

been received by one of the East India proprietors, strongly expressive of the concurrence of the writers (being military men) in the sentiments of the address, and declaring that they were only precluded from affixing their signature from considerations of military etiquette.

SIR P. MAITLAND'S REPLY TO THE MADRAS ADDRESS.

"Gentlemen,—It is truly gratifying to me to receive from so many respectable individuals, residing in the peninsula of India, this friendly expression of regret, that my relation with the Madras Presidency should have been so soon dissolved. Allow me to embrace the opportunity of assuring you that I did not separate from that relation without feeling deeply sensible how many claims on my gratitude and attachment have grown up during my residence amongst you.

"I cannot but notice with great satisfaction the decided manner in which you hail the assurance of her Majesty's Ministers that the principles of religious toleration and neutrality laid down in the Hon. Directors' despatch of February, 1833, shall be fully carried into effect. Doubtless the expressions of such sentiments by you, who possess the best means of ascertaining, and the strongest reasons for weighing well the probable effects of any public measure likely to affect native feeling, can scarcely fail to dispel those apprehensions of danger that have so long been permitted to defer the execution, and even threaten the total abandonment, of an order which religion, justice, and enlightened policy equally required.

"I trust a better prospect is now before you, and that you will, at no distant period, have fresh cause for thankfulness, in the redemption of the pledge given to Parliament by her Majesty's Ministers, when in the Madras presidency, as well as in the rest of India, 'the neutrality of Government will be perfect;' while on the one hand it will not force Christianity on the natives, on the other it will, on no account, evince any appearance of approbation towards idolatry.

"P. MAITLAND."

"London, June 18, 1839,"

ADDRESS FROM THE DEPUTATION WHICH PRESENTED THAT FROM MADRAS.

"Lieutenant General Sir Peregrine Maitland, K. C. B., &c.

"An address to you from some of the hon. Company's chaplains, from the missionaries of various denominations, from a number of the Company's civil servants, and inhabitants of all classes at Madras, and some of its subordinate stations, has been transmitted to me for delivery to you.

"The gentlemen who accompany me on the occasion are a deputation from a provisional committee formed in the course of the last year for the purpose of diffusing information relative to the connexion of the Company's government with the superstitious and idolatrous systems of India, and for promoting the dissolution of that connexion.

"In considering the most suitable mode of presenting this address, it appeared that none could be more eligible than by a deputation from a body engaged in measures for the attainment of objects for which, of all persons, you have made the greatest sacrifice.

"In performing this gratifying duty, we beg leave to express our concurrence in the opinion of the subscribers of this address, 'That your connexion with India, has been, under divine providence, productive of much public benefit, and that, with them, we cannot but in a great measure refer to the firmness and decision you have exhibited, the pledges given by her Majesty's Ministers, to both houses of Parliament, that the countenance and support which the Indian

Governments afford to the idolatry and superstitions of the country should be withdrawn; and the great principle of religious toleration and neutrality laid down in the hon. Court of Directors' despatch of 1833, carried into full effect, pledges which the subscribers to the address gratefully hail, as the guarantee of entire liberty of conscience to all classes of the community.

"We wish we could greet you upon your arrival in this country with the satisfactory intelligence of the complete fulfilment of those pledges.

"In pursuance of them, indeed, a despatch was forwarded to India under date of the 8th of August, 1839, directing that the orders of 1833 shall be carried into effect with as little delay as may be practicable. But up to the date of the latest communication from India, no step whatever appears to have been taken in that country consequent upon the receipt of that despatch. Further, on the important point of the attendance of christian troops, as guards of honour at religious processions of the natives, while the pledge on that head is reiterated in the despatch, an opinion, as to the nature of that attendance, is given, irreconcilable with the views of those who have sought exemption from all such attendance; and, in conjunction with the terms of the instructions on this point, most discouraging to the hopes we had been led to indulge, of an effectual remedy being obtained for so flagrant a violation of the conscientious feelings of the Christian soldiers serving in India.

"It only remains for us, with the numerous body of gentlemen and ministers of religion who have signed the address we now present, to express our admiration of your conduct in relinquishing the high offices you held at Madras, in obedience to the judgment of an enlightened conscience, rather than continue to be an administrator of a system incompatible with higher obligations; our sympathy for the vast sacrifices which that resignation of your command involved, and our regret that India has lost the advantage of your public services. These sentiments, we are well assured, are shared by the great body of religious persons throughout this kingdom.

"It is our fervent hope that He whom you have thus honoured by your conduct will not cease to comfort, sustain, and recompence you in whatever station His Providence may henceforth assign you.

"J. M. STRACHAN,

"Chairman of the Provisional Committee."

(To be continued.)

VISIT TO A HEATHEN FESTIVAL.—Another tour has also been lately taken by Mr. Campbell as far as Madras. While passing through the Canarese country, he preached in Canarese, and, when in the Tamil, in Tamil, as far as his acquaintance with that language would allow. The sight of so many of the abominations of idolatry at Conjeeveram, was calculated to call forth the deepest commiseration for the wretched and lost condition of the Heathen. On the other hand, the many luminous exhibitions of the truth, and the powerful appeals made to the consciences of the people by our respected brother, Mr. Bilberdeck, will not soon be forgotten by him.

In the above tours, upwards of 1300 tracts, and 56 copies of various parts of the sacred Scriptures, have been distributed.—May he who alone can give the increase, condescend to bless the dissemination of his truth, that, in the day of final account, it may be found that we have not laboured in vain.