

and serious reflections, that they become the steady friends of the Gospel. Our expectations, therefore, should be moderate, not only as it regards the number of the converts, but the progress which they make in vital Christianity. And even if few or no converts be made, we are not to despair, for God, according to our estimation, is slow, where at length he is to bring about the most glorious purposes.— Abraham was promised a son from the Lord, but twenty-five years elapsed before the promise was fulfilled.— The land of Canaan was promised to his posterity, but five hundred years passed away before they came into possession.— He was assured that the Messiah would descend from him, according to the flesh, but two thousand years were required to complete the preparations necessary for this glorious event. It is the business of the Missionary to do his duty, with pious zeal, and to the extent of his ability, leaving the issue in the hand of God. The greatest impediments to the success of Missions is the difficulty of procuring eligible persons to undertake them. A holy and burning zeal for the salvation of the souls of men is not alone sufficient— they must be wise as serpents and harmless as doves; and this wisdom must extend to a correct knowledge of human nature, as well as of the Scriptures, with an ability to discriminate between different characters with rapid correctness. The Missionary must have the most elevated and faithful conceptions of the Christian doctrine, for it is evident that his errors will produce errors in the converts. Ignorance engenders narrow and imperfect views, and party spirit, uncharitableness. In sending the light of the Gospel, therefore, to the Heathen, the most anxious care should be taken that it be pure, and not disfigured by error; and while the Missionary joins knowledge with charitable zeal, he must be ready to encounter the greatest difficulties and discouragements, even death itself, in support of the truth.

The next Missionary Society that solicits our attention, is that of the Methodists, which has of late years exerted itself with great energy. This denomination of Christians may with great propriety be considered altogether Missionary. The Rev. J. Wesley, the learned and eminent founder of the Methodists, was himself an indefatigable Missionary, as his life abundantly proves. In 1776, he was joined by Dr. Coke, who afterwards became superintendant of Missions, and was himself a most ardent promoter of them, both by precept and example. He made several voyages to America, and