

THE

FIRST REPORT

OF THE

CALCUTTA CITY MISSION,

1853.

WITH

A STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

AND

AN APPENDIX.

CALCUTTA :

PRINTED BY J. THOMAS, AT THE BAPTIST MISSION PRESS.

1854.

THE
FIRST ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
CALCUTTA CITY MISSION,

WAS HELD IN THE
TOWN HALL,
On Tuesday, 7th February, 1854.

At 7 P. M. the chair was taken by W. H. ELLIOTT, Esq.

The Rev. H. S. FISHER opened by prayer.

The Chairman addressed the meeting, and then called on—

The Rev. J. C. HERDMAN, one of the Secretaries, to read the Report.

The First Resolution was moved by the Rev. T. SANDYS, of the Church Mission, seconded by the Rev. E. STORROW, of the London Missionary Society, and unanimously carried.

“That the Report which has now been read be approved and adopted by this meeting, and be published for general information; and that the following Gentlemen be the Office-bearers of the Society for the ensuing year:—

Committee.

Rev. H. S. FISHER.	||	H. ANDREWS, Esq.
„ A. HAMILTON.	||	J. L. CARRAU, Esq.
„ R. HENDERSON.	||	E. EDMOND, Esq.
„ H. HUTTON.	||	W. H. ELLIOTT, Esq.
„ A. F. LACROIX.	||	H. WOODROW, Esq.
„ J. THOMAS.	||	M. WYLIE, Esq.

Treasurer.

T. S. KELSALL, Esq.

Secretaries.

Rev. J. C. HERDMAN, and Rev. J. BLOMEFIELD.

The Second Resolution was moved by the Rev. R. HENDERSON, and seconded by M. WYLIE, Esq., as follows:—

“That this meeting cordially rejoices in the commencement of the labour of the City Mission, and commends the Committee and the Agents, in all their duties, to the guidance and blessing of Him who came to seek and to save the lost.”

This Resolution also having been adopted by the meeting, the Rev. A. F. LACROIX pronounced the blessing.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CALCUTTA CITY MISSION.

WITH feelings of deep thankfulness the Committee present their First Report. Extending only to the close of 1853, and embracing therefore a period of less than twelve months, it briefly narrates the history of the commencement of the Mission, and of plans organized for its future prosecution, rather than of much direct work actually achieved.

Yet hath the Lord done great things for them, whereof they are glad. By the love which He has caused to prevail, by the agency which He has provided, by the many friends to the cause whose sympathy He has excited, by the prospects of usefulness which He is opening—He has made their way plain and prosperous beyond the most sanguine expectations; and to His holy name, they desire to ascribe all the praise!

2. In previous years the desire had been once and again expressed, by members of various evangelical denominations, to make a united spiritual movement in aid of the poor nominal Christians of this city: but the set time did not arrive till, at the beginning of last year, God put it into the heart of a former resident in Calcutta to remit the sum of 8,000 Rupees as the nucleus of a Fund for this purpose. In consequence, on the 14th February 1853, about thirty friends, clerical and lay, came together to deliberate. The principles of the "London City Mission" were considered; the need of a similar institution for Calcutta

was admitted ; and, in a spirit of harmony which has ever since been uninterruptedly maintained, office-bearers were appointed, representing all the Protestant bodies of the city, Established and Dissenting.

3. The changes in the list then nominated have been few. Instead of Mr. Grant and Mr. Leslie, Mr. H. Andrews and Mr. Thomas became members of Committee ; and when in October Mr. Vaux left India, Mr. Blomfield consented to be one of the Secretaries, and the Rev. H. Hutton joined the Committee.

4. Two steps were early taken by your Committee to awaken attention, and to give forth a certain sound respecting the character of the Mission. A pamphlet prepared by one of their number was widely circulated ; and a Public Meeting, which proved highly successful and encouraging, was held on the 8th April in the Town Hall.

5. With a view further to make known the principles on which the Mission would be conducted, your Committee after anxious deliberation adopted a set of Rules (see Appendix) founded on those which regulate similar Societies in Britain. And in order to obtain suitable agents they inserted notices in the local religious periodicals, and communicated their wants to ministers, pious officers, and others at various stations throughout the country.

6. Although two or three did offer, months passed away before any eligible candidate was brought to the notice of your Committee. Their faith was tried by this delay. They waited on the Lord of the harvest, who desires that the Gospel be preached to the poor ; and casting about for the means of commencing the work they were induced, under the circumstances, to engage the *partial* services of well-qualified persons, who were not prepared at once to resign their secular employments, by a remu-

neration proportioned to the time which they should devote to the City Mission.

7. Accordingly, on 1st July two Partial Agents were appointed; viz., T. J. Brown to receive a salary of 50 Rs., and Joakim D'Cruz 20, since raised to 25 Rs. a-month. A few days after, a Public Meeting was held in the Old Church Rooms, exclusively for devotional purposes, when the Divine blessing was implored on the work thus begun. These agents still continue to be employed; and in the case of one of them at least that temporary measure is likely to be permanent, because of the difficulty in securing agents who are familiar with the mixed dialect spoken by the lower orders of Portuguese. Among that class Mr. D'Cruz's visits are very valuable.

8. In due time it pleased the Great Head of the Church to raise up men who should give their entire strength to this blessed work. From the 1st October John Russell began, from the 21st October James Derriek, and the 22nd November Matthew Leighton and Robert Mills—each on a monthly salary of 60 Rupees. And at a later date, the Scripture Readers' Fund having come to an end, and the vestry of the Old Church desiring to merge their peculiar agency in the enlarged and Catholic operations of this Society, your Committee had the satisfaction of appointing their tried Reader, Robert Pitcher, to be an Agent of the City Mission from 1st January 1854. Having regard to his large family, they assign to him a salary of 100 Rupees.

9. To direct the labours of these Agents, and to be himself an active labourer, your Committee have applied for an experienced Agent of the London City Mission to come out as Superintendent-Missionary. A like measure at Madras is producing very satisfactory results. The selection of a suitable person was entrusted to Messrs. J. W. Alexander and Wigram Money; and the Committee of the London City Mission generously gave them

liberty to choose from among their 300 Missionaries. Information has been received that one in every way qualified has volunteered, and that he may be looked for before next cold season. To him a salary of Rs. 150 has been promised, and for his outfit and passage a sum of £100 has been remitted.

10. Each Agent has his separate sphere, and acts under an honorary Superintendent, agreeably to Rules p. 4. The City has been divided into seven parts; but as it is probable that there will be a re-distribution, the general locality merely is mentioned in the following table, without specification of the several boundaries.

<i>District.</i>	<i>Agent.</i>	<i>Superintendent.</i>
Boitakhanah,	J. Derrick,	Rev. R. B. Boswell.
Chandnee,	T. J. Brown,	Rev. Dr. Boaz.
Chitpore,	M. Leighton,	J. H. Norman, Esq.
Colingah,	R. Mills,	C. H. Lushington, Esq.
Lall Bazar,	R. Pitcher,	Rev. H. Hutton.
Molungah,	J. D'Cruz,	J. L. Carrau, Esq.
Taltollah,	J. Russell,	Rev. A. Leslie.

The Alms-house, Hospitals, and Jail are comprehended; and it is hoped that soon the suburbs will be embraced.

11. The Agents spend four or five hours a-day in visiting the poorer orders of those who are named Christians, and usually they hold a week-day Meeting where prayer is made, and the Word of God is read and familiarly explained. The message which they bear to all classes is One, the message of Divine love to sinful men—the glad tidings of salvation by a crucified Redeemer, tidings which wherever through grace received convert and comfort and sanctify. They are opposed by error and vice in diverse shapes. Here profligacy and intemperance resist; and there cold apathy bars the heart. Many are under the influence of debasing superstition; and not a few are steeled by wretched infidelity. Yet have they frequent opportunity of declar-

ing the truth as it is in Jesus—of scattering the incorruptible seed of the living God, who hath said “My Word shall not return unto me void.” From their Journals, which furnish ample evidence of the extensive field of usefulness spreading out before the City Mission, your Committee, in this Report, extract only one or two short specimens of daily visitation.

“Visited a poor woman who has a drunken husband. She seemed quite perplexed and cast down—her husband is both a gambler and drunkard—he has pawned even her clothes. I gave her a Bible some time since of which she says ‘I am obliged to read it by stealth, and in the same manner say my prayers: if he sees me at either he begins to curse and swear. I generally wait until he goes out.’ I gave a few words of comfort, bade her take her sorrows to Jesus, and pray earnestly that her husband may be reclaimed—held out some of the promises made to the prayer of faith. The poor woman is in a state of utter destitution. I have spoken to the husband, but he appears dead to every good impression.”

“During the month I have called at 261 houses. Read and prayed with eighty-nine families. Distributed 307 tracts, gave two Bibles.”

“Visited five houses, of which two were compound. In the first I was received somewhat indifferently—a chair was offered in the verandah. I exhorted them, stating that this was the Sabbath-day—ought to be especially set apart for Church going and other matters relating to the soul, the praise of God, &c. A female told me that if God had given them plenty, in that case they could employ the day as I stated. I said, what God is giving us daily is more than we deserve, when we consider that naked we came into the world and helpless, who is it that has thus far loaded us with mercies? I read our Saviour’s sermon on the Mount where He says, ‘First seek ye the kingdom, &c.,’ then they seemed to be in a little better frame of mind. I then read a portion of the Word of God and explained in Bengálí, which they heard very attentively. While conversing with them I espied an altar (a box of idols), on which I said, no doubt you will find God set His face against you when you thus mock Him. They referred to the idols of the Church, and when I produced in the Word those places where God denounces against

idolatry, they seemed to be somewhat surprised. * * * Offered prayer. Two said they can read English, and one Portuguese.”

“When I commenced reading, two Europeans out of the three in the gate went on sneering and mocking. When they stopped I read; and in intervals when they were quiet I appealed to their profession as Christians, their conscience, and repeated several passages of Scripture. * * * I then offered an earnest prayer, making mention in it of our undutifulness and bad returns for all the goodness, mercy, forbearance and long-suffering of God towards us, begging forgiveness through Christ, asking for grace to enable us to see our privileges as Christians, our duties, &c. &c. I am afraid all these men here are in the habit of drinking: their condition indicated it. When I was leaving, he who had taken the lead in sneering, told me that he hoped I would not be offended, as he did not mean to be personal, &c. I told him there was little harm in insulting *me*, but it was grievous to find him so towards his Saviour, in a land and place too, where he ought to show a better example. * * *”

“No. — we talked together of the ‘Mission’ of which he approved; spoke to his children, obtained permission to call in future.

“No. — sent in a tract: was courteously received by the good woman who is professedly a Roman Catholic—has a husband and daughter at home. After some conversation, I asked her to get her Bible and read with me, which she readily did. Selected 1st chapter of John * * They evinced a degree of interest, and the mother wished me to call at all times when passing.”

“Called at a dilapidated house which seems to be a place of rendezvous for certain young men of drunken habits. Found two men asleep on the floor with half a door underneath them. One of them had some cuts about the head, which was stained with blood. I did not then disturb them. There was not an article of furniture in the whole house. On one of the walls was written ‘Man being reasonable must get drunk, *Byron*.’ I returned—had some conversation with them. One of them who was still under the effects of liquor said he would reform: seemed surprised when I told him he was an immortal being, that he had a soul that would never die. They said others also came there.”

Afterwards visiting the same house, the Agent says, “went in, and saw two young men, one of whom was sober enough to speak

to. He seemed to feel his degrading condition and said that often when he laid down, he prayed that God would deliver him from this infernal drink which he had such a thirst for. I quoted the words 'All drunkards shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone,' which he asked me to repeat again—on my doing so, he added, 'And there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.' He said, he never went to Church for the last two or three years, with two or three exceptions while he was in the Alms-House. * * Promised him some clothes to enable him to go to Church. As I was about leaving, two other men came who were under some effects of liquor. Saw the tract I left here before."

"Mrs. — has kindly given me permission to hold my weekly meeting in her house, commencing to-morrow evening at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6. But as nearly all in this part of my District are Port. R. C. I must endeavour to be content with and not despise the day of small things. In fact there are only two families that I can depend upon being there, although a third has promised. Those two having consented to use their influence to persuade their neighbours to come. I hope that ere long the blade will bring forth the ear; and who knows, but that in the Lord's good time, we may have the full corn in the ear?"

12. The Mission is under great obligation to the Tract Society and the Bible Association for their liberal grants of tracts and copies of the Scriptures. No indiscriminate use is made of those supplies. Cordial thanks are also due to Dr. H. Clark, Sealkote; and to Messrs. Williams and Greenway at Cawnpore; through whom three of the Agents have been obtained.

13. With regard to FUNDS your Committee have the pleasing duty of reporting favourably. Hitherto the resources have been ample for all purposes. Up to the close of 1853—

The Receipts from Subscriptions and Donations

amounted to about, Rs. 4,400

The Expenditure, 2,500

Leaving a balance in hand of Co.'s Rs. 1,900 besides the original sum of 8,000 Rs. which has been invested in Company's Paper.

Their liabilities for the year ensuing will approximate to 6,000 Rupees. Inviting attention to the simplicity of their machinery, and the economy with which operations are carried on, they do not hesitate to expect that Christian liberality will supply abundant pecuniary means.

14. Remembering that the thousands whose elevation this Mission contemplates bear the sacred name of Jesus; that they are peculiarly our brethren; that they have souls of priceless value, which can be saved only through a living faith; that they might be a blessing where now alas! they are too commonly a stumbling-block to the heathen around; that the enemies of truth are busy among them, particularly of late the apostles of blasphemous Mormonism; that the case is urgent, for death is removing both those who need deliverance and those who can render aid—considering such things, your Committee feel that there is a loud call to Diligence.

They also feel, and they desire to realize it more and more deeply, that this is the Lord's work, in which they may engage with a humble hope that He will smile upon their feeble attempts to honour Him; but the efficacy whereof must depend entirely on His Holy Spirit.

They are well assured that their confederation is Scriptural, and that their armour is Divine—yet they heartily acknowledge that the “weapons of their warfare are mighty THROUGH God,” only *through God*; that unless His blessing is sought they fight in vain; and that He must get all the glory to ensure a victory.

If the friends of the Mission will think often and anxiously of its objects, and secretly plead the promises with faith and fervency—they shall have a reward, and souls shall be gained, and the kingdom of Christ shall come!

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS,

CALCUTTA CITY MISSION, 1853.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1853.

A Friend, by Messrs. T. S. Kelsall and M. Wylie,	Rs. 8,000		0	0
The Most Noble The Marquess of Dalhousie, K. T. Governor-General of India,	500		0	0
M. Wylie, Esq.	50		0	0
Dr. J. Jackson,	100		0	0
G. F. Cockburn, Esq.	16		0	0
Rev. A. Hamilton,	64		0	0
J. L. Carran, Esq.	25		0	0
J. Deffell, Esq.	50		0	0
J. H. Fergusson, Esq.	50		0	0
Rev. J. Blomefield,	20		0	0
Rev. F. W. Vaux,	25		0	0
W. Ritchie, Esq.	100		0	0
Rev. R. Henderson,	20		0	0
Charles Allen, Esq.	50		0	0
H. Andrews, Esq.	12		0	0
J. U. Sandys, Esq.	20		0	0
T. S. Kelsall, Esq.	100		0	0
C. H. Lushington, Esq.	200		0	0
H. Pratt, Esq.	25		0	0
T. Bruce, Esq.	100		0	0
E. Currie, Esq.	100		0	0
Moseley Smith, Esq.	100		0	0
W. D'Cruz, Esq.	12		0	0
W. H. Elliott, Esq.	120		0	0
Dr. J. G. Vos,	10		0	0
W. J. H. Money, Esq.	20		0	0
Miss Suter,	10		0	0
Miss S. Suter,	5		0	0
H. M. Reid, Esq.	16		0	0
Ven'ble Archdeacon Pratt,	50		0	0
Sir R. Barlow, Bart.	100		0	0
H. E. Braddon, Esq.	20		0	0

W. Macpherson, Esq.	Rs.	25	0	0
D. Stewart, Esq. M. D. .. .. .	..	10	0	0
J. S. Judge, Esq. .. .. .	..	10	0	0
W. Bracken, Esq. .. .. .	..	50	0	0
Capt. T. E. Rogers, .. .. .	..	50	0	0
The Hon'ble B. Peacock, .. .. .	..	100	0	0
G. B. Robinson, Esq. .. .. .	..	20	0	0
The Hon'ble J. R. Colvin, .. .. .	..	50	0	0
The Hon'ble J. Lewis, .. .. .	..	200	0	0
The Hon'ble Sir F. Currie, Bart. .. .. .	..	200	0	0
Through Mr. Depy. Supt. of Police Galiffe, from proprietors of Punch houses, viz.				
Robt. Brown, .. .. .	..	16		
B. B., .. .. .	..	3		
Geo. Butcher, .. .. .	..	1		
W. Claridge, .. .. .	..	1		
M. Williams, .. .. .	..	5		
Gaitano Sultana, .. .. .	..	10		
S. Oliver, .. .. .	..	5		
Peter Wallis, .. .. .	..	5		
W. R. Lancaster & Co. .. .. .	..	20		
C. B. Bourke, .. .. .	..	5		
Arthur Myers, .. .. .	..	5		
Peter Belannis, .. .. .	..	2		
Powelton Hotel, .. .. .	..	5		
R. H. Watkins, .. .. .	..	2		
W. H. Whitehead, .. .. .	..	5		
		<hr/>	90	0 0
Capt. H. L. Thuillier, .. .. .	..	25	0	0
Rev. R. B. Boswell, .. .. .	..	20	0	0
A. Stewart, Esq. .. .. .	..	5	0	0
Dr. A. Webb, .. .. .	..	16	0	0
Col. R. J. H. Birch, .. .. .	..	50	0	0
C. W. Brietzeke, Esq. .. .. .	..	50	0	0
A. Imlach, Esq. .. .. .	..	10	0	0
A. A. Swinton, Esq., .. .. .	..	20	0	0
A. Forbes, Esq. .. .. .	..	25	0	0
Rivers Thompson, Esq. .. .. .	..	50	0	0
W. F. Gillanders, Esq. .. .. .	..	100	0	0
Capt. C. H. Dickens, .. .. .	..	25	0	0
A. R. Young, Esq. .. .. .	..	25	0	0
Col. W. N. Forbes, .. .. .	..	50	0	0
Hugh McEwen, Esq. .. .. .	..	25	0	0
R. L. Eglinton, Esq. .. .. .	..	16	0	0
Robt. N. Lewis, Esq. .. .. .	..	25	0	0
John Daines, Esq. .. .. .	..	7	0	0

G. F. Brown, Esq.	Rs.	100	0	0
Rev. H. S. Fisher,		50	0	0
Rev. James C. Herdman,		25	0	0
Mrs. Oman,		3	0	0
J. H.		5	0	0
W. Anderson, Esq.		50	0	0
W. Bruton, Esq.		20	0	0
Friends per Mr. Bruton,		40	0	0
Lieut. A. Simpson,		12	0	0
Messrs. May, Pickford & Co.		25	0	0
W. Colville, Esq.		5	0	0
M. Blechynden, Esq.,		5	0	0
Capt. Luggin,		5	0	0
Capt. J. Hogg,		5	0	0
J. L. Carran, Esq.,		10	0	0
W. H. Abbott, Esq.,		16	0	0
W. T. Denman, Esq.		25	0	0
J. H. Norman, Esq.		50	0	0
R. C. Macrae, Esq.		50	0	0
E. F. Harrison, Esq.		25	0	0
Estate of E. I. C. Richardson, Esq., Legacy duty,		50	0	0
J. Sutherland, Esq.		6	0	0
E. Edmond, Esq.		16	0	0
S. Ransom, Esq.		5	0	0
J. C. Murray, Esq.		10	0	0
Lieut. H. Yule,		100	0	0
Lieut.-General Sir W. Richards,		20	0	0
Robt. Montgomery, Esq.		50	0	0
Dr. A. Grant,		16	0	0
Through W. Bruton, Esq.				
Capt. Banks,		4		
J. D. Allin, Esq.		5		
A tenth,		11		
		<hr/>		
		20	0	0
Brigadier J. Parsons,		100	0	0
Dr. H. Clark,		50	0	0

Abstract Account of Receipts and Disbursements of the Calcutta City Mission, 1853.

1853.

By Receipts as follows :

Subscriptions and Donations, Rs. 12,408 0 0
 " Interest from investment in Co.'s Paper of 8,000, 80 12 5

1853.

To Expenditure as follows :

Salaries of six Mission Agents from 7 to 1 month each, Rs. 669 8 0
 Remittance to England for passage and outfit of a Superintending Mission Agent, .. 1,000 0 0
 Ditto to the North Western Provinces of India for expenses, &c. of three Agents, .. 453 12 0
 Printing preliminary report to Public Meeting of April, 1853, and expenses of circulation, 183 13 0
 " 94 2 0
 Advertisements in the Newspapers, 32 0 0
 Expense of lighting the Town Hall for Meeting of April, 1853, 32 8 0
 Stationery, &c., 48 2 9
 Peon's wages for 9 months and odd days, 2,513 13 9

12

Dec. 31, 1853.—Balance—Invested in Co.'s Paper of the 4 per cent. 8,000 0 0

Loan, Rs. 1,974 14 8
 In the Oriental Bank, 9,974 14 8

Company's Rupees,.... 12,488 12 5

Company's Rupees,.... 12,488 12 5

Audited by
 M. WYLIE,
 E. EDMOND.

T. S. KELSALL, Treasurer.

January 30th, 1854.

APPENDIX.

CONSTITUTION.

I.—The name,—“THE CALCUTTA CITY MISSION.”

II.—The object of this Institution is to extend the knowledge of the Gospel among the nominally Christian Inhabitants of Calcutta and its vicinity (especially the poor) without any reference to denominational distinctions, or the peculiarities of Church Government.

III.—To effect this object, Missionary-Agents of approved character and qualifications, who shall give themselves entirely to the work, shall be employed and paid by the Institution. Their duty shall be to visit from house to house in the respective districts that shall be assigned to them, read the Scriptures, engage in religious conversation, and urge those who are living in the neglect of religion to observe the Sabbath, and to attend public worship. They shall also see that all persons possess the Scriptures, shall distribute approved religious tracts, and aid in obtaining Scriptural education for the children of the poor. By the approval of the Committee they shall hold meetings for reading and expounding the Scriptures, and prayer, and shall adopt such other means as the Committee may think necessary for the accomplishment of the Mission.

IV.—As the object of the Mission is to extend the knowledge of the Gospel, it is a fundamental law, that the following doctrines be prominently taught by the Agents and publications of the

Mission. They are given, “not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth.”* “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”† “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.”‡ “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”§ “The blood of Jesus Christ God’s Son cleanseth from all sin.”|| “Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”¶ “Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”** “Without holiness no man shall see the Lord.”†† “Ye are sanctified—by the Spirit of our God.”‡‡

V.—The general business of the Calcutta City Mission shall be conducted by a Committee, consisting of an equal number of Members of the Episcopal Church and of other Protestant bodies; and the Committee of Examiners of Missionaries shall be similarly constituted. The Examiners, with the Treasurers, Secretaries, and Auditors, shall be members of the Committee, ex-officio.

VI.—Persons subscribing 12 Rs. annually; every donor of Co.’s Rs. 50; an executor, on the payment of a legacy of 500 Rs. and upwards; and Christian Ministers, as representatives of their congregations, who subscribe or collect for the Mission the sum of 50 Rs. annually, shall be Members of the Institution.

VII.—A General Meeting shall be held annually in the cold season (and oftener if necessary) to appoint the office-bearers, and receive a Report of the proceedings of the Mission, and of the state of the funds. All matters proposed shall be determined by the majority of the members present. The Meeting shall be opened and concluded by prayer, and the President for the day shall sign the Minutes of the proceedings.

* 1 Cor. ii. 13.

† Rom. iii. 23.

‡ John i. 1, 14.

§ John iii. 3.

|| 1 John i. 7.

¶ Rom. v. 1.

** Acts iv. 12.

†† Heb. xii. 14.

‡‡ 1 Cor. vi. 11.

VIII.—The funds of the Mission, arising from donations, legacies, subscriptions, collections, &c. shall be expended, under the direction of the Committee, upon the salaries of Agents, the purchase of tracts, and in meeting all necessary charges in conducting the business of the Mission.

IX.—That no alteration be made in this constitution, except at an Annual Meeting, or General Meeting, specially convened by the Committee, upon a requisition stating the nature of the alteration, signed by ten of the Members, and to be held within twenty-one days of the receipt of such requisition.

BY-LAWS.

1. The Committee shall meet once a-month to transact the business of the Mission. Five shall form a quorum.

2. Every Meeting of the Committee shall be opened and closed with prayer.

3. The secretaries shall be authorized to call a special Meeting of the Committee, if any thing should arise to require it.

4. Every important measure shall be introduced to the Committee, by notice, and considered at a subsequent Meeting.

5. All persons applying to be employed as Missionary-Agents shall undergo such examination as the Committee may deem necessary, and if approved, shall be received on probation for at least three months.

6. Every Agent must avoid controversy upon the constitution and government of Christian Churches, his great object being to teach the people in his district the way of salvation by Jesus Christ.

7. The salary of the Agent shall be fixed by the Committee.

8. No Agent shall be summarily dismissed, except for immoral or grossly improper conduct. Cases of ill-health are to be specially considered and determined by the Committee. In all other cases one month shall be considered the term of notice to be given by the Committee to Agents, and by the Agents to the Committee, before leaving the Mission.

DUTIES OF A SUPERINTENDENT.

1. It is desirable that each Agent act under a Superintendent. The Superintendent is to exercise Christian watchfulness over the interests of the Mission in the District or sphere assigned to the Agent, to see that he complies with the general instructions given by the Committee, to counsel and encourage him, and to inspect his Journal at least once a week.

2. To institute (if possible) a monthly Meeting of Christians residing in the district, for the purpose of praying, that the influences of the Holy Spirit may be richly enjoyed by the Mission, and especially in the immediate District of the Meeting.

3. To ascertain, by means of the Agent, the moral and religious state of his field of labour, what families or individuals are destitute of the Scriptures, and endeavour to have them supplied, to see that the tracts are circulated, and to visit (if practicable) such cases as the Agent may consider worthy of special notice.

4. To present to the Committee, before their meeting in every month, the Report of the Agent with such remarks as he thinks necessary.

INSTRUCTIONS TO AGENTS.

1. Visit the inhabitants of the District assigned you, for the purpose of bringing them to an acquaintance with salvation, through our Lord Jesus Christ, and of doing them good by every means in your power.

2. Read a portion of the Scriptures, and offer prayer, if practicable, in every house or room you visit; if impracticable, introduce into your conversation as much of the Scriptures as possible, and see that the terms used are understood. In reading or speaking, let those portions that bear on the depravity of man,

justification by faith alone, the necessity of a change of heart and of holiness of life, ever hold a prominent place.

3. Inculcate upon all persons the duty of searching the Scriptures as a revelation from God, and as the standard by which they will be judged at the last day.

4. Urge upon all persons you visit the necessity of attending the public worship of God. If they are neglecting it, point out to them the especial importance and duty of their attending the ministry of the Gospel. Specify no particular Church or Chapel; leaving to those you visit the selection of the place most accordant with their own views, provided that in that place the great doctrines of the Reformation are faithfully taught.

5. Inculcate upon parents the duty of training up their children in the way they should go, and the propriety of procuring for them week-day and Sunday-School instruction. Point out, as occasion may require, their relative duties, and faithfully, but prudently reprove open vice, such as swearing, intemperance, and the profanation of the Sabbath.

6. See that those persons who have not the Scriptures are supplied with them.

7. Endeavour to hold a Meeting every week in your district, for the purpose of reading the Scriptures, exhortation, and prayer. Let those exercises be brief, the whole service not exceeding one hour.

8. Circulate no tract or book in your district which has not been approved and recommended by the Committee.

9. Avoid all unnecessary controversy upon religious subjects. Do not interfere with the peculiar tenets of any individual respecting Church government. Carefully avoid all topics of an irritating tendency, and seek by a simple manifestation of the truth to commend yourself to every man's conscience.

10. Studiously avoid entering upon subjects of a political nature, as altogether foreign from the purpose of your visit.

11. Devote yourself entirely to the objects of the Mission, and abstain from all secular employment. Spend as much time

as possible every week in visiting from house to house. Give yourself to the study of the Scriptures and to prayer.

12. Write the journal of your daily proceedings with the strictest accuracy as to facts and circumstances, and submit it once a week to your Superintendent for his inspection.

13. Conduct yourself in such a manner as will prove to all persons that you are in earnest in seeking their spiritual welfare. Be humble, courteous, and affectionate. Constantly realize your own obligations to the Saviour. Go to your District in a spirit of prayer, and with an earnest desire that every person you visit may be brought to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Your work is awfully important, you have to deal with immortal souls, many of whom may never hear the Gospel but from you, and whose eternal condition may be determined by the reception or rejection of the message which you deliver to them. Be courageous, be faithful, keep the Lord Jesus continually before your own mind, and commend Him and his great salvation to the people. Be watchful and exemplary in every part of your conduct, public and private. "Owe no man anything." Go forth daily to your work with your heart lifted up to God, for the assistance and direction of His Holy Spirit, and relying upon his promise for that wisdom and strength which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay or resist. Let the glory of God and the salvation of souls be your chief, your only end.

14. It is expected by the Committee, that under ordinary circumstances, all their Agents attend Divine Service on Sunday morning and evening, in order that while they are seeking to do good to others, their own spiritual instruction and growth in grace may be promoted.

15. One month's notice will be required of you before you can leave the Mission.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES.

1. To what Clergymen, Ministers, or other individuals can you refer for information respecting your character and qualifications? It is desirable that you name more than one, and that you obtain their recommendations, with that of your Minister.

2. What advantages of education have you enjoyed? with what languages are you acquainted? what books have you read? Name some of the authors to whose works you give a preference.

3. Have you a reason to think that you are a partaker of Divine grace? on what grounds do you arrive at that conclusion? and how long have you been a Communicant?

4. Give an outline of what you consider to be the leading doctrines of Christianity.

5. What are your views respecting the qualifications necessary for the work of the Calcutta City Mission?

6. Have you been engaged in the instruction of the young, in seeking the spiritual benefit of the sick, in visiting the poor, and in the distribution of tracts, or in what other way have you endeavoured to render yourself useful?

7. Do you cordially approve of the Catholic principles on which the Mission is based, as including the co-operation of all true Christians?

8. Have you seriously weighed the difficulties to which an Agent is exposed, originating in the ignorance, prejudice, and indifference to religion on the part of those whom he seeks to instruct?

9. How long have you thought of offering yourself as a candidate for the work of the Calcutta City Mission, and have you sought Divine direction?

10. Have you ever been engaged in the service of any other Society, and in what capacity?

11. What is your age?

12. In what trade or profession have you been employed, and what has been the average amount of your income?

13. Are you in debt? If so, state the nature and amount of your liabilities.

14. Is the state of your health usually sound, or have you any disease upon you, or have you been the subject of any serious illness, and of what nature?

15. Are you married? If you have any children, state their number and their ages. State also how many of them, and whether any other persons are dependent upon you.

16. Have you carefully read the "Instructions to Agents," and are you willing to follow those instructions, and to submit to the regulations therein enjoined?

17. Are your answers to the preceding questions in your own hand-writing, and are they entirely of your own preparation and composition?

N. B. Spiritual-mindedness and a facility in referring to texts of Scripture in proof of the various doctrines and duties taught and enjoined in the Word of God, are deemed essential and indispensable qualifications.

QUESTIONS TO PERSONS REFERRED TO BY CANDIDATES.

1. Do you consider _____ gives evidence of real piety, and has he long maintained a temper and deportment consistent with the Christian character and profession?

2. Since you have had reason to look upon him as a Christian, has he manifested much concern to embrace opportunities of usefulness? Has he been engaged in Sabbath-school instruction, in the distribution of religious tracts, or in other ways endeavoured to make himself useful to those about him?

3. What is your opinion of his talent for communicating knowledge to others?

4. What is your opinion of his temper, and prudence, and sobriety? Is he of a mild, humble, and courteous disposition?

5. Are there any other circumstances that you can state to the Committee respecting him, either of a favourable or an unfavourable nature? •

MEETINGS.

It is desirable, under ordinary circumstances, that an Agent should hold one meeting for prayer, and familiar exposition of the Scriptures each week.

These meetings should not be held by an Agent out of the boundaries of his own district, without special permission from one of the Secretaries.

It is very important, that the meetings are not more than one hour in length.

The Society pays no other expense connected with the meetings, than for lights. No meeting, under any circumstances, ought to be held in the room of parties of immoral character.

Meetings should not be held in rooms in which other religious services are held by parties unconnected with the Mission, except with the consent of the Committee. •

In case of an Agent being unwell, or absent from Calcutta, he is expected to make provision for his meeting being taken, and to be careful not to allow the poor to assemble without some one having been provided to conduct the meeting.

The Committee hold their Agent responsible that no other parties conduct his meeting (without the especial leave of one of the Secretaries), but a brother Agent of the Society, or the Agent's local Superintendent.

It is important that the meetings commence punctually at the hour appointed.

The Committee do not sanction, under any circumstances, the Agent holding meetings during the ordinary hours of Divine service on Sundays.

On the other parts of Sunday, or during the week, meetings should never be held during Divine service in contiguous places of worship, when an attendance can be obtained equally well, or nearly equally well, at other times.

No meeting must, under any circumstances, be held on ground which is not neutral and open to the attendance, without scruple or prejudice, of Christians of all persuasions.

No printed notices of meetings must, under any circumstances, be circulated, except they have first been submitted to one of the Secretaries.

If an Agent desires that any of his meetings should be of a conversational character, and partake rather of the character of a Bible class than of an exposition, the Committee do not object to this. But they cannot sanction the meetings being controversial, or for discussion with opponents of Evangelical doctrine.

The class of persons for whom the meetings are intended are not those who attend public worship, and the Agents should cautiously seek to collect together simply those who either cannot or will not attend churches or chapels. It should be equally his concern to impress on those who do attend, that the meetings are not to be regarded as substitutes for public worship, but as initiatory steps to the same. And it is his duty to draft off the attendants at his meeting from time to time to the ministers around, and collect together others from the wide world, remembering that the efforts of the Society profess to be missionary and not pastoral.

The Agents should not make single verses, or parts of verses, the basis of their exposition, and to divide these into a variety of heads and subdivisions. It converts the exposition into a sermon, and the agent into a preacher; it is more artificial, and consequently less suited for the purpose; and it needlessly occupies time in preparation. An entire paragraph, or a number of verses, should be read, and these in a plain and concise manner explained and applied.

The Agents are at liberty to ask suitable individuals who may be present to offer prayer at the meetings, instead of themselves, the Committee exercising confidence in their Agents that they will request those only well known to themselves as suitable individuals to assist in this important part of the service.

VISITATION OF THE SICK AND DYING.

Agents should visit the families on their district, under ordinary circumstances, in continuous order, beginning at one end of the district, and proceeding from house to house, and from room to room, until they have reached the other end of the district, without passing over any family whatever, and without paying a second visit to one family, till all the families have received the first visit.

Sick and dying individuals, as well as those under hopeful impressions, or whose cases are peculiar, are, however, exceptions to this rule, and require to be visited out of the regular course, and more frequently than others.

In visiting cases of contagious disease, it is important for Agents to observe the following directions:—1. Not to stay long at one time with such persons. 2. To visit them shortly after a meal, and not on an empty stomach. 3. Not to station themselves between the sick person and an open door or window, but to take that position in the room which is removed from the current of air which passes over the infected individual, and to avoid inhaling the breath of the patient. 4. To avoid, if practicable, swallowing the saliva formed in the mouth while in the sick room. 5. To wash the face and hands on reaching home.

In ordinary sick cases, visits should not be unduly prolonged.

TRACTS.

Agents are not at liberty to distribute or lend any tract, pamphlet, or book, except published by the Religious Tract Society, in addition to those with which they are furnished by the Mission, without first submitting it for approval to one of the Secretaries.

Special tracts for special cases will be provided for Agents, on their applying to the Secretaries for the same.

JOURNALS, REPORTS, &c.

Each Agent will keep a Regular Journal of his proceedings to be submitted monthly to the Committee.

While on the one hand the Committee earnestly desire that in reporting, no over-statements should be made by their Agents and that the strictest accuracy should be observed, they on the other hand desire to impress on their Agents the great importance of their bestowing pains in faithfully reporting their work.

The interest of the public in the Society is necessarily kept up chiefly by means of these reports, and subscribers to the support of the Mission are entitled to expect some report to be afforded them of the operations of the Agents.

THE CATHOLIC CHARACTER OF THE SOCIETY'S OPERATIONS.

The Committee consider the preservation of the above to be a *fundamental* principle in the constitution of the Society. Any decisive and fully established violation of this principle on the part of an Agent is, therefore, necessarily visited by the Committee by instant expulsion. It is an offence which a regard to the general welfare of the Society, and to the security of Subscribers, prevents the Committee from passing over. The

Agents are expected to preserve an honourable and scrupulous fidelity to their engagements with the Society, in this particular.

No Agent is at liberty to hold a paid appointment as clerk, organist, pew-opener, &c., in connection with any particular Church or Chapel.

RESIDENCE.

Agents are expected to live in or near the districts assigned to them.

As soon as an Agent is appointed, and has determined on a residence, he is to send his address to one of the Secretaries ; and, in case of his removing his residence, he will give notice thereof. In each case he should also inform his Superintendent of the same.

Agents are not permitted, without special permission from the Committee, to take a larger residence than they require, with the intention of letting out a part of it to other individuals, as this brings with it secular care, risk, and trouble, from which it is the design of the Committee that the Agents should be free, as far as practicable.

TEMPORAL RELIEF, PECUNIARY RESPONSIBILITIES, Etc.

The Agents are most carefully to avoid the giving of temporal relief, as not their department of Christian effort, and as most materially interfering with the integrity of their especial work.

The Agents are also not to receive money from those they visit, whether as subscriptions for Benevolent Societies, or for any other purpose whatever.

The Agents are strictly forbidden from writing letters soliciting aid for persons in distress, or for objects connected with the district, except with the special leave of the Committee.

The Agents must not make themselves responsible, or incur pecuniary responsibility in any form, for the rent or expenses attendant on Schools, rooms of meeting, &c.

No Agent is at liberty to publish any work of his own, large or small, whether or not it involve pecuniary responsibility, without the express sanction of the Secretaries, inasmuch as the credit of the Society is, more or less, involved in the same.

Agents are to consider the entire of their time as devoted to the cause of the Mission, and they are not at liberty to engage in other employments for which a pecuniary consideration is received, even although these be attended to without infringing on the hours required by the Society to be devoted to domiciliary visitation. The wives of Agents are not at liberty to engage in any trade or occupation which may involve their husbands in pecuniary responsibilities.

The Committee are convinced that the rules under this division are of the utmost importance to be strictly observed by the Agents, and they therefore expect that the Agents will on no pretence be led to violate them.

AGENTS' PROBATION.

Every Agent is received in the first instance on a probation of three months.

During the period of probation, the Committee consider themselves at liberty to dispense with the further services of an Agent on any day, without previous notice, and the Agent is considered by them as at liberty to leave the Mission in the same manner, on informing one of the Secretaries of his desire.

After the term of probation is expired, no Agent will be summarily dismissed by the Committee, except for immoral or grossly improper conduct. Cases of ill-health will be specially considered and determined by the Committee. In all other cases, one month will be considered as the term of notice to be given by the Committee to Agents, and by the Agents to the Committee before leaving the Mission.

Agents are required to study and be examined on such books on the Evidences and the Doctrines of Christianity, and to attend such course of Lectures on these subjects, as shall be prescribed by the Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Occasional leave of absence for the purpose of relaxation and change of air will be given to the Agents, on their application to the Committee. It is, however, expected that before leaving they inquire of one of the Secretaries whether there is any impediment to their leaving at the particular time desired. They should also apprise their Superintendent of the days they leave and purpose to return.

In case of illness, Agents will report to their Superintendent each week while laid aside the progress of their complaint.

Agents are expected to keep, in their visitation, to the bounds of their own districts or spheres, except in any very special case which they are instructed to visit, either by the Secretaries or the local Superintendent, or which requires to be followed up by a few additional visits in the judgment of the Agent although the party has removed from the district occupied by the Agent.

If an Agent has occasion to visit a special case on the district of another agent, that other Agent should always be informed of the visit, and the circumstances which occasioned it explained.

In the visitation of rooms occupied by fallen females, or very desperate characters, or in any other special case which seems to render such a course desirable, an Agent is at full liberty to visit in company with a neighbouring Agent, and in many cases of this description, it is recommended to the Agents that they do not visit alone.

Agents should avoid expending large portions of time in school-teaching, especially after the first establishment of the schools.