

The Missionaries in Calabar have had to contend with many sinful customs and superstitions of the people,—such as polygamy, trials of suspected persons by poison, substituting innocent persons to die for the guilty, human sacrifices for the dead, with many other dark, cruel and sanguinary practices. They have, to a considerable degree, been successful, through the blessing of God, in putting a stop to such abominations; and the influence of several Chiefs, but especially of King Eyo, who has always favored and promoted the Mission, has been of great service in securing the safety and prosperity of the Missionaries.

Several merchants in Liverpool have been of great service to this Mission, in taking out Missionaries free of charge, as well as books, letters and packages. In particular, Robert Jamieson, Esq., gave the loan of a ship to take out Missionaries and to remain for the use of the Mission for a considerable time, to enable them to visit the different stations on the river, as well as recruit their health by going off the coast for the salutary sea breezes in the hot seasons, when the climate is unhealthy for Europeans. When it was necessary to restore this vessel, although it must have suffered in value by being exposed to a tropical climate, yet Mr. Jamieson refused to take any compensation, and he had the cordial thanks of the Church tendered to him. But as the Missionaries could not carry on the operations without the use of a ship, it now became necessary to supply them. The expense of a small schooner was estimated at £800 sterling; and as the Mission Fund could not then afford so great a sum, it was resolved by the Board to make an appeal to the generosity of the children and young persons belonging to the Church. A noble response was given. The youth of nearly all the Congregations directed by Ministers, parents and Sabbath school teachers, entered with delight and zeal into the measure, and in the course of six weeks, the munificent sum of £3,130 was realized. This was felt to be one of the most gratifying movements in the whole Missionary cause. It cheered the hearts of all who took an interest in Missionary affairs. It proved what Dr. Chalmers calls "the power of littles" (small sums,) afforded an example to older and more experienced instruments, and presented bright hopes for the future.

In the year 1855, a question arose as to the admission of slaveholders into fellowship with the Church; and the Missionaries referred the matter, with the peculiar circumstances connected with it, to the judgment of the Home Synod. Slavery is everywhere practised in that region, and those holding slaves cannot give them liberty, as that would be contrary to existing law. It was felt to be a hardship to exclude converted slaveholders from communion, when, though willing, they could not prevent it; as that would be giving them the Gospel, and withholding its sealing ordinances—thus separating what God has joined, and as that would evidently defeat the end of the Mission which is to raise up a Church in Africa. It was therefore