## ABORIGINAL TRIBES IN BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

sionaries. They will then be more likely to act on a consistent and uniform plan, on which I am persuaded success mainly depends; and the mission once established, will be more regularly supplied with teachers, and be more permanently kept up. I have already stated my reasons in my Letter to your Excellency, above alluded to, for giving the preference to this over any of the other excellent missionary societies; but if they cannot or will not undertake it, I would fain hope some one society may be selected, and the task solely confined to that one.

## (signed)

George Bagot.

ABSTRACT of the Number of Indians who received Presents at Massaroony Post, Essequibo, in the Years 1821, 1824, 1827 and 1830.

					Captains.	Men.	Women.	Children.	TOTAL.
March 1821 *November 1824 October 1827 November 1830	-	-	 -	-	17 13 19 19 68	288 251 437 475 1,451	277 278 331 360 1,246	236 162 251 262 911	818 704 1,038 1,116 3,676

\* In 1824, several tribes or families did not attend, in consequence as it is supposed of some irregularity in the notices.

## Enclosure, No. 5.

COPY of a LETTER from the Rev. John Tho. Hynes to Sir B. D'Urban, K. C. B.

Sin,

Cummingsburg, 19th July 1830.

I PROCEED to lay before you, in compliance with your Excellency's desire, a statement of such facts as I have collected relative to the Spanish Indians, as they are called, previously to and during my visit at their settlement in the Morocco Creek; together with a few reflections as to the practicability of forming them into a community, and the advantages that would be likely to result therefrom to the colony at large.

There are from 150 to 200 families of these Indians scattered among our creeks; they emigrated from the Orinoco several years back under very peculiar circumstances; being essentially royalists, they took an early and decided part in the revolutionary wars which distracted their country. Every inducement which the love of liberty, licentiousness, or money could suggest or inspire, was held out by the patriots as the price of their apostacy; but true to the interests of their sovereign, they struggled till the last strong hold was abandoned by the European royalists to uphold the declining fortunes of their master. This devotedness brought down upon them a dreadful retaliation; their priests were massacred, their villages plundered and razed to the ground, and these forlorn beings, whose greatest crime was an attachment to the institutions that rescued them from barbarism, were driven from their comfortable homes, and the lands they had fertilized with the sweat of their brow, to seek a shelter amid the forests of Guiana. One wide desolation has since overspread these missions, and the savages assembled together with so much trouble, are again wandering in the woods.

It is but natural to suppose, that freed from every restraint, civil and ecclesiastical, they are much deteriorated in their moral and intellectual condition since their departure from the Orinoco. The temptations to idleness and profligacy which such a state of life holds out, and the corrupting influence of the erratic tribes with whom they are compelled to assort, are not easily withstood. I fear they have yielded to them; but though degenerate, it is easy to discern a degree of intelligence, and a refinement of feeling which mark at once the early impress of civilization and religion. Happy at being tolerated within the pale of a more enlightened and settled government, they are eager to evince their gratitude for the protection it affords them; they are likewise most anxious, but unable of themselves, to transmit to their children those blessings which elevated themselves in the scale of being. Under the excellent and liberal administration of your Excellency, these advantages I have no doubt will be secured to them, and your Excel-617.