

support and protection are as unstable and fleeting as the visionary objects of a dream? Expelled from their caste, and expatriated their homes and families, deprived of the countenance and support of those to whom they are allied by the ties of nature, and become objects of contempt and derision to their Hindoo brethren, they in this state of humiliation experience the fallacy of those promises by which they were deluded. Condemned, like outcasts of society, to depend for a precarious subsistence on the lukewarm generosity and beneficence of strangers, to whom shall your petitioners in the overwhelmings of their affections, look up for support and protection, unless to your Lordship, who hath been selected to fill the highest and most respectable station of the Episcopacy in India?

"Your petitioners, therefore, most humbly solicit your lordship's attention to their miserable condition; and with hopes of exciting your Lordship's commiseration, they humbly crave permission to approach your Lordship with this relation of their sufferings,—and your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

"*Calcutta, 16th June, 1817.*"

I am disposed to agree with Mr. Murray in thinking that much good will, in all probability, result from the system of instruction lately introduced at Calcutta; for literature and sound views in doctrine, have always been found to go hand in hand together. And with this impression, I should be happy to hear that all the missionaries were in the meantime converted into schoolmasters. A premature attempt to introduce the principles of our holy faith, can have no good effect upon subsequent and more judicious endeavours to christianize the East: but we cannot be in too great a hurry to teach men the elements of science, and to train their minds to sound and rational thinking, on the things of common life, and about the actual condition of the world in which they live. The following quotation will afford the best means of judging on this important subject.

"Besides this extensive system of translation, missionaries have been employed at Calcutta, and at all the principal stations, in endeavouring to convert the natives by the preaching of the gospel. Although no zeal nor exertion seems to have been spared, it is to be regretted that the results, as stated in the Reports, do not appear very encouraging. They may even give rise to the doubt, whether the propagation of Christianity be destined by Providence to take place otherwise than in the train of European knowledge and ideas, which are in fact diffusing themselves so rapidly over the globe. The reports of the missionaries are perfectly candid and ingenuous: they employed no tricks, and admitted of no false semblance of conversion. The result stated is, that in the course of seventeen years, the number of baptisms in all these countries, had amounted only to twelve hundred. The latest reports do not indicate any increasing disposition to listen to the instructions of their Christian teachers. The missionary at Patna writes, "Relative to the actual fruit in the conversion of men, it pleases the Lord still to exercise our faith;" and adds, that almost the only benefit derived from their labours, was the being taught "to cease from themselves, and to expect success from Him