

TO THE
DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS
OF THE
MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

GENTLEMEN,

YOU are engaged in the most honourable of all pursuits, the diffusion of evangelical knowledge among the benighted heathen. With unexampled liberality you have dispatched a number of Missionaries to Otaheite, and other islands of the Pacific Ocean. You have now in contemplation the benevolent plan of christianizing the poor oppressed Africans. May the Almighty Saviour succeed your philanthropic labours!

Permit me to introduce to your compassionate notice a numerous and long-neglected race of men, originally Britons, and still retaining the ancient British language; but separated by the vast Atlantic from this illumined isle for more than six hundred years.

If we may credit the most respectable testimonies, they preserve among them, with religious veneration, a manuscript volume, which is, with the greatest probability, supposed to be *THE BIBLE*, that blessed book which is able to make us wise to salvation. They cannot read it, yet long to know its contents; they have wept when strangers have visited them, unable like themselves to peruse it: Tradition has taught them to expect that some messenger of God will one day come among them, and unlock the sacred cabinet. I indulge