

Syrians in Malabar assembled in the Church of Mathancherry, which is in Cochin, and we swore a great oath, by the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, that henceforth we would not adhere to the Franks, nor accept the faith of the Pope of Rome: we accordingly separated from them. A short time after this, some of our people again joined them, and received the faith of the Pope.

Again, in the year of our Lord 1753, came to us some holy Jacobite-Syrian Fathers, from Antioch, who turned us to our true ancient faith, and set up a High Priest for us.

We now have fifty-five Jacobite-Syrian Churches in Malabar: and, as the Franks are more powerful and rich than we are, they are hourly laying the trap of the Pope for us, and endeavouring to take us in it: and, from the power of a kingdom filled with idols, the heathen have subdued us Jacobite-Syrians, just as Pharaoh, King of Egypt, subdued the Children of Israel, and had no pity.

And, as the Lord sent Moses and Aaron, and delivered the Children of Israel from the house of bondage of Pharaoh, King of Egypt, so the Lord beheld our sorrows and afflictions; and there have been sent to us an illustrious leader named Macaulay, and Mar Buchanan the illustrious Priest: and when they came to us, and saw our subjugation, and sorrow, and poverty, they brought us forth from the house of bondage, and consoled us with kind words, and assisted us with money.

After this, another illustrious leader was sent to us, named Monro: and as Joshua, the son of Nun, brought Israel to the Land of Promise, and put them in possession of Canaan, so did this illustrious, discerning, and prudent leader, bring back and save us poor people from the hand of violence: and he built a School and one Church for us, in the place called Cotym; which he did with great trouble, labour, and expense, in order that our eyes, made

dim by the depth of our poverty, may be opened by the knowledge of the declarations of the Holy and Divine Books. All the Deacons, moreover, and children who are taught in the School of our place, are cherished by the assistance of this illustrious leader.

Again, the Priest Benjamin,* the Priest Joseph,† and the Priest Henry,‡ our spiritual and temporal friends, brothers, and assistants, whom you have sent to us, that they may root out the thorns and tares from among the children of God, are anxiously seeking all the requisites for the redemption of our souls, as well as constantly teaching all the Deacons and children of our place, the English language.

The Books of the New Testament which ye sent us, we divided, and gave to the Churches in Malabar: and, with great joy, does every man present his prayer unto God for you: and we trust in our Lord Jesus Christ, who is merciful to those who show mercy, that He will give you a good reward in the day of Judgment, even thirty, sixty, and a hundred-fold, for your work and labour for us, and that He will make us rejoice with you. But we are unable to recompense you by any earthly riches: the more, however, shall we supplicate God daily that your dominion may be increased, and that he would subdue those that bate you under your feet: and daily may your preaching in Christ Jesus be increased; and may God raise up among you leaders who fear God, and who are kind to the poor, endued also with knowledge and prudence!

We have heard, too, that the people of your land are beseeching God for us, that he would supply and complete that which is defective and imperfect, both in our bodies and souls.

Respecting Samuel the Priest,|| who is held in honour by us, we received the letter which he sent by the hand of

* Mr. Bailey. † Mr. Fenn, ‡ Mr. Baker.

|| Rev. Professor Lee.