

GENERAL REMARKS.

The committee having laid before the friends and patrons of the Missionary Society, a concise view of the state of the different societies and schools, beg leave to offer a few remarks on the subject of *that* Benevolence which they conceive is essential to the stability and furtherance of the Missionary cause.

The religion of Jesus, is a system of benevolence of the most exalted kind. 'Tis confined to no favourite circle, nor language, nor nation,---is bounded by no lines of mountains or waters: "Go, saith the Saviour, teach all nations,"---"do good to all," even "to them that persecute you," "that ye may be the children of your Heavenly Father, who maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth his rain on the just and on the unjust." This is the benevolence of christianity, and this is the religion of our happy day. In accordance with these sentiments are founded, the Bible and Missionary Societies in Europe and America, which are now extending the knowledge of God and the blessings of the gospel to all the family of man.

But, if we would ensure success and obtain the reward, we must possess that *patience* and *perseverance* which *endures hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ*. Many may be willing to *gather where others have strewed*. They have no inclination to make a painful sacrifice, self-denial is not their element, to this they have no call, but ours is a different work, another field; to face storms, brave danger,---break the soil,---to mingle with a people whose manners are rude, whose language is barbarous, and what is more perhaps too, to struggle with painful defeats, for who among us can suppose that the tide of this present prosperity will continue without a check? Will Satan suffer his empire to waste, and the Son of God to hold the dominion of his newly acquired possessions, without a single effort to regain them? Does the depravity of man cease to rankle in envy and jealousy? From what is past, we may anticipate that a single failure or mistake, would strengthen a host against the work, and the cry "thus we expected," "so we told you," would be heard from some who are now but waiting the fair opportunity. With these difficulties before us, let the missionaries, the teachers, and the friends of missions be prepared, by labours of patience and pecuniary means to sustain the cause in the hour of trial.

On this subject the committee reminds the officers and managers of the Branch societies, how much depends on their exertions, for the increase of their funds. By the treasurer's report will be seen, that the receipts, though considerably more than in any preceding year, are far from being sufficient to meet the demands of the current year. The amount allowed is £375 This sum is to support four missionaries and six school teachers. Several schools are now called for by the natives, and were the means provided 150 native children more might be put under immediate instruction. The committee notice with concern the declension of some of the Branches. Others, who most certainly have the means, have as yet taken no part in the delightful deeds of rescuing their degraded Pagan neighbours: others again are callous to all persuasion, and utterly refuse. Be it so, yet the work will be done, the heathen saved; yes, and the labourers too will be rewarded. This scene of triumph, they may be permitted to witness, afar off, to say with the fearful and disappointed soldier, "The battle was fought,---the victory is gained,---but I was not there?"

Some of the Branch Societies, however, have doubled their amount, (see app. e.) others, before liberal, have considerably increased their liberality, and several donations have been made of handsome amount.

Beside those sums mentioned in the report, many instances of kindness have been received for the encouragement both of the converts and the schools, among these is a convenient stove, by friends in the neighbourhood of Vittoria, for the Credit School.