

## REPORT.

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IN presenting the Seventeenth Annual Report of the Wesleyan Missionary Auxiliary Society, Your Committee acknowledge with thankfulness the continued patronage which is extended to the great object they have so long pursued, and which under the blessing of God, is obviously coming more and more within the reach of the Christian Church. The prejudices which once opposed an almost insuperable barrier to the religious instruction of the heathen, are yielding to the power of truth—the imagined security of idolaters in their abominations has been shaken; and, thankful for a remedy in their misery, they have heard, and do still hear with intense solicitude, the glorious gospel of that Redeemer in whose blood many have obtained redemption, and an inheritance among them that are sanctified. The case of many whose patience exhausted by the fallacies of error; and whose hopes disappointed in repeated and painful experience of the essential inadequacy of all merely human institutions, however encumbered with the habiliments and circumstance of pretended devotion, to dissipate the apprehensions of a wounded spirit, and to supply ease of mind in the embarrassments incident to humanity, have presented, and do still present an especial feature in the signs of the times as to the great and consolatory truth that the “Set time to visit Zion” is come; and in which God, by the intimations of His Providence is saying, “Arise:—Shine for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.” Nor is it the alone encouragement, and incentive to persevering and increased exertion that pagans, relinquishing the ancient and degraded objects of their superstitious terror, have fled for refuge to the hope set before them in the gospel, and rejoice in its hallowing enjoyments: commanding in their influence and obligation as these facts may be.—Christendom herself has derived invaluable benefits from her exertions in the behalf of others; both, as her efforts to resuscitate the slumbering embers of piety in many places where Christianity had become a mere name, have been owned of God in the revival of a spiritual religion; and as her own most zealous and devoted servants have found in their pious endeavours an increase of faith—in-energized love, and a conviction that their labour “shall not be in vain in the Lord.” In proportion as endeavours to evangelize the heathen, and to spread “pure religion and undefiled,” have been espoused by any department of the Christian Church, vital godliness has prospered among its members, and its immediate borders have been extended; and in this way has Provi-