

these works, Mr. Lee had recourse to an expedition, which his pecuniary circumstances very naturally suggested. The books enumerated were never in his possession at one time. Having purchased one, and read it, this was sold; and, with a little addition, the sum enabled him to procure another; which, in its turn, was disposed of in a similar manner. Such was the progress of Mr. Lee's mind, and such were his acquirements during his apprenticeship.

On being liberated from his indenture, he formed a determination to make himself acquainted with the Greek. He accordingly purchased a Westminster Greek Grammar; and not long afterwards a Greek Testament; which, with the assistance of Schrevelius' Lexicon, he was soon able to read.— Having made this proficiency, he next procured "Huntingford's Greek Exercises," which he wrote throughout; and then, agreeably to the plan recommended in these Exercises, read Xenophon's Cyropædia, and, shortly afterwards, Plato's Dialogues. Some parts of the Iliad and Odyssey of Homer, the Golden Verses of Pythagoras, with the Commentary of Hierocles, Lucian's Dialogues of the Dead, some of the Poetæ Minores, and the Antigone of Sophocles, soon followed, to mark the career of intellect, and to augment his stock of knowledge.— Having surmounted these difficulties, Mr. Lee next thought he would attempt the Hebrew; and, with this design, he procured Bythner's Grammar, with his Lyra Prophetica, by the help of which, he was enabled in a short time to read the Hebrew Psalter, a copy of which he procured. Advancing in the study of this language, he next purchased Buxtorf's Grammar and Lexicon, together with a Hebrew Bible, with which he soon made himself acquainted.

It was much about this time, that a kind of accident threw in his way the Targum of Onkelas, which, with the assistance of a Chaldee Grammar he already possessed in Bythner's Lyra, and Schindler's Lexicon, he was soon able to read. His next step was to undertake the Syriac, in which also his efforts were crowned with success. By the assistance which he derived from Otho's Synopsis and Schindler's Lexicon, he was soon enabled to read some of Gattir's Testament. He next turned his attention to the Samaritan, in which he found less difficulty than in several of his former attempts.— For as the Samaritan Pentateuch differs but little from the Hebrew, except in the variation of character, he found few obstacles to his reading it. In this, however, he was compelled to confine himself to such quotations as books supplied; as works in that language did not lie within his reach.

During the whole of this astonishing career, Mr. Lee was aided by any instructor, uncheered by any mercenary companion, and uninfluenced by the hope either of profit or of praise. The difficulties which he had to surmount, arising from his situation in life, were more than sufficient to depress any spirit less active and energetic than his own. But in addition to these, his incessant application to study, brought on an inflammation in his eyes, with which, at times, he was severely afflicted; and this induced those with whom he was surrounded, to use every effort to dissuade him from his pursuits, and to oppose his progress with every discouragement in their power. These circumstances united, presented to his view an accumulation of opposition, the aspect of which was truly formidable.— But habit, and a fixed determination to proceed, had now made study his principal solace; so that when the business of the day was finished, he renewed his application, and found it rather a source of rest from manual labour, than a mental exertion which augmented his bodily toils. And although, in his prosecution of these arduous studies, he suffered many privations; yet the solitary satisfaction which he derived from his successful efforts, imparted a recompense, which a mind actuated by similar principals alone could feel.

But while Mr. Lee made these rapid advances in the acquirement of languages, he was not inattentive to the business upon which his livelihood depended. In the purchase of books, he had expended much money; but he had also procured a chest of tools, worth about £25, by the time he had attained his twenty-fifth year. Considering his trade as his only support, and receiving some intimations and promises of a favourable nature in the line of his occupation; his prospects in life, now fully engrossed his attention; and under these views he

married. The changes which had then taken place, soon induced him to think, that, how pleasing so over his acquisitions might appear, they were entirely useless in the situation that seemed to be allotted him; and under these impressions, he thought it prudent to relinquish the study of languages altogether. His books were accordingly sold, and new resolutions were formed, which coincided with his station, if they were not conformable to his inclination.

But the issues of human life frequently depend upon incidents, which we can neither anticipate nor command. Mr. Lee, prior to these latter resolutions, had been sent into Worcestershire, to superintend, under his master, Mr. John Leo, the repairing of a large house, belonging to the Rev. Mr. Cookes. While in this situation, he was awakened from his dream of life, by a melancholy accident that in one instant totally disarranged his plans, and reduced him and his wife to a state of the most severe distress. A fire broke out in the house which they had been repairing, which consumed all his tools, together with his hopes and prospects, in one devouring blaze. In consequence of this calamity, he was now cast upon the world, without a friend, without a shilling, and without even the means of subsistence. On his own account, as he had long been accustomed to misfortune, these calamities were but slightly felt; but the partner of his life, being involved in the same common affliction, her distress gave to his sufferings a degree of acuteness, which virtuous sympathy alone can comprehend.

Affairs, however, had now reached an important crisis. What was lost could not be recovered; and Mr. Lee began seriously to think of adopting some new course, in which he might derive advantages from his former studies. At this time, nothing appeared so eligible to him, as that of becoming a country schoolmaster; and to qualify himself more fully for this office, he applied with assiduity to the study of "Murray's English Exercises," and to the improvement of his knowledge in the rules of arithmetic. But against this scheme there was one formidable objection. He had no money on which to begin; and now not any friend, who, under existing circumstances, would be disposed to lend him the sum he wanted.

Provisionally, while he was in this state of depression, solicitude, and embarrassment, the Rev. Archdeacon Corbett, having heard of his singular attachment to study, and of his being at that time in Langport, requested an interview; that he might learn from his own statement, the genuine particulars of a report, in which, from its singularity, he hesitated to place implicit confidence. A little conversation soon convinced him, that, on this occasion, the trumpet of fame had not sounded a delusive blast; and an inquiry into his mode of life, soon led to a development of his present calamities.

Pleased with having such an opportunity of fostering genius, of relieving distress, and of rewarding application, this worthy gentleman soon adopted measures, through which Mr. Lee was appointed to the superintendance of a charity-school in Shrewsbury, and, at the same time, introduced him to the notice of Dr. Jonathan Scott, who had been Persian secretary to Mr. Hastings in India, and who is well known and kindly respected as an Oriental scholar. It was with this gentleman, that Mr. Lee had, for the first time in his life, either an opportunity or the pleasure of conversing upon those arduous studies in which he had been so long engaged; but, which, under all the disadvantages arising from solitude and poverty, he had prosecuted with so much success.

Astonished at Mr. Lee's acquisitions, and finding him possessed of almost unexampled facilities for the acquirement of language, Dr. Scott put into his hands some books, through the assistance of which he has made himself acquainted with the Arabic, Persian, and Hindostanee languages. The loan of these books, and some instruction in pronunciation, included all that Mr. Lee required from foreign aid. His own mind furnished every other resource. And such was his progress in these hitherto untrodden paths, that, in the course of a few months, he was not only able to read and translate from any Arabic, or Persian manuscript, but to compose in these languages. To his friend and patron, Dr. Scott, Mr. Lee sent Arabic and Persian translations of several Oriental apologues, taken from Dr. Johnson's Rambler; and also Addison's Vision of Mirza, in the

Spectator. These translations, in the opinion of Dr. Scott, were "wonderfully well done; and his testimony is confirmed by the decided approbation which Mr. James Anderson, whose abilities as an Oriental scholar needs no encomium, has been pleased to express.

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

OPERATIONS OF THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY IN SOUTHERN INDIA.

Travancore.

This is a populous country in the southern part of Hindoostan, extending northwestwardly from Cape Comorin, nearly 200 miles, on the Malabar coast; and successfully occupied, as a missionary field, by several societies in Great Britain.

One of the most interesting of the London Society's missions, is the mission in South Travancore. It was commenced in 1805. By the advice of Messrs. Tyerman and Bennett, who had been employed as a Deputation of the Society, to visit all their missions, the whole Travancore mission was recently formed into two distinct missions, called the eastern and western divisions: the former to have its centre at Nagercoil, the original seat of the mission; and the latter at the town of Travancore, which is situated in the heart of an immense population. This arrangement, it is thought will add much to the efficiency of the mission.

The following encouraging statement respecting the mission, says the Missionary Register, is made by the Deputation:

In the eastern division are 14 chapels, 10 of which are good and comfortable buildings and one more which is immediately erected: the central chapel at Nagercoil, not yet finished, belongs to the eastern division. Here are, also, 36 schools, containing 1304 children, some of which are girls; besides the girls' school at Nagercoil, under the care of Mrs. Mault, in which are 40 fine girls, 12 of whom learn to make lace—making in all 1344 children; one schoolmaster to each school: the seminary contains 31 boys and youths, making a total of 1375 children and youths under constant religious instruction. In this division are 1410 professing Christians—men, women, and children; 440 of whom have been baptised. To this division belong 17 native teachers and catechists.

In the western division are 12 chapels; 10 of which are good buildings, and the other two are under improvement and enlargement: one more chapel is to be erected in the town of Travancore, near Mr. Mead's house. Here are, also, 21 schools, containing 541 children, some of whom are girls; one schoolmaster to each school. In this division are 1441 native Christians; 95 of whom have been baptised. To this division 16 native teachers are attached.

The eastern and western divisions contain together—26 chapels; 59 schools, including seminary and girls' school; 95 schoolmasters, and Mr. Cumberland, who is over the seminary, with some monitors; 1916 children under Christian instruction; 2851 native Christians; 535 of whom have been baptised, about 100 of whom appear to be truly pious characters; 33 native teachers.

We had several opportunities of seeing all the native teachers, as they assemble once a week at Nagercoil, to report to the brethren their labors; and to receive instruction and seek encouragement and admonition, such as it may be deemed necessary to give. Nearly the whole, it is hoped, are pious and consistent men, and efficient laborers; possessed of good common sense, and a competent knowledge of theology, they appear to be much devoted to their work, and we had every reason to be satisfied with their qualifications and their labors. They are essential auxiliaries to this vast and extended mission; with them is the superintendance of the schools, which they visit several times every week; and thus they are enabled to do, as they all reside in the villages at which they labor and where the schools are. They, likewise, assemble the people in the chapels, on Lord's days, and other occasions, and read and explain to them the word of God; and go from house to house, catechising