

the Mysore country, was built entirely by catechumens, who had before lived in the neighbouring towns: they had finished their church when he arrived to preach and baptize in it. In four other villages, the inhabitants, being unanimous in their resolution to become Christians, put away their idols, and converted their temples into churches. On his departure from these places, messages were received requesting him to stay a few months longer, and to do in their villages what had been done in others. During this excursion the number baptized was above 1300. The benevolence also of Mr. Geriché towards the natives, and he never lost an opportunity of exercising it, no less than his zeal as a minister, combined, in a remarkable manner, to attach them to him. When Negapatam, that rich and populous city, fell into the deepest poverty by the unavoidable consequences of the war, he behaved like a father to the distressed inhabitants. He appeared to forget that he had a household of his own to provide for. Many impoverished families were supported entirely by him; so that when Mr. Swartz, a short time after his death, preached, and administered the sacrament in that place, he conversed with many, who, declared with tears, that they owed their own and their children's lives to his disinterested care.

The following is an account of the death, and the summary of the character of this exemplary servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, given by his fellow labourers, the Danish missionaries, in a letter addressed to the Society soon after the sad event took place:—

“ Our dear brother and senior, the Rev. Mr. Geriché, departed this life, the 2d October, 1803, at Vellore. Soon after his return from his most remarkable journey * to the southern countries, his health was attacked by a fever, of which he recovered; but his increasing and incessant labors did not permit him to enjoy that rest, which his age, 61 years, and a weak frame of body, required. He was taken with a disorder in the bowels, which he thought might be removed by change of air; but, returning to Vellore, his disorder increased to that degree that he was unable to proceed. Thus ended his laborious and pious life. He had served his Divine Master in India thirty-eight years, with a zeal and sincerity which were exemplary to the public, and edifying to thousands amongst Europeans and natives of all ranks and situations. The consternation and grief among all classes at the death of so valuable a man was beyond description. His soft, mild, meek, and humble character had made him beloved by persons of distinguished stations and by every one. His conversation was every where agreeable, and instructive, as his long experience, and attentive observations † furnished him with important materials to entertain the company wherever he happened to be visiting. He spoke with so much circumspection and wisdom on religious and moral matters; on literature and political subjects, that all who heard him were pleased; and even such as differed from him in matters of religion, had a respect for his exemplary character, and revered his Christian virtues; insomuch that many

* That through the Mysore mentioned in the text.

† Our readers are requested to bear in mind that this is from the pen of a foreigner, one of the Danish missionaries;—this will account for any peculiarity of expression that may occur in it.