denominations of Christians, is yet liable to serious objections. Admitting the propriety of leaving the form of the Church government to the Heathen converts, it is not stated whether the Missionary should explain all the views which Christians maintain on this point, or merely his own.