

We found him endeavouring to serve God according to the knowledge and light he had. In an early part of his life, impressions of the awful power of that Being who created the heavens and the earth were made upon his mind; but he had no clear conceptions of the holiness and benevolence of him, who upholdeth all things by the word of his power. That God was a being of infinite power he was fully convinced by what he daily saw; but how to account for the origin of evil he was quite at a loss. The calamities of life proved the evil nature of sin; and when he examined his own heart, conscience accused or excused every action. In the reading of heathen books he had spent great part of his life, but could see no clear traces of the deity; nor any reasonable account of the origin of the world, of man, or of evil. We put into his hands the Holy Scriptures, which he read with great care; and the result was, the abandonment of heathen books and of heathen ceremonies, for the word of God and the service of Christ.

His preference of christianity he grounds on the following comparison:—Heathen books are numerous; great part of them unintelligible; those that can be read, are vague and uncertain; they give no proper views of God; they are confused in their accounts of the Creation; more so, about the entrance of sin; and they point out no Saviour. But on reading the precious word of God, and hearing it explained, he received light on those very subjects which had perplexed his mind, and concerning which he had previously lived in darkness. The Bible was intelligible; it clearly pointed out to him the fall of man, and his helpless condition; it discovered a Saviour, the Lord Jesus; it gave holy laws to regulate the life of man; and moreover, by hearing the word preached, his heart had been broken within him; and he now stood at our feet desiring to be baptized into the faith of Christ. We must however confine our remarks by observing, that, on so clear an evidence, and so suitable a preparation, we were no longer at liberty to refuse him an ordinance which the Saviour himself instituted. The first day of the year was therefore appointed to admit him into the bosom of the Christian Church. He approached the altar with an humble and child-like spirit; publicly renounced heathenism, made a solemn declaration of his faith in Christ, and was baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Brother Fox, on seeing him during his visit to this station, suggested, that, should he ever receive baptism, his name should be called Abraham. This, as being suited to his venerable appearance, was selected. May it be every way applicable! May he be the father of many in this place!

The number in Society at Trincomalee is 14.

Batticaloa.—This station, long vacant by the death of Mr. Ault, has been recently re-occupied. Little has yet been done; but as it is in the centre of a great heathen population, we trust that it may ultimately become important.—Mr. Roberts is the present missionary.

SOUTH INDIA MISSIONS.

Madras.—In this truly important station the Brethren are diligently labouring with considerable encouragement. The liberality with which an Auxiliary Wesleyan Missionary Society is supported, has been before noticed; and a subscription of 1000 pagodas has been already made towards the erection of a commodious chapel in Madras.

Mr. Close, in a recent letter, says, "We are not without prospects of extensive usefulness in this place and neighbourhood. Our classes, both native and English, give us much satisfaction; they meet regularly, and I believe all are sincere.—My hopes are sanguine as to much good being done among the natives."

On the Madras station there are two schools, one at the Mission House, and a second about five miles distant, amidst a pagan population. The number in society is 106; the missionaries two, Messrs. Lynch and Close.

Negapatam.—This is a new, but a most promising mission, and should its early prospects be realized, will open the way to other parts of southern India, where an immense population lie enslaved in the grossest darkness. Few Missions in India have commenced so hopefully as this, and its situation among the heathen is such as to interest the earnest prayers of the friends of Missions, that the access to them which has been obtained may be followed by their being speedily gathered into the fold of Christ. The mission was commenced in September, 1820, by Mr. Squance. About five months afterwards he writes:

"The immense population of Negapatam renders it a place of great importance as a missionary station. I have not been able to ascertain the exact num-

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