

people, (for they had mischievous guides,) sent catechists to them, exhorted them not to commit such horrid sins, and reminded them that my former endeavors, so beneficial to them, had not merited such treatment. At last, finding no opposition from the Christians, and not being willing to be looked upon as aggressors, all went to their homes and work, ploughing and sowing with double diligence. My heart rejoiced at the kind overruling Providence—surely He is a God that heareth prayer!”

This extensive effusion of Divine light, and the salutary effects produced by it upon the temporal and moral condition of the Hindoos, was not confined to those places alone, which were blessed with the ministrations of the unwearied Swartz. The mission of Mr. Geriché likewise attained a high state of prosperity. Wherever he went, the scriptures, and many of the society's tracts, particularly the catechism, having been, by this time, translated into several of the native languages, and having been circulated very widely by the catechists, so that his way had been in some measure prepared in the most populous parts of the country within his circuit,) this gentleman found every year an increased desire for instruction among the people. There was no district, through which he was accustomed to pass in his progress up the country, that did not contain many persons of more or less intelligence, whose understandings, and whose consciences, had been sufficiently awakened to perceive the unreasonableness of the dominant religion; and their opinions being once thus unsettled, all they seemed to require was, that the saving truths of the gospel should be proposed and explained by some individual who might have weight with them, in order to their acceptance of it. Whole villages were in this condition. Some indeed, owing to the exertions of the native * teachers and the catechists, had arrived at such a knowledge of the fundamental doctrines of our holy faith, that they anxiously looked forward to the coming of Mr. Geriché among them, according to a notice previously given, when they might be further instructed, or, if he thought them prepared for it, immediately admitted by baptism into the covenanted promises of the gospel. The first such village that he visited, in the year 1803, on his journey through

The mention of Catechumens in the above report, though the latter clause in this description of what they were in the primitive church is not applicable to the same order, as it exists in modern times, is a proof of the caution which our missionaries exercised with regard to those converts whom they admitted to baptism.

• “It seems,” says Mr. Geriché, in a letter to the Society, “that if we had faithful and discreet labourers for the vineyard of the Protestant mission on the coast of Coromandel, to send wherever a door is open to us, rapid would be the progress of the gospel. Our native teachers, though some of them may not be inferior to us, in the knowledge of the great truths of the gospel, and in the manner of communicating them, still their discourses carry not that weight with them that is felt when we speak to the natives. They never gain that confidence that is placed in an European, when he is once convinced that he is actually what he exhorts them to be.”