

**PROCEEDINGS OF A GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF BENGAL
PROTESTANT MISSIONARIES,
HELD AT CALCUTTA, SEPTEMBER
4-7, 1855**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649386420

Proceedings of a General Conference of Bengal Protestant Missionaries, held at Calcutta,
September 4-7, 1855 by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

VARIOUS

**PROCEEDINGS OF A GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF BENGAL
PROTESTANT MISSIONARIES,
HELD AT CALCUTTA, SEPTEMBER
4-7, 1855**

PROCEEDINGS
OF A
GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF
BEN^gAL PROTESTANT MISSIONARIES,

Held at Calcutta, September 4—7, 1855.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE CONFERENCE.

CALCUTTA:
PUBLISHED AT THE BAPTIST MISSION PRESS.
1855.

CONTENTS.

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction, list of Missionaries, &c.	1
On the Progress made by Christian Missions, in Bengal,	4
Resolution respecting the progress of the Gospel,	23
On the peculiar Difficulties encountered by Missions in Bengal,	24
Resolution respecting the Difficulties of Missions,	42
On Preaching the Gospel in the Native Tongues,	43
Resolution on Vernacular Preaching,	64
On English Missionary Education,	67
Resolution on English Missionary Education,	82
On the Influence of the system of Indigo Planting on the spread of Christianity,	84
The Zemindary system and Christianity,	99
On Improvements desired in Missionary Work in India,	117
On Vernacular Christian Literature,	124
Vernacular Mission Schools at Burdwan,	135
Resolution on Vernacular Day-Schools,	144
Native Female Education,	145
Resolution respecting Female Education,	157
Appeal from the General Conference of Bengal Protestant Missionaries to the Committees and Boards of Management of the various Mission- ary Societies in Europe and America,	159
Resolution on Parting,	167
APPENDIX.	
On Vernacular Preaching,	169
On Itinerancies,	173
On English Schools,	174
On Village and Bazar Schools,	176
Girls' Schools,	<i>ib.</i>
What is to be done?	<i>ib.</i>
Orphan Institutions,	177

GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF
BENGAL MISSIONARIES.

DURING the first week in September, there was held in Calcutta a series of meetings, of peculiar interest to those who watch the progress of the missionary cause in India. Owing to various circumstances, which rarely occur at one time, nearly all the missionaries residing in the country parts of the province of Bengal were brought to the chief town of the Presidency, and it was arranged that, with the Calcutta missionaries, a General Conference should be held to take into consideration the present position of the chief questions connected with their common work. The meetings of the Conference lasted four days, and by careful attention to orderly arrangements, a great amount of business was got through in that brief period. The greatest harmony prevailed throughout the numerous discussions: the attention of all was directed exclusively to missionary subjects; and not a word was said respecting those ecclesiastical differences which have so much divided the churches of Christendom. Indeed, it is believed that nowhere will be found a more complete Evangelical Alliance than has been practically maintained for many years amongst the Bengal Missionaries. Though belonging to many Churches and Societies, they are bound together in numerous instances by the closest ties of personal friendship, as well as of christian affection, and frequently unite both in labours and consultations to advance the Redeemer's cause. The following is a list of those Missionaries and others by

whom the Conference was formed: the great majority were present on every day of meeting.

MISSIONARIES.

<i>Baptist Mission.</i>	<i>Church Mission.</i>
Rev. C. C. Aratoon, Calcutta.	Rev. T. Sandys, Calcutta.
„ C. B. Lewis, ditto.	„ J. Long, ditto.
„ G. Pearce, ditto.	„ E. Stuart, ditto.
„ W. Sampson, ditto.	„ G. G. Cuthbert, ditto.
„ J. Thomas, ditto.	„ B. Geidt, Burdwan.
„ J. Wenger, ditto.	„ C. Neale, ditto.
„ T. Morgau, Howrah.	„ C. H. Blumhardt, Krishnaghur.
„ W. H. Denham, Serampore.	„ J. Stern, ditto.
„ J. Trafford, ditto.	„ C. Bomwetch, Santipore.
„ F. Supper, Cutwa.	„ C. Kruckeberg, Chupra, Krishnaghur.
„ J. Williamson, Beerbhoom.	„ F. Schurr, Kapasdanga, ditto.
„ J. Sale, Jessore.	—————
„ J. Anderson, ditto.	<i>Kirk of Scotland.</i>
„ J. C. Page, Barrisal.	Rev. J. Ogilvie, Calcutta.
„ T. Martin, ditto.	„ J. Anderson, ditto.
„ R. Bion, Dacca.	„ W. White, ditto.
„ R. Robinson, ditto.	„ J. W. Yule, ditto.
„ J. Johannes, Chittagoug.	—————
—————	<i>Free Church of Scotland.</i>
<i>London Mission.</i>	Rev. D. Ewart, Calcutta.
Rev. A. F. Lacroix, Calcutta.	„ T. Smith, ditto.
„ J. Mullens, ditto.	„ T. Gardiner, ditto.
„ E. Storrow, ditto.	„ J. Pourie, ditto.
„ W. H. Hill, ditto.	„ J. Fordyce, ditto.
—————	„ Lál Behári De, ditto.
<i>Cathedral Mission.</i>	„ Behári Lál Singh, ditto.
Rev. E. Yate, Calcutta.	Mr. W. C. Fyfe, Chinsurah.
	Rev. J. Bhattáchárjya, Bausbaria.

MEMBERS OF THE CALCUTTA MISSIONARY CONFERENCE.

Rev. J. Herdman, Chaplain of the Scotch Kirk, Calcutta.

J. C. Stanley, Esq. Elder, ditto, ditto.

Rev. J. Milne, Minister of the Free Church, ditto.

Rev. Dr. Boaz, Minister of the Union Chapel, ditto.

H. J. Muston, Esq. Treasurer of the Calcutta Tract Society.

H. Woodrow, Esq. R. S. Moncrieff, Esq.

E. B. Underhill, Esq. Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society.

Total.—Fifty-five Members.

Secretary to the Conference.—Rev. J. Mullens.

The first meeting of the Conference, a meeting for prayer, was held in the side room of the Calcutta Town Hall, at half-past seven, on TUESDAY, Sept. 4th. The Rev. G. G. Cuthbert presided: and the Rev. Messrs. E. Storrow of Bhowanipore, J. Williamson of Beerbhoom, J. W. Yule of Calcutta, and C. Kruckeberg of Chuprah, Krishnaghur, led the devotions of the meeting.

After breakfasting together, the Missionaries held their first meeting for business at ten o'clock;

The Rev. D. Ewarr, in the Chair.

Present: forty-three members, and ten visitors.

1. After singing, prayer was offered by the Rev. C. Neale of Burdwan.

2. The President then addressed the Conference on the object for which the missionary brethren had been called together; and expressed the hope that all discussions would be carried on in the spirit of Christian love, and that the meetings would prove very profitable to all present.

3. The Rev. J. Trafford of Serampore next moved, and the Rev. C. H. Blumhardt of Krishnaghur seconded the following Resolution, which was carried unanimously:—

“THAT the Missionaries here assembled for consultation respecting the various agencies employed in their work, desire to record their thankfulness to their Lord and Redeemer for the opportunity of mutual improvement which he has thus

given. They desire also to express their great pleasure at meeting each other from so many missionary stations in Bengal, on an occasion so important and delightful. As servants of the only Redeemer of men, they avow a fervent attachment to the distinguishing doctrines of the Word of God respecting the fall and salvation of mankind; and an earnest desire to fulfil to the utmost their high and solemn duties as ambassadors of Christ in a heathen land. As brethren serving the same Master, they rejoice in the practical union which has existed among them for so many years, and desire continually to maintain and increase that union, in order that everywhere they may aid each other to advance, so far as human efforts can, the kingdom of Him, whose gospel of mercy they preach to a sinful world."

4. The President then called upon the Rev. J. MULLENS to bring forward the first topic for consideration; upon which the following paper prepared by him, was read to the meeting:

ON THE PROGRESS MADE BY CHRISTIAN MISSIONS IN BENGAL.

Few subjects can furnish a more appropriate introduction to the discussions of this Conference, than the one which I have the honour to bring forward. The present is the first occasion, during the sixty years' progress of Protestant Missions in Bengal, on which the missionaries of all Societies, from the country as well as the chief town of the Presidency, have met to deliberate on their common affairs, and to endeavour, by bringing their experience into a common stock, to throw light upon each other's labours, and estimate the efficiency of each other's plans. While, therefore, the proprietors of steamboats and railroads, or the members of mercantile firms, calculate the results of their speculations, and look with an eager eye to the annual dividends they produce, we too may, at the outset of our meetings, survey the fruits which have sprung from missionary labours, examine the condition and efficiency of our systems of agency, and estimate from them the prospects which lie before us in future days.