

was, that one of the members should, in the way of an address or charge, give each of them certain rules for their general conduct in performing the duties of their function in the missions to which they had been respectively designated. These addresses were delivered from the chair, commonly in Latin; and if they were collected and published in a more tangible form than that in which they lie at present, scattered through the reports of the society, they might find their way into the hands of many, who have now no means of obtaining access to them, and serve to show the earnest solicitude that was taken, from the very first, by our society in the spiritual affairs of the east.

In considering the nature of British influence on the coast of Coromandel, and elsewhere in the East Indies, we are not to be surprised that missions, established upon such principles, should, notwithstanding the many obstacles that were thrown in their way by persons interested in the permanence of existing institutions, besides those which have always attended the preaching of a crucified Redeemer in heathen countries, acquire, by the blessing promised to his faithful servants, both extent and stability. The work was stupendous, but in most instances it has been conspicuously successful. Throughout the various stations, some of all ranks have been conducted from the darkness of Heathenism into *the marvellous light of the gospel*; and from among those, who had professed that corrupted Christianity, which has such a baneful influence in enslaving the minds of men, many have been won over by the simplicity of *the truth as it is in Jesus*. As our limits do not admit of our descending into particulars, or of giving a distinct notice of the actual number of conversions made each year by the several missionaries, we shall content ourselves with transcribing for the satisfaction of our readers, and as an example of what has really been done, the report received by the board, in the year 1743, from the Rev. Messrs. Guisler and Fabricius, the society's missionaries at Madras. This statement may be considered the more valuable to us, since it has reference to Madras, which was the first of all the British missions established in India; and from the unaffected manner in which it is given, we must acquit the reverend writers of any disposition to exaggerate. They report, that from the 26th of September, 1728, (the first year of their ministry) till the end of 1743, there had been christened, or admitted into the congregation from Heathenism and Popery, children included, 753 souls, viz.

Into the Malabar congregation,.....736

Into the Portuguese congregation,..... 17

753

In the year 1743, there were 62 added to these congregations, amongst whom were 34 converts from Popery; they had then also