

great use in the schools, and to all who are engaged in the study of the prevalent languages of the island.

Our Mission Schools, the Committee are happy to state, are, as a whole, in a state of growing prosperity; and with every year, by the blessing of God, are exerting a more extensive and wider influence upon the moral state of the population. From the "Third Report of the Ceylon Native Schools," very recently received, and addressed to the Committee, we are enabled to lay before the friends of the Society, the following interesting Extracts.

"Our mode of instruction has been adapted to the condition of those under our care, commencing with the alphabet, and proceeding to the New Testament, in English, Singhalese, and Tamil, and other useful branches of education have also been taught. Our schools open with supplications to the God of heaven and earth, and close in the same manner. Portions of the sacred Scripture are daily read in all of them.

"On the Sabbath day the children assemble together for public worship, when the liturgy is read in three languages, with portions selected from the Scriptures, and a sermon is preached or read, or an exhortation given, to which catechetical exercises are added.

"Many of the schools have been in operation for nearly three years, in which time about 1800 children, instructed in Christian principles, have been scattered abroad among the mass of the population, to pursue their different employments, and have left us with good hope of their being fully persuaded that the worship of idols is both vain and sinful.

"A considerable number have the fear of God before their eyes, and their conduct is truly worthy of their Christian profession. Several have obtained good situations, some in private families, and others in different departments of government service; and we are happy to find that they have hitherto proved themselves worthy of the trust reposed in them.

"In the selection of teachers we have used the utmost caution and every candidate has passed through the strictest scrutiny, previous to his admission as a teacher, in one of the Mission schools. The profession of Christianity, sound morals, and respectability of character, have been considered by us essential qualifications for the office of Mission school masters; and although a few instances have occurred in which our expectations have been disappointed, most of them have proved themselves worthy of our confidence.

"To render our schools successful beyond what we could anticipate from their being visited only by Europeans, we have in every station appointed some of the most approved natives as visitors of schools, whose business it has been to examine the different classes in every school, give suitable advice, and bring us the most detailed reports.

"One thing was yet wanting,—to introduce the public worship of God in all our places on the Sabbath-day. To accomplish this in some degree, a school-master or visitor was appointed to read an abridgment of the Liturgy in Singhalese, and selected portions from the New Testament, where a Missionary, an assistant Missionary, or a Local Preacher, could not be present; but we considered that it would tend much to the spread of Christianity if we could, by any exertions, preach a sermon in all our places on the Sabbath. This, from our numbers, appeared impracticable, yet it was judged no mean step towards the accomplishment of our wishes, if we could secure the reading of an approved sermon, where a missionary could not be present; and we are happy to say that this wish is near its accomplishment. Brother Clough has translated a series of sermons into Singhalese, which are now in the press, and will soon be in possession of the persons appointed to read them.

"Among the many important ends we have secured, one, which will be as gratifying to you as to ourselves, must not be omitted. By persevering labour we have been enabled to provide our schools with Christian books, and thus have been able to dispense with those in our course of instruction which have a tendency to Heathenism and superstition. We have closely studied the native character, and laboured, as far as possible, to ascertain their views and prejudices, and by prudent measures we have introduced into our schools such books

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