

the afternoon the Lord's Supper was for the first time celebrated in Bengali. What a Lord's Day that was for India !

The sight must have been a spectacle to angels as well as men, and the Lord had planned the whole occasion in His wisdom as a typical event, forecasting things to come. It was worth waiting seven years to gather in one such ear from this harvest field. It must be remembered that Krishnu's baptism was a formal and solemn renunciation of all idols.

That first convert was the author of the communion hymn, with whose English version we are so familiar :

" O, thou my soul, forget no more
The Friend, who all thy misery bore ;
Let every idol be forgot,
But, O my soul, forget Him not."

The publication of the first Bengali Testament was an event scarcely less momentous. Carey had gone to India impressed with the conviction that no work was more important as a handmaid to the preaching of the Gospel than the translation of that Gospel into the native tongues of India.

We often forget as we speak of missionaries that the printed Bible is the greatest missionary in the world, and that the Bible Society is the greatest of missionary societies. The Bible never dies or grows old or feeble ; it is as young after thousands of years as ever ; never is prostrated by disease, never acts indiscreetly or proves unequal to the strain of work, never dabbles in politics, or enters into unhappy marital alliances, or commits any other of the thousand mistakes of fallible mortals.

As early as 1796 Carey had put on record his belief that the translation of the Scriptures is one of the grandest aids to missions, and his opinion is singularly verified in the fact that no missions have ever been permanently useful and successful unless the Bible has thus been given to the people. If there be any service singularly rendered to the Oriental peoples by Carey which makes his work unique, it is his remarkable success in bringing the vernacular Bible into contact with one sixth of the world's population. When on February 7th, 1801, the New Testament appeared in the Bengali dialect, a special meeting for thanksgiving was held, and that day stands out and apart as memorable, as when Dr. Hepburn presented the Japanese with the Scriptures in their own tongue. This was but the beginning, however, of Carey's work as a translator.

Within two months of landing he had begun on Genesis, and soon was doing a chapter a day. As he translated he read what he had written, to hundreds of the natives, to find how far it was intelligible and accurate. His greatest difficulty was the incapacity of the language to *express spiritual ideas*, but the plodder again triumphed. Before the close of 1795 he began his great grammar and dictionary. By the middle of 1796 he had almost completed the Pentateuch and the New Testament. By March, 1797, the New Testament was ready for final revision, and published in