

A general spirit of enquiry has been excited amongst the heathen population; the doctrines of the Gospel have been compared with the religious systems of the country; heathen youths have been educated on Christian principles, &c.; by which truth and error have been brought into general collision, and a convulsive shaking produced amongst the enemy's strong holds.

The heathen priesthood have lost much of their power over the native population. Their revenues are diminishing; their temples are falling into decay, and their ceremonies and festivals are ceasing to excite anything like the deep interest and general attention with which they were formerly regarded: and, besides this general movement, the missionaries have the satisfaction of witnessing, from time to time, instances of sound conversion to God in natives who, by a consistent life, adorn their christian profession; and in others, who die in the Lord, leaving behind them the most satisfactory testimonies of their sure and certain hope of eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ. One of the Missionaries mentions the following pleasing facts:

A Tract in the native language was found by a woman who gave it to her husband. The consequence of reading it was a desire to converse with the Missionary, and to receive further instruction. From a worshipper of Buddha he became a follower of the Lord Jesus; he and his family have been baptized; and thus *nine* persons were added to those who enjoy the means of grace and the life-giving ordinances of christianity!

In one place where it has been necessary to build a new chapel, the people have come forward and accomplished the work themselves, without asking a dollar from the Missionary Committee; and even a Hindoo idolator has furnished ten large pillars for this chapel—he has done this at considerable toil and expense—may he soon become a pillar in the house of our God to go out no more forever.

In the *South Seas* we employ twenty-nine Missionaries.

In *New South Wales*, and *Van Diemen's Land*, the Missionaries not only preach the gospel to the respectable emigrants, who have in such considerable numbers taken up their abode in that country, and to the aboriginal inhabitants of the land; but they pay much attention to those unfortunate men whose follies and crimes have consigned them to penal shame and punishment, and involved many of them in the misery of endless imprisonment. Many of those who neglected the ordinances of religion, and contemned the ministry of the word of God in their native land, now reaping the bitter fruit of their infidelity and impiety, are disposed to attend those ordinances, and to listen to that word, as the only means of assuaging their sorrows; preparing them to endure the afflictions of the present life; and of fitting them for that which is to come. Some of those poor outcasts have been brought into the fold of Christ; they have heard and obeyed the voice of the good Shepherd, and are now led into green pastures, and beside