

not distinguished for general scholarship, at least respectable divines, acquainted with the Scripture in the originals; of frugal and laborious habits; and possessing a talent for languages: and without a certain ardour of character, a deep feeling of the importance of the duties committed to them, and a disposition to value success in such an enterprize more than that in any other human pursuit, they would not, I fear, answer the end proposed. The senior should not, I imagine, be more than thirty years of age, and his colleagues might be somewhat younger. With respect both to the Professors and the Missionaries, I would observe, that temper and manner are here of the utmost importance: the Natives require in their teachers great patience and mildness. they do not feel strongly themselves, and they are easily disgusted by any thing like asperity or irritation. I hardly need add, that they should be men of sedate habits and of serious piety: the Natives look for these qualities in all, who seem to them to set up for teachers; though they do not find it, or perhaps expect it in their hereditary priesthood. Vacancies in the Professorships should, I conceive, be filled up from among the Missionaries; not with reference merely to seniority, but to merit and qualifications.

You will observe, that I have supposed the College to be in the immediate vicinity of Calcutta: several considerations make this expedient. The time appears to have arrived when it is desirable that some Missionary Endeavours at least should have a visible connexion with the Church Establishment: the Natives have a preference, all other things being equal, for that which is countenanced by authority; and this seems to point out the propriety of placing this Establishment within the Bishop's reach (I speak for myself and my successors,) that they may in some measure superintend its proceedings, and make it apparent that the propagation of our religion is not a matter of so little interest with us, as to be left entirely to persons whom none of the constituted authorities avow. Supposing the College to be in or near Calcutta, the Bishop might act as Visitor; but he could not otherwise, in any degree which could be of use.

Another circumstance, however, seems to indicate the propriety of the proposed situation. I speak with reference to the literary labours connected with the College. Translations will require a concentration of all the learning which can be brought to bear upon the subject; and here, if any where in India, is this aid to be looked for.

besides that translators will here have access to books, which the College library might not for some time supply. To these considerations I will add what is, indeed, but an indirect advantage, yet ought not to be wholly overlooked—that such an Institution in or near Calcutta will attract the observation of our countrymen, serving continually to remind them of the great object to which it is directed, and to interest them in promoting it.

Upon the subject of the vote of credit, I ought to observe, that at the present, and I believe the usual rate of exchange, I should draw upon the Society's Treasurer to great disadvantage. at this period the loss would be from 12 to 15 per cent. The most advantageous mode of remittance to India is considered to be by the transmission of dollars, when they do not bear a very high price in London.

I have thus, Sir, complied with the request of the Society, in offering them my sentiments upon the subject of their inquiry. In conclusion, I beg leave to add, that the crisis is such as not to admit of any delay, which can conveniently be avoided. I regret, indeed, exceedingly, that from my ignorance of the Society's further views and future resources, I cannot immediately avail myself of their vote of credit, for the purposes here detailed: a year is of great importance, and yet a year must be lost. It may appear, perhaps, that the plan which I have recommended, is somewhat extensive: no scheme, however, which is narrow in its first conception, or not capable of an almost unlimited expansion, is suited to the temper of the times, or to the circumstances of this country. Our power is now established throughout this vast Peninsula, in a degree which, but a few years since, the most sanguine did not contemplate: civilization and religion may be expected, in the ordinary course of Providence, to follow the successes of a Christian State; and, in every view, religious or political, ought we to desire that the faith adopted, and the opinions imbibed, may attach the people to our National Institutions, and more firmly cement the connexion of India with the British Crown.

I request you, Sir, to assure the Society of my cordial desire to forward their benevolent designs to the utmost of my power, and that I pray the Almighty to direct them in all their deliberations.

I am, Rev. Sir,

Your most obedient and  
faithful Servant,

T. F. CALCUTTA.