

**MEMOIR OF AN INDIAN
CHAPLAIN, THE REVEREND
CHARLES CHURCH, M.A., ON THE
MADRAS ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
EAST INDIA COMPANY**

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Memoir of an Indian Chaplain, the Reverend Charles Church, M.A., on the Madras Establishment of the East India Company by James Hough

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JAMES HOUGH

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INDIAN CHAPLAIN,

THE REVEREND

CHARLES CHURCH, M.A.,

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BY THE

REV. JAMES HOUGH, M.A.,

A CHAPLAIN ON THE SAME ESTABLISHMENT; AUTHOR OF "THE HISTORY OF
CHRISTIANITY IN INDIA," ETC.

"The path of the just is as the shining light, which shineth more and more
unto the perfect day."—Prov. iv. 18.

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1859.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE following Memoir was composed several years ago, within a comparatively short period of the termination of the labours and the trials of him whose life and portraiture it exhibits. Circumstances, to which it is unnecessary to advert, occasioned the Memoir to remain in manuscript until nearly all the immediate family of Mr. Church, and most of his attached friends, have followed him from the scene of toil and trial on earth to the enjoyment of the victory of faith in Him, whom he and they alike loved and served in their generation according to the will of God.

A perusal of the manuscript has led to the acceptance of the Memoir by the Religious Tract Society. The Society, by its publication, makes an instructive addition to the list of Christian biographies with which it has enriched the religious literature of our language, and contributed greatly to the edification of the church of Christ in general.

One of the few surviving friends of the subject of this Memoir has been requested to

introduce the work to the notice of the public by some prefatory observations. The task will be found better performed by the hand which wrote the Memoir, in the concluding chapter. That hand, too, has long ceased its labour on earth, to share with his beloved friend and fellow-worker in India, the blessedness of the faithful servants of Christ, whose work in life being ended, and their course of faith finished, have gained the promised recompense. But little, therefore, need be said by the writer of this preface; nor would he have ventured to undertake the office, but for reasons which invest him, in some respects, with a peculiar interest in the work. He is now almost the only survivor of many who enjoyed the friendship, and witnessed the career in India, of the excellent subject of the Memoir. He is among the very few living who partook of the benefit of Mr. Church's ministry in Madras, who can bear testimony to the truthfulness of the description which is given of his life and ministry in that country, and to the grateful affection entertained for him by the earliest members of that religious society which has since been so prolific of earnest and devoted servants of Christ, and promoters of the interests of the gospel in the south of India. If it be allowable to assume a further personal interest in the Memoir, the

writer may be excused for mentioning—with a vivid recollection of the emotions which the communication produced at the time—that it was to him his revered friend addressed the note which records a deeply affecting instance of the rich consolation graciously vouchsafed, at a moment of the greatest need, to the sorely-tried but ever-submissive servant of God. Such experience has been common to the more eminent followers of Christ. Mr. Church's life presents several such instances; and the record may serve as a fresh testimony to the faithfulness and tenderness of Him who wounds only to heal, and to perfect his likeness in those whose whole trust is on his word.

To the fidelity of the Memoir the writer offers his willing testimony. Of the justness of the reflections on the life and character of Mr. Church, and on the remarkable exemplification which the Memoir presents, of the love and grace of God in Christ Jesus, every enlightened reader will form his opinion. And from many such readers, it may be safely anticipated, will arise, in adoring aspirations, His praises who hath washed us from our sins in his blood—who, by his grace, transforms alike the naturally proud and self-righteous, the presumptuous sinner, or the conceited sceptic, into living monuments of

grace ; here to be guided by his counsel, sanctified by his Spirit, and trained by infinite wisdom, skill, and love, for their allotted place as heirs of eternal life in the mansions of the heavenly kingdom.

A word may be added in reference to the period at which the Memoir makes its appearance. What it may have lost in freshness from the lapse of time, it may acquire in interest from the deep and universal feeling awakened in behalf of India, and everything connected with the state of religion in that country, by the terrible events of the years 1857 and 1858.

It was the writer's lot to know India when religious men were counted by a few units, and every such individual was known and marked—when of the older list of faithful and devoted missionaries, few remained ; and they, aged and little capable of further exertion. A stern, exclusive policy then forbade the accession of any more. Of pious chaplains there were, alas ! very few—of a different class, a large proportion. A brighter era had, however, begun to dawn shortly before Mr. Church arrived in India. To the few venerated names of a previous period in Bengal, had been recently added those of Thomason, Martyn, and Corrie, and that of Thompson, at Madras ; to which latter Presidency Mr. Church and his biographer, Mr. Hough, belonged. To these

honoured men of God, it was given to commence the development of a blessed work of grace amongst our own countrymen in the south of India. The country had also at length been opened to missionary labour among the heathen, and the various Christian churches had hastened to avail themselves of the opportunity to send thither the messengers of the glad tidings. The stream of light in both lines of ministerial labour, those of the chaplain and the missionary, has since been continuous at all the Presidencies; and the result has been the raising up of a body of Christian public men such as no other sphere in our boundless territories can produce. Accomplished statesmen, eminent public functionaries in all departments of the State, distinguished soldiers, as well as Christian gentlemen in all the walks of private life, have both vindicated the national religious character of our country, and aided the Christian minister and missionary to spread the influence of a pure Christianity among the natives of India. In some parts the converts from heathenism are numbered by thousands; in few provinces are there none. The leaven of Divine truth, the appointed and sole remedy for the woes that afflict that great region and its unnumbered populations, is working its unperceived but beneficent purpose, awaiting the descent of

that mighty power of the Holy Spirit which can alone vivify the work, and call forth larger and more blessed fruits. Already the results have as far refuted the prognostications of the despisers and opponents of the work, as they have surpassed the hopes which the early friends and labourers in the vast and arduous field had ventured to indulge, as attainable by one generation of missionary labourers. Let but this Christian nation be true to its own recent pledges, given in the hour of India's suffering and peril, by multiplying its missionary efforts; by increasing the means of sustaining and extending those efforts; and by ceaseless prayer for the effusion of the Holy Spirit to render past and future exertions effectual for the extension of Christ's gospel in that country; and the largest desires of the fathers of modern missionary enterprise may be seen realized before another generation of labourers shall have finished their course. Then out of every kindred, and tribe, and tongue in India, multitudes of the redeemed will be heard praising that name which is above every name—to which every knee must bow, and every tongue confess, to the glory of the everlasting Father. Amen.

J. M. STRACHAN.