

timid and helpless, when separated from those they love, and placed in a new and unusual situation? Is it remarkable, that they are not all possessed of that prudence and circumspection, so necessary in keeping their views and conduct separate from the little jarrings and opposing interests of those among whom they sojourn? Are we to become indignant, because a few out of a great number of Missionaries have misapprehended their qualifications, and are not found able to maintain that respectability, which is essential to their success, or that discretion, which is requisite to govern a savage mind, even though their lives depend upon it? Why express so much admiration at fortitude and boldness of daring in temporal matters, even when unsuccessful, and deny the smile of approbation to the poor Missionary, whose life is so frequently in danger, and sometimes the sacrifice of his zeal? A correct knowledge of facts would soon remove this unnatural prejudice; we could then apply the case to ourselves, and be able to estimate more correctly the labours, the dangers, and difficulties, which attend the preaching of the Gospel among savage nations. They are chiefly new, many of them altogether unexpected, and more numerous than could have been imagined or foreseen. The knowledge of these things would teach us to respect the character of a Missionary, and to treat him with candour; and should the zeal of some appear at times not directed according to knowledge, we will readily pardon their failings, on account of the heroism displayed in undertaking the Mission. Their fortitude and patience, and above all, their anxiety to give the blessings of the Holy Scriptures to strangers, may certainly cover a multitude of failings.

But while we plead for the exercise of Christian charity, in judging of Missionaries, the greatest care should be taken in choosing them for this arduous undertaking. Not a few, but many rare qualifications are necessary to be united in the character of the man who carries the religion of our blessed Master to rude and uncultivated nations—even that ardent zeal which reconciles him to leave his family and friends, the society of affection and civilization, must be united with firmness, perseverance, and discretion, or he must fail. It is a service of unspeakable magnitude, to preach the Gospel to those who are sitting in darkness, and in the shadow of death; but when the Missionaries are directed by an enlightened zeal, their success, under the