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10) with my little horse, I arrived late in the evening.

I think I made no less than an hundred miles in this tour, & a great part of it on foot.

Palamcottah. If I have been too particular hitherto, it is in order to give the brethren at home some idea of the Mission here. Henceforth I shall be more concise in my accounts & if they are not spiritual enough, it is perhaps owing to my little knowledge of the language. I cannot yet converse fluently with the natives & often do not understand what they say; consequently I am not yet authorized to give a just opinion as to the real state of Christ's kingdom in this country: but certainly it is a remarkable work of God in providence & which may in future ~~ages~~ give us abundant cause to praise him.

From March 13th to 22d. Wrote many letters & settled many troublesome affairs. One letter was to a kind friend resident at Travancore to whom I had been recommended, applying for a passport; and I soon received a very encouraging answer, and ~~£~~ a kind offer to bear the expenses of my journey to Cochin, if I had no objection to go so far. Accordingly, I resolved upon the journey.

In the course of those days, I also wrote an address to the protestant public at Madras & on the Coromandel coast, requesting them to support me in my plans for the Tinnevely mission, by a subscription. This I sent to Mr Loveless, to have it printed and dispersed.

In the mean time service, with daily morning & evening prayer was carried on, as usual, in the church at this place, but no fruit, however, has appeared as yet.

As a circumstance that will be pleasing to the society, I beg leave to mention, that on the 28th, a Romish missionary, who travels in this country, sent me a present of yams by his catechist, with a polite message. Who would not rejoice at such liberal sentiments?

April 3d. Being Thursday, before Easter, was celebrated as usual in the different established churches, when I preached on the sufferings of our Saviour in Mount Olivet. Nallapen preached in English & Tamul.

5th. Held a preparatory meeting with the small English flock of communicants.

6th. On this day, the Easter service was performed, & the sacrament of the Lord's supper dispensed in both languages.

7th, to 12th. Settled all affairs preparatory to my journey into Travancore.

Travancore. Prepared my diary for the information of ^{N.}
the society, which however, owing to several providences ^{was not sent}
in the course of these days, a worthy gentleman presented me with
a small horse, for which I was very thankful.

13th Set out with four or five people for Travancore. I
first took a course through those parts of the mission alrea-
dy mentioned, & waited on some friends in Manapar, Tirut-
thandar, & Allmartirunavelly, preaching to the congrega-
tion, that came in my way, & after having passed a week
in this manner, struck off towards the mountains to the
southwest.

23d. I reached Samariaburam. Here too are several
fine basps that read & write. A Samaer had fallen that day
from a palmyra-tree & fractured several bones. I found him
senseless in a little hut. When he came to himself, I prayed
with him, & he declared, he would lay hold of Jesus, and not
let him go. He soon after died.

24th. Set out, after morning prayer, and passed a congrega-
tion, I think Vantenculam; the heat was tremendous. In the
dusk of the evening arrived at Wadekkenkulam, one of the
westernmost churches, seven or eight miles from the hills. We had
evening prayer & catechisation in a very small clay-built
church. About 30 protestants here, but many catholics, who
are inimical. Two men expressed their desire to be baptized,
& gave proper reasons for it, whom I promised to gratify
the next time I came there, if I found them fit subjects.

25th. Set out at dawn & made that passage through the hills,
which is called the Arambuley gaut, about noon. The coun-
try adjoining is almost uninhabited, owing, I suppose, to the
violent gales from the gaut. Yet there are marks of former &
even of late cultivation.

As soon as we had entered the gaut, the grandest prospect
of green-clad precipices, cloud-clapt mountains, hills
adorned with temples & castles, & other picturesque objects,
presented themselves. A noble avenue of immense baobab-
trees, winding through the valley, adds greatly to the beauty
of the place. My timid companions, however, trembled at
every step, being now on ground altogether in the power of
the Bramins

12. The Bramins, the sworn enemy of the christian name: & indeed, a little occurrence soon convinced us, that we were no more on British territory. I laid down to rest in a caravansary, appropriated for Bramins only, when the magistrate immediately sent word for me to remove, otherwise their god would no more eat! I reluctantly obeyed & proceeded round the southern hills to a village called Magilandy, from whence formerly two men came to Tranquebar to request me to come & see them, representing that two hundred heathens at this place were desirous to embrace our religion. I lodged two days at their house, when I preached and prayed; some of them knew the catechism. They begged hard for a native teacher, but declared they could not build a church, as all this country had been given by the king of Travancore to the Bramins, in consequence of which, the magistrates would not give them permission. I spent here the Lord's day, for the first time very uncomfortably, in an Indian hut, in the midst of a noisy, gaping crowd, which filled the house. Perhaps my disappointment contributed to my unpleasant feelings; I had expected to find hundreds eager to listen to the word, instead of which, I had a difficulty to make a few families attend for an hour.

On Monday a catechist from a neighbouring congregation arriving to speak with me, I committed this infant flock to his charge, & he is to come once a week to see them: I sent him to the magistrate with a request no more to persecute the christians at Magilandy, and he gave a very favourable answer. Travelling pleasantly under the shade of trees across hill & dale, with the ever-varying prospect of the gauts on my right, I reached Tiruvandireem, the capital of Travancore, on the 30th of April. On the road I stopped, as travellers in general do, at Roman catholic churches. Finding the dialect spoken here differing from the pure Tamil as much as the Yorkshire dialect does from pure English, I was much at a loss to understand them, and make myself understood. However, I addressed them as opportunity offered, individually, lamenting, that the man, whom I had taken along with me to assist me, gave himself over to drunkenness, and therefore was of little use. Tiruvandireem lies at the foot of the hills, two miles from the sea, in a sandy plain near the small river Aramaney, buried in cocoa-butt plantations. It consists of an inconsiderable fort, in a ruinous state, with straggling suburbs, and has nothing of royal grandeur. It contains

Copy of the Revd. M. Bingley's Diary
contains, however, a palace and three pagodas, which we ^{July 14} (13)
were not suffered to enter. I conversed with several officers in the
king's service, native Portuguese, who wished for a missionary to
settle among them; one of them seemed particularly well-inclined
& to him I gave an English Bible. He complained much of the ex-
cesses of the Roman missionaries at funerals, baptisms, &c.

May 1st Set off for Alengo, the most ancient English possession in
Travancore. I was struck with the number of handsome Romish churches
along the beach; at every thousand yards there is a church, & there
were formerly still more. They are mostly built by private ^{persons}, in con-
sequence of some vow or other; but no inference is to be drawn from
the number of these churches with regard to the flourishing state of reli-
gion. In most of them, mass is performed only once in two years.

I will take this opportunity to give my opinion on the number of Ro-
man Catholics in the peninsula of India. I know, from good authority,
that there are beyond a thousand missionaries dispersed over the coun-
try. If we allow each of them a nominal influence on two or
three thousand souls, as is not improbable, it brings the number of
Roman Catholics to between two & three millions. Those that are
well-informed, think my calculation falls short of the truth.

This is the work of three centuries. Could we suppose their religion
will go on to spread in the same ratio, we might fix the period
humanly speaking, when India would be a Roman Catholic coun-
try! It is true, that at the outset, the missionaries were abundantly
zealous & powerfully seconded by government; the archbishop of
Goa was governor-general of the Portuguese possessions; money
was sent from Europe in considerable sums. Circumstances are now
altered, but the resources of the Romish priests in this country
are still considerable: fines, indulgences, fees, presents, mas-
ses for the dead, are inexhaustible sources.

At Alengo I was introduced to the acquaintance of Father Ray-
mond Piedmontese, & vicar-general of Veraples. He is a man
of uncommon liberal principles, & what I learned from him amounts to
this: at Veraples they have two numerous seminaries; one for
the Latin the other for the Syriac students. So late as in April
the bishop of — came down to Veraples (the vicar-general's
confirmation to the bishopric having not yet arrived from
Rome, the French having taken the ship in which it was
coming, he cannot obtain,) in order to lay hands on a
number of young priests, no less than 63; besides whom, 200
missionaries