

7. Sekundärliteratur

Memoirs of the life and correspondence of the reverend Christian Frederick Swartz. To which is prefixed a sketch of the history of christianity in ...

Pearson, Hugh

London, 1835

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TO THE SECOND EDITION.

IN the preface to the first edition of these Memoirs, it will be seen that the author expressed his regret at having been unable to procure the Correspondence of the venerable Swartz with Mr. Hudleston. He has now the satisfaction to state, that on the recent demise of that highly respected gentleman, the whole of his papers relative to Mr. Swartz came into the possession of his executor, the Rev. H. H. Hayes, who, with the most obliging liberality and kindness, immediately communicated them to the Author.

On the perusal of these much-desired documents, it was particularly gratifying to him to find, that his own previous researches had antici-

pated all the leading facts which they contain relative to the great Missionary. Mr. Hudleston's papers, as it was natural to suppose, chiefly refer to the two years from March, 1785, to February, 1787, during which he was the Company's resident at the court of Tanjore, and at the close of which the remarkable circumstances attending the request of the dying Rajah, Tuljajee, to Mr. Swartz, to become regent of the country, and guardian of his adopted son, took place, as detailed in the following Memoirs.

Various other points connected with Tanjore and its native princes are adverted to in these valuable letters, of which, had they been earlier communicated, the Author would have gladly availed himself in the body of his narrative; but having from various public and private sources obtained all the substantial information which they contain, it would be superfluous to repeat it.

It is, at the same time, most satisfactory to him to find his statements in every instance confirmed by the unquestionable authority of Mr. Hudleston. The veneration of that estimable servant

and director of the Company for the character of Mr. Swartz, and his testimony to the high value and importance of his influence and example both to the Government and the natives of India, as displayed in the papers confided to the Author, far exceed the conceptions, exalted as they were, which he had previously formed of that eminent and extraordinary person; and it is only an act of justice to the memory of Mr. Hudleston to declare, that his correspondence with his revered friend contains proofs of his own integrity and disinterestedness as a public servant, and of his benevolent and zealous regard to the welfare of the princes and natives of India with whom he was officially connected, which are highly honourable to his character.

It appears from his papers that Mr. Hudleston was the author of the inscription on the monument erected by the East India Company to the memory of Mr. Swartz at Madras, which comprises, in fact, an epitome of his character and labours; and that he for some time cherished the intention of writing a Memoir of his life, which he probably at

length abandoned, from his failure in obtaining adequate materials for the work.

The Author has only to add, that he has selected some letters and extracts from Mr. Hudleston's papers, which, as he is unable to introduce them in chronological order, he has inserted in an Appendix to the second volume of these Memoirs; and which, like every other part of Mr. Swartz's correspondence with his friends, will tend still farther to illustrate the wisdom, piety, and beneficence of that most perfect exemplar of the Christian and the Missionary which has been exhibited since the primitive and apostolic age.

Deanery, Salisbury, April 20, 1835.