

Previously to this, partial efforts had been made by some of the French and Dutch Calvinists, to extend the knowledge of the faith of Christ to the natives of Brazil, but unsuccessfully. The Dutch, with better success, gave to the doctrines of the Reformation, a firmer settlement in their Eastern Colonies, particularly in Ceylon; and the Danes, through the liberality of Frederick IV. their king, established Missions in their Colony in the Presidency of Madras. It is certain, however, that during the first century after the Reformation, no material exertions were made to communicate to heathen lands the knowledge of the Gospel. In truth, there was little leisure, little money, and little energy to spare. All were then required for the defence of the Faith, all the powers of reason and all the resources of persuasion; and alas! as it seemed, the less warrantable argument of the sword. For a long time subsequent to the Reformation, England had no Colonies to Christianize; and when she had, she had need at home for all her labour and all her counsel, and had woes great enough of her own to make her hang down her head in pensiveness and sorrow, to see the goodly edifice of the Church of Christ sometimes rent asunder like the bones of a martyr, half consumed and scattered. It was not till the commencement of the last century, that the Church of England, by the goodness of "the Great Physician there," had so recovered from the wounds inflicted by the anarchy of religious fanatics on the one hand and the machinations of the Church of Rome on the other, as to make any vigorous efforts for