

**A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THIRTY
YEARS OF MISSIONARY WORK
OF THE CHURCH MISSIONARY
SOCIETY IN THE PUNJAB & SINDH
1852 TO 1882**

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A Brief Account of Thirty Years of Missionary Work of the Church Missionary Society in the Punjab & Sindh 1852 to 1882 by Robert Clark

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ROBERT CLARK

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THIRTY YEARS OF MISSIONARY WORK
OF
The Church Missionary Society
IN
THE PUNJAB & SINDH.
1852 TO 1882.

BY

THE REVD. ROBERT CLARK,
Secretary, C. M. S. for the Punjab & Sindh.

“Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed:
for the LORD God, even my God will be with thee; He will not fail thee,
nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of
the house of the LORD.”—Words of David, 1 Chron. xviii, —20.

Lahore:

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1883.

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Clark

ERRATA.

Page 16, line 2, for <i>now</i> ,	read <i>how</i> .
" 30, " 3, " <i>Englan</i> ,	" <i>England</i> .
" 55, " 30, " <i>veins</i> ,	" <i>veins</i> .
" 37, " 29, " <i>reputation</i> ,	" <i>refutation</i> .
" 46, " 31, " add full stop after <i>all</i> .	
" 52, " 34, " <i>lasses</i> ,	read <i>classes</i> .
" 54, " 19, " <i>insome</i> ,	" <i>in some</i> .
" 130, " 37, " <i>responsible</i> ,	" <i>responsible</i> .
" 162, " 14, " <i>hard</i> ,	" <i>hardly</i> .
" 174, " 25, " <i>resource</i> ,	" <i>resources</i> .
" 226, " 9, " <i>effectd</i> ,	" <i>effected</i> .
" 186 N 3 " <i>results</i>	" <i>results</i>

CHAPTER I.

THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE PUNJAB MISSIONS.

It was in the year 1849, that God put it into the heart of one of His faithful servants, an officer in the East India Company's Army (one who, like Cornelius, the centurion, feared God, and gave much alms, and prayed to God always) to seek for God's glory in making Christ's salvation known in the country of the Punjab. He was, as we have said, a man of prayer, who shut the doors of his closet and prayed; and then came forth to act for God, with a purpose and a courage, which everywhere were blessed in all that he undertook. As he loved to pray in secret, so also he loved to work in secret; and when the second Sikh War terminated with the annexation of the Punjab, after the battle of Gujrat, our centurion friend first laboured fervently in his prayers to God for the country and people of the Punjab, and then anonymously, and as he thought secretly, sent Rs. 10,000 to the Church Missionary Society, with the request that they would commence Missionary work in our new dependency. He did so through a Presbyterian Missionary, the Revd. John Newton, who, after 49 years of faithful ministry, still labours in Lahore, revered and honored by all, together with the Revd. C. W. Forman, his son-in-law, and with his sons, all of them Missionaries, and all working around him, with the exception of one who now rests from his missionary labours in God's presence above. Thus happily commenced the Society's work in the Punjab; and thus commenced also the intimate relationship of the Church Missionary Society with the American Board of Missions, which has now existed for

more than 30 years. Whatever others may say, or think, we who are in the Punjab have seen, and therefore we bear witness, that God's grace is not confined to any one Church or people. Dearly as we love our own Church, we have seen that converts are not made only in the Church of England; and we have seen also that converts of the Church of England are not better Christians than those of other Churches. And we say this, because the Punjab owes a great debt of gratitude especially to Dr. Duff and to the Free Church of Scotland in Bengal, who have sent to the Punjab many of the most influential and useful Native Christians, who are now labouring in the Punjab, in connexion both with the Church Missionary Society, and with other Societies. We cannot blind our eyes to facts; for we see that God is no respecter of persons, and that in every nation, and in every Church, they who fear Him, and work righteousness, are accepted and blessed of Him. We speak not of other matters, but of God's blessing; and we wot that whoever God blesses is blessed, and none can reverse it.

Thus was commenced in a very little way a very great work, which has gone on, and has prospered, ever since. A little vine was then planted, which has taken root, and it is gradually spreading itself over the land. The water of life given to one Christian man, who was then a Captain in the East India Company's Army, became in him a well of water, springing up unto everlasting life, from which rivers of living water are now flowing copiously forth into many parts of the land.

That time was one, when, by God's mercy, there were many great Christian heroes in the Punjab. Sir Henry Lawrence was then at the head of the Board of Administration. His letter of welcome to the Missionaries, and his subscription of Rs. 500 a year to the Mission, showed the importance which he attached to the work in which they were

J. V. N.

engaged. His immediate colleagues were Mr. John Lawrence, afterwards Lord Lawrence of the Punjab, and Sir Robert Montgomery. There was a galaxy then of strong hands and noble earnest hearts around them, in Mr. (afterwards Sir Donald) McLeod, Major (afterwards Sir Herbert) Edwardes, Mr. Arthur Roberts, Mr. Edward Thornton, Major (afterwards General) Edward Lake, Major (afterwards General) Reynell Taylor, and many others. They were men who honored God, and who were therefore men who were themselves honored of God; and they speedily rose to great distinction. They were men who, in their simple faith towards God, never hesitated to let the success of their administration, and their personal credit and position, depend on the results of their Christian action and example. They therefore became many of them the founders of our Punjab Missions. They were willing to stand or fall, and to let our empire stand or fall, on this issue. And they stood, and they prospered; and the empire also stood and prospered under their administration. "If any man serve *me*," said Christ, "him will my Father honor." They served Christ and His Father honored them.

Those were days in which governors and rulers lived not only for the punishment of evil-doers, but for *the praise of them who do well*. (I Pet. ii, 14, and Rom. xiii, 3); days in which both the Bible and Prayer Book were believed in; when magistrates thought it not only their duty to execute justice, but were diligent also to maintain *truth*; and were not ashamed to pray for grace to do it; when Rulers "inclined to *God's* will and walked in *His* ways"; and sought "the advancement of *God's* glory and the good of *His* Church", as well as "the safety, honor and welfare of *Her* Majesty and her Dominions; when men so ordered and settled their endeavours upon the best and surest foundations, that not only peace and happiness and justice, but also that truth and

religion and piety might be established in the land. They first in all their thoughts and words and works sought God's honor and glory; and then studied to preserve the people committed to their charge in wealth, peace and godliness."

The Mutiny of 1857 then came. Our rulers had acknowledged and borne testimony to God by their actions; and God by His actions then acknowledged and bore witness to them; and many of them became the saviours of India, as much as the Judges in days of old were the saviours of Israel. The Punjab then stood forth as a greatly honored Province. We read of it in every history of the times; and it prospered. Both rulers and people prospered exceedingly.

How necessary the duty, which is incumbent on all Christians, to "make supplications, prayers, intercessions, and givings of thanks, for kings and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." We may often with advantage make use of the petitions of our Prayer Book in the service for the accession of our Queen, that God's wisdom may be our Rulers' guide, and that His arm may strengthen them; so that justice, truth and holiness, that peace and love and every virtue may flourish in our days; that they ever trusting in His goodness, and protected by His power, and crowned with His grace and favor, may continue before Him in health, peace and honor; that the world may acknowledge God to be ever their defender and mighty deliverer,

The eminent Missionary Swartz, as early as 1796, after he had been 46 years a Missionary in India, in speaking of some true servants of God, who were in India in his time, wrote: "In spite of ridicule *they* are the pillars, which support the State more than all political machines;" and again, "one thing I affirm before God and man, that if Christianity

in its plain and undisguised form is properly promoted, the country will not suffer, but be benefited by it." And when he died in 1798, the Directors of the East India Company erected to him a marble monument "in testimony of the deep sense they entertained of his unwearied and disinterested labours in the cause of religion and piety." It was thus that our old Hon'ble East India Company, for the first time we believe, gave public honor to a Missionary, as they have often done since, in spite of the opposition which many individuals, conscientiously no doubt, though most mistakenly, have given to Missionary work in India. The benefits which Missions have given to India are now almost everywhere conceded.

Lord Lawrence's opinion of Missionary work is given in his *Life*, Vol. II, p. 609, where we read the following words:—

"I believe, notwithstanding all that the English people have done to benefit India, the Missionaries have done more than all other agencies combined. Such has been the effect of their earnest zeal, untiring devotion, and the excellent example which they have, I may say, universally shown to the people, that I have no doubt whatever, that in spite of the great masses of the people being intensely opposed to their doctrine, they are as a body remarkably popular in the country. It seems to me that, year by year, and cycle by cycle, the influence of these missionaries must increase, and that in God's good will, the time may be expected to come, when large masses of the people, having lost all faith in their own, and feeling the want of a religion which is pure and true and holy, will be converted and profess the Christian religion, and having professed it, will live in accordance with its precepts."

As regards the general principle of the relations of Christianity and Christian teaching to our Indian Government, Lord (then Sir John) Lawrence thus expresses himself in his celebrated minute, written just after the Mutiny:—