

# **HINDU PASTORS: A MEMORIAL**

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Hindu Pastors: A Memorial by E. J. Robinson

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**E. J. ROBINSON**

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A MEMORIAL**



# HINDU PASTORS:

A MEMORIAL.

BY THE

REV. E. J. ROBINSON,

*Late Wesleyan Missionary in Ceylon.*



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## P R E F A C E.

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It is to be regretted that a returned missionary, now the superintendent of an English Circuit, did not carry out his intention to prepare a memoir of the younger of the two Ceylonese pastors to whose worth the present volume is a humble testimony. Thinking that the tribute was due, and that a good opportunity was presented to invite renewed attention to the claims of an important part of the Mission-field, the writer, with the knowledge and approval of his friend referred to, intended to offer a paper for insertion in the "Wesleyan-Methodist Magazine." He then found, not only that he could not compress the narrative within so small a compass, but that it was impossible in writing it to avoid frequently mentioning the elder pastor,

who was equally deserving of a memorial. The project of separate sketches no sooner suggested itself, than it appeared unfeasible; and the resolution was formed, of which the pages following are the result, that the association of the Tamil brethren should be continued in an interwoven biography. Descriptions of the country, its inhabitants and their religion, and of the Mission-stations, being required, it was concluded that chapters on these subjects would be better than wide interruptions of the story. Hence the division of the work into two parts.

There is reason to infer that the friends of the deceased destroyed their manuscripts, the missionary on the ground having inquired for such remains to no purpose. For a while this seemed to indicate an insuperable difficulty; but it was perceived that material existed that could be turned to account. Thanks are in the first instance due to the Rev. John Kilner, for a brief narrative of the junior evangelist published by him in Ceylon, and for having answered various inquiries, and furnished the photographic por-



trait of which the frontispiece is a reflection. Special acknowledgment must be made of the kindness of the Rev. Dr. Hoole, who encouraged the project, contributed a valuable paragraph, and advised and facilitated the inspection of correspondence at the Mission-house, a privilege which the author trusts he has not abused. Next to be named are communications from the Rev. Thomas H. Squance and the Rev. Ralph Stott, to whom conjointly, for reasons that will be discovered, the memoir might have been appropriately dedicated. Letters from the Rev. James Gillings, the Rev. Joseph Rippon, Mrs. Stott, Mrs. Griffith, and others, have also been of service; and a description in manuscript of the Jaffna gods by a moonshee, Mr. Wood, forwarded by the Rev. John Walton, has been advantageously consulted.

The biographical sketches now given may serve in part as an answer to the misrepresentation which the too-knowing have not ceased to reiterate, that there have been no Hindu converts to the Christian religion; and it may be remarked that, if they reveal success among the

Tamils of Ceylon, similar accounts would demonstrate equal, if not greater, triumphs in the provinces inhabited by the Singhalese, and in the various missionary districts of the Indian continent.

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