

are not extensive, it has during the period of six years, distributed 6,332 Bibles, and 627 Testaments; the latter chiefly Catholic.

"The traffic between this town and the adjacent districts is very considerable. This gives life to our distribution, and instances occur which afford us great satisfaction: Parents often bring their children with them a distance of several miles to obtain Bibles. Sometimes a child is then brought to the town for the first time; and therefore, the few words which may be addressed to him on first receiving a bible, are calculated to leave a deep and salutary impression. It is certainly interesting to observe the delight with which a child receives the first of treasures, the Bible, neatly bound. He confides the precious burden to no one,—nor will he even allow his parents to carry it; he leaves the busy city behind, and joyfully returns to his peaceful hut. Indeed, our peasantry begin to feel a warmer interest than ever in the cause; the contributions increase, legacies are bequeathed or handsome donations presented; one for instance, of fifty dollars from a farmer, and twenty dollars from another person. In short, the Biblical cause is the work of God, and a powerful means of opening the way to the hearts of men, whether in the cottages of our own peasantry, or among the most distant nations."

Next succeeds a Report of the Württemberg Bible Society, for 1821, giving a most satisfactory account of its operations, during the preceding year. Within that limited space, it had put into circulation, upwards of ten thousand Bibles and Testaments. The King and Queen had exhibited their favourable opinion of the institution by making very liberal donations to it.

"A female servant contributed 10 florins from her savings; one lady sent us 100, and three others 50 each; and several desirous of doing good even after their decease, bequeathed on their dying beds to this institution various sums."

The number concludes with a communication from the Secretary of the

Sumatra Auxiliary Society, dated Fort Marlborough March 1st 1822. (Sumatra is one of the Islands of the Indian Ocean,) nothing of a peculiarly flattering nature is given.—The Society had generously presented to the Baptist Mission, of that place, 800 Rupees to enable it to print the Gospel of St. John, in the Malay tongue. The Gospel of St. Matthew, had been previously translated; many Copies of which had been put into circulation.

— BRAHMANS —

To give our readers some Idea of the abject State of the Hindoos; we have extracted from a QUARTERLY PAPER, of the Baptist Missionary Society, an important article relative to their Brahmans, who are regarded as a kind of DEITIES, by the Common People:—

"The Hindoo writers affirm that the brahmans proceeded from the mouth of Brumha, their supreme god. Agreeably with this fable, none but persons of this caste are admitted to the priesthood, or have any thing to do with making laws; and they have taken care to turn these privileges to good account. No brahman can be put to death, by their law; for any crime whatever; while, on the other hand, to kill a brahman is one of the greatest sins that can be committed; and every offence committed against them is to be punished with rigorous severity. If one of inferior caste give frequent molestation to a brahman (a very uncertain sort of crime,) he is to be put to death. If, through pride, he spit upon a brahman, his lips must be cut off. If he listens to reproaches against a brahman, boiling lead must be poured into his ears. And, as if all these horrible punishments were not enough, the wrath of the brahmans extends to the future world. Their writings teach, that if a shoodru do not rise to receive a brahman with due honour, he will, after death, become a tree; if he look angrily at a brahman, his eyes will be put out!