





MORNING STAR.

Jaffna, August 14th, 1851.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

We shall render acceptable service, we think, to the public generally, but more especially to the missionary and other educational establishments of the island, by giving publicity to the following advertisement of publications (in English) of the "Calcutta Christian School Book Society." A specimen of most of the books here mentioned, may be seen at this office. These publications may be obtained on application to Messrs. G. C. Hay and Co., No. 56 1/2, Cross-street, Calcutta.

- 1. *The First English Instructor*—30 pages—price 1 anna—contains lessons from the Alphabet onwards to words of one Syllable.—Part I. Miscellaneous.—Part II. Religious.
- 2. *The Second Instructor*—English—pp. 40—price 2 annas—a new and enlarged edition—progressive lessons, chiefly in words of two syllables.—Part I. Miscellaneous.—Part II. Christian Faith; the whole interspersed with Juvenile Poetry—will be a treat to teachers preferred.
- 3. *The Third English Instructor*—pp. 238—price 12 annas—in three parts, interspersed with Christian Poetry; Part I. Miscellaneous lessons. Part II. Abridgement of Scripture History. Part III. Simple extracts on important subjects.
- 4. *The Fourth English Instructor*—pp. 293—price 1 Rupee—a compilation of useful extracts on religion, science, and literature—with occasional poetry—in two parts: Part I. Miscellaneous lessons: Part II. A continuous series of Scripture extracts, which may be useful in Schools where the Holy Scriptures are not directly admitted.
- 5. *The Poetic Instructor*—pp. 296—price 1 Rupee: a Miscellany of Poetry, calculated to please and instruct, and in which care has been taken to exclude whatever is irreverent, and to give it a Christian character and tendency, (a new edition) by Rev. J. Mullens.
- 6. *Macaulack's Course of Elementary Reading*, in science, literature and religion; interspersed with a higher class of poetical extracts—pp. 362—price 1 Rupee 12 annas. A very popular and valuable school-book.
- 7. *Macaulack's English Grammar*,—pp. 195, price 14 annas—considered one of the best grammars now in school use, being minutely explanatory and illustrative.
- 8. *The Arithmetic Instructor*—by the Rev. Thomas Smith, General Assembly's Institution, Calcutta—pp. 200, price 12 annas—A work prepared expressly for the use of schools in this country—having Indian tables and references.
- 9. *The Elements of Euclid*—six Books—pp. 240—price 1 Rupee 3 annas, cloth—adapted from "Chambers's" (Edinburgh) Educational Course.
- 10. *Solid Geometry, Spherics and Conic Sections*—pp. 164—price 1 Rupee 3 annas, cloth—adopted from the same popular "Course."
- 11. *Brief Survey of History*—By J. C. Marshman, Esq., of Serampore, in two parts, or volumes—Vol. 1. From the creation of the world to the Christian era—pp. 240—price 1 Rupee 2 annas. Vol. II. From the Christian era to the time of Charlemagne, or the year 752—pp. 214—price 1 Rupee 2 annas.
- 12. *Marshman's History of India*, from remote antiquity to the accession of the Mogul dynasty—pp. 231—price 1 Rupee 2 annas.
- 13. *Marshman's History of Bengal*—from the earliest times to the year 1630—pp. 238—price 1 Rupee 2 annas.
- 14. *Manual of Geography*—prepared for the Society by the Rev. D. Evans, contains about 400 pp.—price 1 Rupee; full and minute on the geography of India, (a new edition in the press).
- 15. *The Shorter Catechism*, by the Westminster Assembly of Divines, with Scripture proofs, 2 annas.
- 16. *History of the Jews*—Books First and Second—being an abridged history of the Bible, from the creation to the dispersion of the Ten Tribes—by H. Carter Tucker, (B. C. S.) price 6 annas.
- 17. *Notes of the Book of Nature*—by the same author—price 3 annas. This work includes in it a course of consecutive readings, in Natural History and Natural Theology, combined—and is so compiled as to form a continuous composition.

**IMMENSE CIRCULATION.**—The whole edition of the "Illustrated Family Christian Almanac," published by the American Tract Society, in a very beautiful style—was, for this present year, three hundred and ten thousand copies. The "American Messenger," the organ of that Society, and a most excellent monthly paper, has reached the wide circulation of 186,000 copies each number. Beside this, an edition of 18,000 copies is published in the German language, for the benefit of the great multitudes of German emigrants who have taken up their residence in the United States. The aggregate of the English and German editions is 204,000 copies each month. A large proportion of these papers are perused by six, eight, ten, twelve, and even more readers, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that the average number of readers to each copy is five. On this supposition, then, a million of persons read the American Messenger each month. What an audience is this to address! And what a responsibility rests upon writers who periodically come in contact with, and exert a great influence upon, such an immense number of immortal beings soon to be heard in the presence of God!

A fool's heart is ever dancing on his lips.

MR. POOR'S REMINISCENCES OF HIS LATE VISIT TO HIS NATIVE COUNTRY. No. 4.

Leaving Colombo with auspicious breezes, we soon found ourselves in the vicinity of the equator, where we entirely lost sight of the north star, (Turavan.) The gradual descent and final disappearance of this star, awakened my attention to the controversy, that has been in progress for thirty years past in the mission field, as to the truth or falsehood of the system of geography and astronomy taught in the *Schandia Paranam*. This paranam is regarded throughout the north of the island, as an oracle of wisdom, and is supposed to be of divine origin. In this ancient poem, it is stated that the earth is an immense plane, and that the north star, at a specified height is vertical to one on the summit of Mount Mem, which is supposed to stand in the center of the earth. Were this true, there would be little or no variation by a few days' sail, in the apparent elevation of the star. On the other hand, if the earth be globular and of the dimensions taught in the European system of geography, the north star must, apparently descend toward the horizon, at the rate of one degree for every 69 1/2 miles, as we proceed southward. This fact, then, the disappearance of Turavan as we proceeded southward, in its obvious bearing upon the truth or falsity of the piranic system, well deserves the attentive consideration of a certain class of educated Hindus, who are willing to risk their reputation in sustaining an idolatrous system, of which the foregoing statement is but a fair specimen of what the paranam teaches, whether of science or religion.

While near the equator we were becalmed most of the time for several weeks—a most undesirable predicament to be in at sea. Already we were late in the season, and very many reasons could be assigned why we should proceed without delay. It was but cold comfort to the Captain, when it was suggested that we had not a view of the whole ground, and might therefore infer that possibly there was a need for us for our most undesirable detention. After our patience had been well tried, the winds of heaven came to our relief. After a comfortable passage of nearly eight weeks, we reached the southern coast of Africa the latter part of April. As we proceeded we neared the spot where the unfortunate "Ariston," a transport ship, was wrecked in the year 1815, and the lives of all the passengers lost—among whom were Lord and Lady Molesworth, two children of the late Archdeacon Twisleton, two sons of the late Rev. James Charter, Baptist Missionary, and several other passengers from Colombo. In consequence of this disaster, we found many families clothed in the habiliments of mourning, on our arrival in the island early in 1816.

The first boat that came off to the "Severn," on our arrival in Symonds Bay, April 18th, 1816, brought us a newspaper, in which the heading of the first article was, "Disasters done to five vessels by the late hurricane." On a comparison of dates and notices from our log-book with the statements of the newspaper, the Captain came to the conclusion, that but for the tedious, and, as we thought, most disastrous calms to which we were subjected near the equator, we should have been fully in the latitude and longitude of the hurricane that proved so disastrous to the five vessels of which an account was given. We had long been familiar with the adage, "if it rains, let it rain;" but now we had occasion to lengthen it by adding,—"and if there be calms, let there be calms." Alas for us, however, if we be not on the alert to get the ship to sea at the time required, and thus to be in advance of the calms by which we might otherwise be caught and detained till the hurricanes arose. D. Poor.

Manepy, August, 1851.

**TEMPERANCE IN COLLEGES.**—It is now some two years since Mr. Gough visited and lectured to the students in Union College. A majority of the several classes then became members of the Temperance Society and of the two classes which have since entered, every member has voluntarily pledged himself to total abstinence.

It is well known that no combination against the government of this college has existed among the students, or any portion of them, during the last forty years—and that those tricks, so vexatious to college officers, have almost entirely ceased to exist in this institution—and it is also well known that many young men who have entered this institution predisposed to dissipation, have been reformed during their college course, and are now either ministers of the gospel, or otherwise serving their country in professional or literary pursuits.

This result is believed to be in a great measure owing to the pains taken by the President, the Rev. Dr. Nott, to diffuse and give effect among the students, to the principles of total abstinence.

It has long since been assumed as an axiom by him, that total abstinence is indispensable to the successful management of an American College, and that there is little danger of either riot, or rebellion among young men, who use cold water only as a beverage.

E. C. Delavan, a Cor. of the N. Y. Evangelist.

**BIRTH.**—At Point Pedro, July 21, at the residence of her father, R. De Hoedt, Esq., Mrs. Ernestina Barbara, wife of Mr. L. Claas, of a son and heir.

For the Morning Star.

THE ENGLISH IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY OF THE BATTICOTTA SEMINARY.

The third annual meeting of this Society was held on the eve of the 28th ult., at 7 1/2 o'clock in the school-room of the Batticotta Seminary. The meeting was attended by the officers and members of the Society, by many educated natives and by gentlemen of the mission. The occasion was one of much interest and encouragement.

The Rev. E. P. Hastings, by request, acted as Chairman of the meeting, which was opened with prayer by T. S. Burrell, Esq., when the Secretary read the minutes of the previous annual meeting, and an extract of the report of the Society for the past year. A summary of the report presented is as follows:

Mr. C. Wyman has been, as in the preceding years President, and Mr. R. Breckenridge Treasurer and Secretary. Mr. D. H. Clark having resigned his connection with the Society as Vice President in the course of the year, Mr. Breckenridge was appointed to that office. The above named have also continued as the Society's Committee.

In September last, several members were dismissed with certificates, at their request, and a new class of thirty individuals, was received into the Society.

Regular meetings have been held every Monday morning. The first few moments have been spent by the President in hearing the members in practical English lessons. During the last month, another interesting exercise of hearing sentences read, which were selected from newspapers, has proved very useful to the members, and has, it is thought, created a taste for reading. Original addresses on various topics connected with English, have been presented both by the students and the teachers. Dialogues have been spoken, by two or three of the students, at every alternate meeting.

The Committee feel confident that the Society is gradually rising in its general character. It has been, and they hope it will still continue to be, a source of great improvement to the members. With earnest desires and strong hopes for the prosperity of the Society, under new hands, they, with feelings of regret, dissolve their pleasant connection with it. They would assure the Society that they still feel an interest in it, and distance will make no difference in their wishes for its success.

After the reading of the Report, addresses were made on the following topics, by gentlemen who had been invited for the purpose:

- 1. On Persepicity of Style—A. Goldsmith, a member of the Society.
- 2. Remarks on the state of the Calcutta Educational Institution—Rev. D. Poor.
- 3. On Union—J. Brayton, one of the former members of the Society.
- 4. On the importance of a knowledge of the appropriate use of terms in English—Mr. E. Rockwood.
- 5. On the importance of composition exercises for improvement in English—Mr. B. H. Rice.
- 6. A farewell address in behalf of the committee and the retiring officers—Mr. P. W. Wain.
- 7. A dialogue (not original)—by members of the Society. The meeting was closed with a few remarks by the Chairman.

**STEAM COMMUNICATION.**—The progress of steam communication is now so rapid, that scarcely a month passes without furnishing us with new and most interesting notices of the improvements which are made in it. The reader may remember that some little time ago, the Americans were as inferior to us in the matter of sea going steamers, as they were superior in their establishment of river steamers. Brother Jonathan was at length roused, and determined to apply with his wonted energy to the construction of an ocean steam pavy, and is reported to have vowed that in ten years he would gain the start of the old country; and well and truly has he kept his promise. The last mail brings us intelligence that the *Pacific*, an American steamer, has accomplished the voyage from Liverpool to America in nine days and twenty hours, the distance being 3,663 miles, which is on an average of thirteen miles an hour. This is the most rapid progress which has ever been achieved, and it may be considered as forming a new era in steam communication. The speed which has thus been attained, must very shortly become the standard by which all other sea going steamers will be compared, and the effect must eventually be to bring all the vessels of the old companies in England up to the same ratio. It cannot fail to diffuse a fresh spirit of emulation throughout the steam companies in Europe, and to bring the various countries in the world still nearer to each other.

Friend of India.

By the Colombo papers, we learn that gold mines have been discovered in Australia, which, in the plenitude of their auriferous deposits, bid fair to rival even the mines of California.

All complain of want of memory, but none of want of judgment.

As a bird is known by his note, so is a man by his discourse.

Affectation is part of the trappings of folly. A vain hope flattereth the heart of a fool.

