

satisfactory evidence of his faith and repentance, than appears upon the page of his history. Ye sick poor, whose humble habitations are frequently, even unsolicited, visited by your pious ministers and friends, envy not the rich and mighty; but rather be thankful that your dying beds are generally more accessible than theirs, to the faithful ambassador of Christ, who can direct you to the only remedy for all your sorrows, and to the only cordial that can cheer the immortal soul when the corruptible body is returned to its dust!—*To be continued.*

IDOLATRY IN INDIA.*

Copies of Addresses presented to Lieut. General Sir Peregrine Maitland, K. C. B., late Commander-in-Chief, at Madras, and of his Replies.

The first address is from a numerous body of inhabitants of Madras of all classes, with the exception of officers of the army, and of the military medical service, who by the rules of discipline were precluded from signing it.

The second address is from a provisional committee formed in this country for the purpose of diffusing information relative to the connexion of the East India Company's Government with the superstitious and idolatrous system of the natives, and for promoting the dissolution of that connexion.

The address from Madras having followed Sir Peregrine Maitland to England, the earliest opportunity of presenting it was afforded by his visit to London, for the purpose of attending the Waterloo banquet at the Duke of Wellington's, on the 18th of June; on which occasion it was accordingly presented, by a deputation from the provisional committee, with the second address.

"To Lieutenant General Sir Peregrine Maitland, K. C. B., late a member of the Government, and Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army, &c.

"Sir,—We the undersigned inhabitants of the Presidency of Madras, beg leave to express our unfeigned regret that your relation with this presidency should have been so soon dissolved, by the resignation of your high offices.

"We believe that your connexion with India has been, under Divine Providence, productive of much public benefit; and we cannot but in a great measure refer to the firmness and decision you have exhibited, the pledges which have been recently given by her Majesty's Ministers to both houses of Parliament, that the countenance and support which the Government affords to the idolatry and superstitions of the country should be withdrawn, and the great principle of religious toleration and neutrality laid down in the Hon. Court of Directors' despatch of 1833, carried into full effect—pledges which we gratefully hail as the guarantee of entire liberty of conscience to all classes of the community.

"With mixed feelings of admiration and pain we have seen you, in obedience to the dictates of a conscience truly enlightened by the word of God, relinquish, at the greatest personal sacrifice, your high office, and a command which, from a life spent in the military service of your country, had been rendered to you a trust of the deepest interest.

"A sense of duty, as well as a knowledge of your views of the discipline of the army, has alone precluded a numerous body of military men, including our medical fellow-subjects, from uniting with us in this address; but although the loss of their signatures limits our numbers, we feel assured that you will not the less willingly accept this heartfelt expression of our common sentiments of gratitude and esteem."

The above was subscribed by 260 names, and, subsequently to its arrival in England, several letters have been received by one of the East India proprietors, strongly expressive of the concurrence of the writers (being military men) in the sentiments of the address, and declaring that they were only precluded from affixing their signature from considerations of military etiquette.

* Concluded.

SIR P. MAITLAND'S REPLY TO THE MADRAS ADDRESS.

"Gentlemen.—It is truly gratifying to me to receive from so many respectable individuals, residing in the peninsula of India, this friendly expression of regret, that my relation with the Madras Presidency should have been so soon dissolved. Allow me to embrace the opportunity of assuring you that I did not separate from that relation without feeling deeply sensible how many claims on my gratitude and attachment have grown up during my residence amongst you.

"I cannot but notice with great satisfaction the decided manner in which you hail the assurance of her Majesty's Ministers that the principles of religious toleration and neutrality laid down in the Hon. Directors' despatch of February, 1833, shall be fully carried into effect. Doubtless the expressions of such sentiments by you, who possess the best means for ascertaining, and the strongest reasons for weighing well the probable effects of any public measure likely to affect native feeling, can scarcely fail to dispel those apprehensions of danger that have so long been permitted to defer the execution, and even threaten the total abandonment, of an order which religion, justice, and enlightened policy equally required.

"I trust a better prospect is now before you, and that you will, at no distant period, have fresh cause for thankfulness, in the redemption of the pledge given to Parliament by her Majesty's Ministers, when in the Madras presidency, as well as in the rest of India, 'the neutrality of Government will be perfect;' while on the one hand it will not force Christianity on the natives, on the other it will, on no account, evince any appearance of approbation towards idolatry."

"London, June 18, 1839,"

ADDRESS FROM THE DEPUTATION WHICH PRESENTED THAT FROM MADRAS.

"Lieutenant General Sir Peregrine Maitland, K. C. B., &c.

"An address to you from some of the hon. Company's chaplains, from the missionaries of various denominations, from a number of the Company's civil servants, and inhabitants of all classes at Madras, and some of its subordinate stations, has been transmitted to me for delivery to you.

"The gentlemen who accompany me on the occasion are a deputation from a provisional committee formed in the last year for the purpose of diffusing information relative to the connexion of the Company's government with the superstitious and idolatrous systems of India, and for promoting the dissolution of that connexion.

"In considering the most suitable mode of presenting this address, it appeared that none could be more eligible than by a deputation from a body engaged in measures for the attainment of objects for which, of all persons, you have made the greatest sacrifice.

"In performing this gratifying duty, we beg leave to express our concurrence in the opinion of the subscribers of this address, 'That your connexion with India, has been, under divine providence, productive of much public benefit, and that, with them, we cannot but in a great measure refer to the firmness and decision you have exhibited, the pledges given by her Majesty's Ministers, to both houses of Parliament, that the countenance and support which the Indian Governments afford to the idolatry and superstitions of the country should be withdrawn; and the great principle of religious toleration and neutrality laid down in the hon. Court of Directors' despatch of 1833, carried into full effect, pledges which the subscribers of the address gratefully hail, as the guarantee of entire liberty of conscience to all classes of the community.

"We wish we could greet you upon your arrival in this country with the satisfactory intelligence of the complete fulfilment of these pledges.

"In pursuance of them, indeed, a despatch was forwarded to India under date of the 8th of August, 1838, directing that the orders of 1833 shall be carried into effect with as little delay as may be practicable. But up to the date of the latest communication from India, no step whatever appears to have

been taken in that country consequent upon the receipt of that despatch. Further, on the important point of the attendance of Christian troops, as guards of honour at religious processions of the natives, while the pledge on that head is reiterated in the despatch, an opinion, as to the nature of that attendance is given, irreconcilable with the views of those who have sought exemption from all such attendance; and, in conjunction with the terms of the instructions on this point, most discouraging to the hopes we had been led to indulge, of an effectual remedy being obtained for so flagrant a violation of the conscientious feelings of the Christian soldiers serving in India.

"It only remains for us, with the numerous body of gentlemen and ministers of religion who have signed the address we now present, to express our admiration of your conduct in relinquishing the high offices you held at Madras, in obedience to the judgment of an enlightened conscience, rather than continue to be an administrator of a system incompatible with higher obligations; our sympathy for the vast sacrifices which that resignation of your command involved, and our regret that India has lost the advantage of your public services. These sentiments, we are well assured, are shared by the great body of religious persons throughout this kingdom.

"It is our fervent hope that He whom you have thus honoured by your conduct will not cease to comfort, sustain, and recompense you in whatever station His Providence may henceforth assign you.

"J. M. STRACHAN,

"Chairman of the Provisional Committee,"

REPLY TO THE PRECEDING ADDRESS.

"Gentlemen.—I have received from your hands with much pleasure, the address from Madras, and I feel deeply sensible of the generous motive which has led you to honour me with your presence in order to present it, and to express your concurrence in the too favourable esteem of my conduct, which the address conveys.

"It can hardly be necessary for me, I trust, to assure you, that, with the opinions which I conscientiously entertained upon the important subject to which the address refers, my resignation seemed to be an inevitable act of duty so soon as it appeared, that the expectations with which I entered then the public service in India were not to be fulfilled.

"The Hon. Court's despatch of Feb. 2, 1831, directed that native Christians should be relieved from compulsory attendance on the religious ceremonies of the natives, if that obligation existed anywhere within their territory. The order of February, 1833, established, 'that in all matters relating to their temples, their worship, their festivals, their religious practices, their ceremonious observances, the natives should be left to themselves.' And by a small volume put into my hand by the Chairman of the Hon. Court of Directors, before I left England, in which the character and effects of the native worship are fully described, I was instructed, 'that the neutrality of government should be perfect, while on one hand it should not force Christianity on the people, on the other hand it should on no account evince any appearance of approbation towards idolatry.'

"The perplexity which I experienced when I found at Madras a state of things wholly at variance with the neutrality contemplated in these documents, was not relieved as I expected by the reply of the Hon. Directors to the references which were made to them. Their despatch of October 18, 1837, according to the only interpretation I thought it possible to put upon it, left me no alternative but the respectful tender of my resignation, or silent acquiescence in the continuance of our relation with the idolatrous worship, (the dissolution of which was the principle conveyed in the despatch of 1833,) leaving it to time and the gradual growth of knowledge, to separate from its observances whatever may be distasteful to a Christian, a result which I could not profess to expect so long as we continued to administer its revenues, direct its ceremonies, and present offerings to its idols. "I am firmly convinced, that nothing is wanted to give effect to the favourable disposition in the home government of India, but the use of frank explanation and considerate arrangement with the natives con-