

123 communicants, and nine * catechumens; and they maintained 40 children this last year entirely at the charge of the mission!

It is of the same station that Mr Swartz, in the year 1793, gives an account peculiarly encouraging.

About a twelvemonth before the date of his letter, many Heathens had been baptized, among whom were some called Kaller. They were looked upon as the most degraded tribe, and in many points deserved the character they had been given. The missionaries, therefore, put them through a course of instruction for two months before they admitted any to holy baptism; and after they had thus permitted them to bear the name of Christians, they endeavoured to impress upon them the obligation of becoming *examples of the believers*. These people, though far from being an industrious race, possessed very good lands, which they were exhorted to cultivate. But it became necessary also to superintend this work. For this purpose Mr. Swartz and his brethren frequently visited them in their villages. On these occasions, in the presence of a crowd of the surrounding Heathens, they used to pray with the new converts, examine their moral and religious conduct, inspect the fruits of their labour, and encourage them to be honest and regular in paying the usual rent to his Majesty's government. In all this they found themselves gradually improving. The appearance was agreeable, and the prospect hopeful. And such was the increase of produce in the district that the people reaped nearly 100,000 kalams, or measures of grain, more than they had done the preceding year. A circumstance, however, soon after occurred which put the sincerity of the Kaller to a severe trial. The Heathens observing that many of their relations wished to embrace the gospel, and that those who had been already baptized refused to take a part as formerly in their plundering expeditions, assembled, and forming an encampment, threatened to extirpate Christianity. Many of the converts were encouraged by their relations, who were still Heathens, to take up arms and enter the field against the formidable band. Mr. Swartz was present at this conjuncture; but he recommended quite an opposite course. We shall let him relate his proceedings in his own words: "I exhorted the Christians to make use of other weapons, viz. prayer, humility, and patience, telling them, in strong terms, that if they became aggressors, I should disown them. This disturbance lasted four months, and became very serious, as the malcontents neglected the cultivation of their own fields; and deterred others from doing it. I wrote to these misguided

* When the church began to flourish, and its members to increase, it was thought prudent and necessary to divide Christians into two orders, distinguished by the names of *Believers* and *Catechumens*. The former were those who had been solemnly admitted into the church by baptism, &c. The latter were such as had not been dedicated to God and Christ by baptism, and were, therefore, admitted neither to the holy communion, nor to the ecclesiastical assemblies, nor to public prayers."—*Mosh*, vol 1. page 100.