

**THE MISSION TO INDIA:
INSTITUTED BY THE AMERICAN
UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION,
FEBRUARY, 1855**

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Various

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VARIOUS

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MISSION TO INDIA,

INSTITUTED BY THE
AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION,

FEBRUARY, 1855.

CONTAINING,

1. REPORT BY THE SECRETARY TO THE "CALCUTTA UNITARIAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN INDIA."
2. REPORT BY THE TREASURER TO THE ABOVE SOCIETY.
3. NARRATIVE OF PROCEEDINGS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MISSION, BY THE REV. CHARLES H. A. DALL.

BOSTON:
OFFICE OF QUARTERLY JOURNAL,
21 BROMFIELD STREET.
1857.

TO THE READER.

In consequence of the great attention which the English government has of late bestowed upon the establishment of schools in British India, many thousands of young persons are there growing up dissatisfied with Hindooism and Mahometanism, and inquisitive to learn, and ready to receive, the Christian religion, which they see is identified with the improvements and progress of the best modern civilization. One of the widest and noblest fields for Christian effort is thus opened. Various denominations of Christians, in different parts of the world, have entered it, with a promptitude and liberality worthy of all respect. But most of them labor under a signal disadvantage. To a people alienated from polytheism in all its forms, they have carried metaphysical discussions about three persons in the Trinity; and if they have turned to the Mahometan population, they have met minds resolutely bent upon receiving no theology which conflicts with the sole and undivided unity of God. It is well known that missionaries have labored during several years without making a single convert.

It is now more than thirty years since the attention of Christians in New England, believing in one God the Father, was turned to the importance of missionary efforts in India. Obstacles which need not be named stood in the way; and it was not till the autumn of 1854, when an affecting appeal came from India, that the Executive Committee of the American Unitarian Association resolved, that, if favored by the blessing of God, they would send a missionary to Calcutta.

They looked round to find the right man. The case was peculiar. Some one was needed whose character, in culture, in enthusiasm, in fervid piety, would present points of contact with the interesting people of the East. In 1824, Rammohun Roy wrote to the late Dr. Ware, Senior, that "much good cannot be expected from public preachings"; but that if men of education could be sent out, to establish schools, circulate books, and teach by personal explanation and persuasion, "Christianity in its genuine sense must make a strong impression on every intelligent mind." A man was wanted whose heart would be in this work, — a man diligent, gentle, persuasive, of good culture, and, above all, of earnest and devout spirit.

The Committee unanimously appointed Rev. C. H. A. Dall as Missionary to India, who, after receiving the full instructions to which he refers in the following Report, sailed from Boston, February 28, 1855. He commenced his labors in July following. At that time a Society was formed in Calcutta,

TO THE READER.

called the "Society for Promoting the Gospel in India," and it is to this Society that the following first annual Reports of its Secretary, Treasurer, and Missionary are made.

These Reports are here printed and placed in your hand, with the respectful request that you will give them a careful perusal. The last of the three will furnish you with much interesting information in regard to the religious wants of India, and will show what encouragement American Christians have to send a fresh word of light and of love to those distant shores of the Old World.

The whole subject of Foreign Missions, as is well known, has been viewed in various lights. Perhaps you have thought well of them, and have contributed to their support, even where they inculcate a theology which you do not believe to be true. In this case, you may be glad to have it in your power to give aid to a Mission designed to diffuse the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ, unmixed with human additions and corruptions. Perhaps, on the other hand, you have looked upon the whole enterprise of sending the Gospel to distant lands with doubt and distrust. The records of this enterprise, it must be admitted, while containing bright examples of heroic self-sacrifice, do not furnish results corresponding with the hopes at first awakened. The fact should teach us to moderate our expectations, even in regard to a work whose beginning is so auspicious as that described in the following pages. Still, we must set aside the best established facts of history

before we can doubt that Foreign Missions have largely contributed to the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom, and have been attended by a blessing from Him who said, "Go into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." Grateful for what that Gospel has done for us, can we not give something to impart it unto others? Thousands of youthful, inquiring minds are asking us for bread: shall we give them a stone?

N. B. The following Reports are reprinted from THE BENGAL HURKARU of September 1, 1856,— a newspaper published in Calcutta.

MISSION TO INDIA.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

TO HODGSON PRATT, ESQ., C. S., *President of the "Unitarian Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in India."*

DEAR SIR:—I have much pleasure in forwarding to you the very full and complete Report of the operations of the last half-year, as furnished by Mr. Dall, which I hope will be satisfactory.

I have nothing to add to his very able narrative, unless it be to regret that it has not been found practicable, as yet, to organize any really working committee for the management of the secular affairs of the Mission, and for co-operation with Mr. Dall.

Considering the short time the Mission has been established, and the many obstacles and prejudices to be overcome, I think you will agree with me, that our progress has been all that could be reasonably anticipated.

I shall feel obliged by your forwarding a copy of the Report to the Secretary of the American Unitarian Association, and would suggest the expediency of having it printed, as in the previous instance.

Believe me to remain, very truly, yours,

A. H. RHOADES, JR., *Secretary.*

Calcutta, 1st July, 1856.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Calcutta, 1st July, 1856.

TO HODGSON PRATT, ESQ., C. S., *President of the Unitarian Association, Calcutta.*

DEAR SIR:— I beg to hand to you the Half-yearly Report, ending 30th June. The state of our treasury is not discouraging, considering the difficulties that the Mission has had to encounter. Our subscription list remains nearly the same for monthly subscribers, while our donation list has been equal to our anticipation. In my last I presented you with an account against the Association of Rs. 250 2 3, and including that amount with the six months' work of the Mission, I show to you a balance due to the Treasurer of Rs. 153 4 3. It is to be hoped that in the succeeding six months I shall be enabled to make as good a report as I now have the pleasure of doing. Yet our Society is dependent upon subscriptions as a society, and we must look to the home Association for more aid than we now possess. Our pastor is gaining influence daily, and the allowance made to him from home and here is barely adequate to meet his wants. Our printing fund, as you will note, is cramped for want of means. The means should be provided from home; and, with a generous allowance for a short period, it is probable that, in a liberal community such as we have in Calcutta and its suburbs, we shall be able to go on without assistance. With such an energetic pastor as Mr. Dall, we shall not require the aid of crutches for a great length of time. Doubtless your letters and the Secretary's Report will touch upon what I have strenuously advocated, both in this and in my last