

Poetry.

Not Far.

Not far not far, from the kingdom,  
Yet in the shadow of sin,  
How many are coming and going,  
How few are entering in.  
Not far from the golden gateway,  
Where voices whisper and wait:  
Fearing to enter in boldly,  
So lingering still at the gate:  
Catching the strain of the music  
Floating so sweetly along,  
Knowing the song they are singing  
Yet joining not in the song.  
Seeing the warmth and the beauty,  
The infinite love and the light;  
Yet weary and lonely and waiting,  
Out in the desolate night.  
Out in the dark and the danger,  
Out in the night and the cold;  
Though he is longing to lead them  
Tenderly into the fold.  
Not far, not far from the kingdom,  
'Tis only a little space:  
But it may be at last and forever  
Out of the resting place.  
—English Congregationalist.

The Visitor's Pulpit.

The English Baptist Missionary Society: Progress and Present Labor.

Extract from a sermon preached in London on the Missionary Sunday, 27th of April, 1879, by the Rev. J. F. Craik-Kuell, York Town, Surrey.

The Baptist Missionary Society may be said to have been born on the 2nd of October, 1792. Its birthplace, Kettering, Northamptonshire, where that memorable meeting was held at the house of Mrs. Beeby Walle's, still called the Mission House. Twelve ministers were present including Carey, Pearce and Fuller. The collection made at that meeting for missionary purposes amounted to £13. 2. 6. It was here the honored Carey formally laid himself upon the Missionary altar; addressing Pearce and Fuller, he said, "I will go into the pit if you will hold the ropes." His motto was "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." The Baptist Mission was the first Society to take up a position in India, and William Carey was the pioneer of that lofty enterprise. The leading Missionary Societies have long since taken up the work and the number of honored brethren who now labor in that field present a striking contrast to the time when Carey stood up almost solitary, on those distant shores, and there planted the standard of the cross.

The result of Missionary labor cannot be tabulated. They sometimes appear to be slowly realized, because they are so little understood. Comparing 1792 and 1879, it has been truly said: "Then the fortress of Indian idolatry seemed impregnable, founded upon the tradition of ages, buttressed by the blind devotion of a nation slow to change. Now, although the edifice still stands there are chinks and rents in the walls and ramparts, that tell of a silent process of undermining going on and point to its coming overthrow. By the influence of education, largely promoted by the efforts of Missionaries and the preaching of the gospel of Christ, the confidence of the people in their Gods, their priests and their shasters is being gradually but not perceptibly shaken."

We always remember the words of Judson who toiled on for years without any fruit from his labors until the few churches in England which sustained him began to be disheartened. He wrote, "Beg the Churches to have patience. If a ship were here to carry me to any part of the world I would not leave my field. Tell the brethren success is as certain as the promise of a faithful God can make it." The mission was commenced in 1814. In 1870 it counted more than one hundred thousand converts.

The way in which opposition has been overcome is sometimes very interesting. One on reaching a tribes of savages found himself surrounded by hundreds, all armed with spears. I could not speak their language, said he. As a lamb among wolves there I stood, but Christ was with me. In him I trusted, he led me to take my violin and, tuning it, I began playing and singing.

All hail the power of Jesus' name,  
Let angels prostrate fall.  
I closed my eyes while singing and on reaching the verse,  
Let every kindred every tribe  
On this terrestrial ball,  
I opened my eyes and every spear was dropped. They made signs and took me to their houses, gave me food and shelter. I learned their language and preached to

them Jesus, and hundreds were converted to Christ.

The good effect when the work is real is soon manifested. A West India planter who had opposed the Missionaries coming to his estate was walking on the estate of a friend where the slaves were instructed by the missionaries, he saw some peas growing among the sugar canes, knowing that the slaves were short of provisions, he called to one of them who was near and asked why he did not take those peas as they were ripe. "They are not mine," answered the black. "How is this," said the gentleman, "You negroes are always ready to take anything you can lay your hands on." "No massa," replied the slave, "Negro who pray never thieve." The planter was struck with astonishment. "What have I been about," said he, "not to let the missionary come on my estate." As soon as he returned home he sent to them desiring that they would come and teach his slaves whenever they pleased.

Besides the direct results of Missions we must remember how much good has resulted indirectly from the labors of our brethren. The giving to savage people a written language and their subsequent instructions in the arts of civilized life. In 1792 the Bible was a sealed and silent book to the millions of heathendom. Now there is scarcely a language spoken by man in which the word of God cannot be read. In this work our Baptist Missionaries have been honored to take a prominent part, though others have labored nobly and successfully in the same field. We cannot but mention the names of Carey and Tate, of Wenger and Parsons in India, and Saker in Africa; and be thankful for the self-denying toil of these brethren. The amount of studious application necessary for the translation and sometimes the formation to a great extent of foreign language is difficult to conceive of.

Then think how the blessings of civilization has followed the labors of the Missionaries. We have not forgotten the old saying, "first civilize the heathen, then you may hope to Christianize them." I remember the late Rev. Dr. Brock once said in his practical and eloquent way, "Where would civilization have been but for Christianity. Civilization is the very child which Christianity has brought forth, it is the very creature of which Christianity in her pure exuberance is instrumentally the creator." This is true indeed. On one occasion a ship founded in the Pacific ocean. The crews took to the boats and after several days they came in sight of an island. One of the boats passed through the reef and landed, but only to be beaten down by the war clubs of the cannibals, who came down to the shore and soon made a meal off them. Seeing their fate the other boat pushed off and after much suffering its crew was rescued. Years passed away and another ship was wrecked in the same sea, and near the same island. Her captain was one of the crew of the former ship, who escaped in the second boat. He now recognized the fatal coast, and though famishing feared to land. He did so however, in company with others, they ascended a hill, when, judge of their surprise, as they saw a church, houses and a compact village, and instead of being eaten by the savages, they were generously fed and entertained. What had produced this change? The gospel had been preached with the power of God and old things had passed away and all things become new, the savages were saved and civilized.

I now propose to notice some of the present labors of the Baptist Missionary Society.

Number of European Missionaries	64
Native Evangelists	183
Preaching Stations	289
Baptized last year	482
Members	9,291
Teachers	611
Day Schools	5,250
Sunday Schools	2,105

This is exclusive of Jamaica, where the Baptist churches are large and flourishing, and now not only self supporting, but greatly aiding the work of missions.

It we could look upon the fields in which our brethren labor, we should indeed feel there was a work of faith and labor of love attended with many difficulties, but with much encouragement, as recent reports show.

In China our Missionaries are Messrs. T. Richards and A. Jones. The suffering through the famine has been intense, and it has been a trying time for all. Yet Mr. Richard writes hopefully of the mission. The opinion of the people of China as to the missionaries and the missionary work has undergone a great change, largely due to the action of the brethren during the

recent terrible famine. Some of the chapels are now rented and paid for by the natives themselves; subscriptions are also raised by the new converts for the poor, showing that Christianity has taught them benevolence. Some of the women have gone 20 miles to tell their friends of the Saviour they have found. This speaks well for their sincerity and earnestness. Mr. Richard reports 12 centers of Christian worship in connection with the mission where the people meet every Sunday for worship.

The stations at Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta have recently been rented by Captain Pattingham at the request of the Committee; he reports that the brethren are pressing their work with untiring energy.

From Simla in the North West Province where Goolzah Shah is laboring, comes an interesting account of the baptizing of three young men of considerable intelligence, and who, in breaking caste have made great sacrifice.

From the Cameroons, Mr. Fuller describes how, with the assistance of the Consul, the two principle superstitions held by the people, called Ieengu and Mungi, in connection with which many lives have been sacrificed, were both overthrown in a day. One missionary took a prominent part in the matter, though the life of any one was threatened who interfered with the abominations. He told them that he was quite ready to give up his, and they were at liberty to take it if they chose, that a day of reckoning would come. His calmness and courage took the people by surprise; they laid no hands on him, and it was declared in the name of the Queen of England that these things could continue no longer.

In the evening of the same day four candidates were accepted for Baptism and three were received as enquirers.

From India, the scene of the societies earliest efforts there comes loud calls for more laborers, for the new fields opening up, and many encouraging features from those already occupied. A brother writes from Dacca: "We have invariably large crowds who but seldom disturb us by disputing the truth we say.

In Northern India, Mr. Jones of Bendres writes: "The work has been very encouraging. I never fail to get large crowds of people to listen, and they listen attentively." The whole neighborhood of Delhi is most promising. Large districts seem ready to embrace the Gospel. Dr. Carey is the medical missionary in that city. He is full of thanksgiving on account of the large number of natives who have professed Christ by baptism.

In Southern India our only station is at Poonah, where our brother Hormasdjii Pestonji is at work, an earnest brother whose acquaintance we had the pleasure of making when he was in this country. His charge of the English church does not interfere with his itinerating labors, in which he has been actively engaged. Like others he speaks of the growing interest of the people in the gospel.

The Ladies Association for the support of Zenana work in India, which has been taken up with considerable interest, is the means of great good. The object is to send the gospel to the women of India. The work is carried on under the superintendence of the missionaries wives. Zenanas are visited in Calcutta and suburbs; in Delhi, Bendees, Serampore, Dacca, Agra, and other places. There are about 20 lady visitors to the Zenanas, and 33 native Bible women and teachers. More than 700 women are under regular instruction, and at least as many more hear the Bible lessons; there are also several girls in the schools.

In Italy the mission is advancing in a way that blends the brightest hopes with the strongest obligations. Besides the reports of the Missionaries themselves, we have the testimony of a deputation sent out by the Evangelical Alliance. More recently Dr. Landells, and Dr. Underhill, with others, have gone over the ground, and their evidence is said to be "as remarkable for unflinching fairness as for its hopefulness." Help is required to occupy the posts of service which are rapidly presenting themselves. The committee at home with Mr. Wall and his co-adjutors are acting with great care, and seeking to cultivate a spirit of self-help in the newly formed churches, and have full confidence that they will as early as possible become self-supporting.

Norway has recently been visited by Dr. Underhill. He states the results of the labors of the Society are more than sufficient to compensate for the cost at which they have been won. Mr. Herbert and his co-workers have been greatly blest

in breaking into that dead formalism, and apathy which for many years characterized the churches, and in leading many souls to Christ.

The subject that has recently been under the most serious and earnest consideration of the Committee is that of the Congo Mission, which they are now prosecuting with all energy. This will be breaking up new ground with the object of reaching the vast populations of the interior of the great continent of Africa, so long unknown and uncared for. Mr. Comber anticipates reaching Stanley Pool within a year of his return to San Salvador, and once there the way will be open for the transport of a small steamer (carried in sections), to be placed on the Congo River, in which our brethren can navigate this magnificent water-way, bearing the tidings of Salvation right into the heart of the hitherto dark and neglected Africa.

In addition to all other labors the work of Bible circulation is largely carried on by this Society. Not a few of the native Evangelists are colporteurs who unite the work of selling the Scriptures with their preaching and teaching. The number of copies of the Bible and portions of Scripture thus sold during the year 1878, amounted to 20 thousand copies.

Before referring to the financial position of our B. M. Society we cannot but allude to the last and most striking illustration of missionary success, after apparent failure, viz, that afforded by the American Baptist Missionary Union, in connection with the Telooogo Mission. It has been truly said "there is nothing in the history of modern missions to be compared to it." The facts certainly contain a stimulus for every Christian worker, specially for the discouraged, who see only what they term "Failure." It appears that the Telooogos live in the Eastern coast of the Bay of Bengal, between Calcutta and Madras. The country has more than six hundred miles of sea-board, and extending nearly four hundred miles in-land, with a population of eighteen millions of people, whose religious faith is barbarism. In 1805, the London Missionary Society sent heralds of the cross there, but afterwards withdrew them because there were no results. The American Baptist Missionary Union took up the work in 1835. Mr. Day the Missionary, baptized the first Telooogo convert, 1840. The efforts were continued with but comparatively small results, and the friends of missions in America felt discouraged. In 1846 the little mission church consisted of eleven members, two only of whom were Telooogos. The question of abandoning so unpromising a field was considered, but it was decided to continue for the present. Eighteen years after the mission was commenced, viz, in 1853, the question of withdrawing the missionaries was again considered. A deputation visited the place, and spoke of the place as unfruitful. A special committee was appointed to advise on the difficult question. The committee was composed of men of faith and courage, and they recommended a "suitable reinforcement of the mission, not an abandonment." Mr. Jewett, was connected with Mr. Day in the field. In 1802, nine years after, the question was again raised, Mr. Jewett appeared before the executive. He told the brethren that he was determined never to abandon the Telooogo Mission. His importunity and heroic courage silenced objections. The Board consented though with little hope of success. The secretary said to Mr. Jewett "Well brother if you are resolved to return, we must send somebody with you to bury you. You certainly ought to have a Christian burial in that heathen land. A Mr. Clough was added to the mission. In 1857 the church consisted of eight members, by 1877, ten years after it had grown to 3,300 members. About the time of the famine baptism was refused lest it should be sought from improper motives. In June, 1878, they decided again to receive candidates after the necessary examination, and from June 16 to July 7, 1878, the missionaries and their native helpers baptized 5,429, and that in less than one month. During the remainder of July, 3,262 additional baptisms were reported, making the whole number baptized in 45 days, 8,691. A visitor writes home that he had seen more than 1000 people come in one day to the missionaries to give up their idols, and declare themselves on the Lord's side. This friend adds, And still the work goes on, hundreds asking for baptism, and in various ways showing the sincerity of their profession of discipleship. This harvest has been reaped in a field in which for 37 years, there appeared comparatively no results from all the seed

sowing. Surely no unpromising field will henceforth be abandoned. As a summary of the progress of missions in India, during the past year, we may quote from the "Bombay Guardian," which says: More than 60,000 have renounced Hinduism and embraced Christianity.

And now help is needful for carrying on this great missionary work in the world. That God will bless his own word we have sufficient proof, and if the means are found, men and women are not wanting, filled with enthusiasm to consecrate themselves to this work.

The Baptist Missionary Society, now in its 87th year, shows no signs of weakness, and certainly never had a stronger hold on the affection and confidence of the churches. We venture also to say, that in no society is there a greater watchfulness over expenditure, and more careful employment of the means placed at their disposal.

Fears were entertained that in consequence of the depression in trade, and losses sustained by bank failures, the income of the society would suffer greatly. We rejoice to know that such is not the case.

The ordinary receipts of the Society for the year just closed are, excluding legacies, only £27 2s. 6d. less than those of the previous year, viz., £36,306 12s. 2d., as compared with £36,333 15s. 3d.

This is proof of deep, personal, and widespread attachment to the mission, and the work needs and claims all the support we can possibly give. A ruined world waits the material means of its restoration. Let all who realize Salvation by Christ's sacrifice, joyfully and constantly lay at His feet all that they can safely and justly spare, exercising a spirit of self-denial, in order to extend to the triumph of His grace, and hasten the consummation of His glory, and then we may consistently present the prayer "Let the whole earth be filled with His Glory." Amen, and Amen.

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