

believe they will appear satisfactory. From the necessity of the case, from the wide distance of most of our fields of labor, not only from the convenient but even the possible inspection of the Society, these letters furnish nearly the only means of knowledge on which we can rely. At the same time, the admonitory experience of some former years, not without an added example in the present, as exhibited in this Report, connected with the acknowledged tendency in us all to regard favorably our own labors, and to indulge in some sanguine anticipations of their results, suggests the importance of obtaining, if possible, other and more independent sources of information. The Committee would, therefore, respectfully urge upon the Society the expediency of employing, from time to time, discreet and disinterested persons, either from their own number, or other gentlemen qualified for the inquiry, who should visit, as far as practicable, our different missionary fields, and ascertain for themselves the condition of the people, with the measures of acceptance and usefulness, or otherwise, of our missionaries. They believe, that a portion of the funds of the Society could not be more usefully expended than by the employment of one or more such persons on a mission of investigation, during the summer or travelling months of the ensuing year.

Since the publication of our last Annual Report, two individuals, whose respected names long appeared in the catalogue of the members of this Society, have been removed from the scenes of life, and joined to the great congregation of the dead. And though, from considerations approving themselves to their own minds, not