

I have already mentioned the fact of the British and Foreign Bible Society having voted £5000 to Bishop Middleton, for promoting the designs of the College, which he founded at Calcutta; and it appears, that that learned and devoted prelate, did not consider that he was compromising his Episcopal fidelity, by accepting a grant, given in the spirit of Christian charity, though it was part of a fund raised by the joint exertions, and contributions of Churchmen and Dissenters.

Of Bishop Heber's opinion, as to the general principle, we have his own statement recorded, in a letter addressed by him to the Church Missionaries in Ceylon, "respecting the propriety of their engaging with Missionaries of other religious sects, in solemn conference on topics connected with their work among the Heathen." "I have first (he proceeds) to express my thankfulness to God, for the brotherly and tolerant spirit, which I have noticed among those, who, with less or greater differences of opinions, and discrepancies of doctrine and discipline, abundantly to be deplored, yet hold, as I am persuaded, the same faith in the cross, and shall be found, as I trust, in the last day, on the same Rock of Salvation." He then adds a caution, that they take care not to level in the eyes of others, or of themselves, the peculiar advantages possessed by the holders of an apostolic commission; and "that both their discussions and prayers should have as their leading object, the success of Missions, and the means where Missions may, with God's blessing, be rendered successful," & concludes "with these precautions, I trust that unmingled good may, through His blessing, who is the God of peace and order, emanate from your religious conferences."* The whole letter is indeed a beautiful specimen of the union of Christian candour, with the most enlightened and firm attachment to that Church, of which the writer was so bright an ornament, and so faithful an overseer.

As an advocate of the Bible Society I cannot but look with satisfaction to the progress of Christianity in the East: there the effects of that Society are too plain to be denied, or depreciated, by any one who has noted the spread of the Scriptures among the idolators of Asia: the value of these effects has been experienced, and appreciated by the representatives of our Church there, as well as of our Government. The present, and the late, Bishops of Calcutta might almost be said to take their public leave of Christian Britain, at anniversaries of the British and Foreign Bible Society; where they dwelt upon the great and obvious assistance which they anticipated in the scene of their future labours, from the precursive exertions of the Society, which had diffused the scriptures, in so many languages of the native Indians; whereby, in fact, the ground was already partially prepared for them, and the seed sown, whose rising fruit it would be part of their care to foster, and train to a healthy maturity.

* Bishop Heber's Journal, Chap. 27.