



PROPOSALS

For Raising a constant Supply of

MISSIONARIES

FOR THE

BRITISH COLONIES.

WHEREAS the great Want of Schoolmasters, Ministers, and Missionaries of all kinds, as well for the necessary Discharge of the Publick Offices of Religion, and the Maintenance and Preservation of Christianity in Places where it is already established, as for the Instruction and Conversion of Heathens, where it is not; hath been long notorious, and much complained of, to the great Detriment of Religion and civil Society, throughout all the *British* Settlements in *North America*, and in both the *East* and *West Indies*.—The SOCIETY for promoting *Christian Knowledge*, being seldom, if ever, able to procure any Missionaries here in *England*, for their Missions in the *East Indies*.—And the SOCIETY for propagating the Gospel in *Foreign Parts*, being often under great

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Difficulties

Difficulties in providing Missionaries for the great Demand there is for them, in the extensive Province which they have undertaken in *America*, and are much confined in their Choice for that Purpose. And whereas there are many Charity-Schools in and about the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, some of which are Grammar-Schools likewise, in which Youth are, or soon may be, qualified for University Education;—It is proposed,

1. That Application be made to the President, Governors, and Masters of Christ's Hospital, in which there is a good Grammar-School, and if necessary, to the Trustees of other Schools, in which Children are brought most forward in their Learning, for their Permission and Concurrence in the Choice of a Number of the most promising Youth, to be from time to time, when duly qualified, removed, with their own free Consent, and with the Consent and Approbation of their Parents or Guardians, to some College or Colleges, in one of our Universities; with a special Provision, that when they have, for a competent Time, had the Benefit of an University Education, they may, at a proper Age, have Episcopal Ordination, and be sent to exercise the Office of their Ministry, in some or other of our Colonies abroad.

2. That a Subscription be opened to defray the Expence of their Education at the University; and that the Societies for *propagating the Gospel*, and for *promoting Christian Knowledge*, become Trustees of the Mission, and undertake to provide Missions for them.

3. Whereas it seems most desirable, that some particular College be engaged for their Reception, if such can be obtained, where they may be separately brought up in the Studies proper for them.—And
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whereas a considerable Benefaction hath lately been left, and since ratified, for founding a College in the Univerfity of *Cambridge*, which is not yet appropriated to any particular Mode, or System of Education:—That as foon as Trustees shall be appointed, Application be made to them, that among other Designs which may come before them, this likewise for the Education of Youth, for our Missions, may be permitted to put in its Claim for their Contemplation.

4. That in whatever College or Hall they have their Education, they be brought up, as in all Parts of good Learning, fo particularly in Divinity, doctrinal and practical, and in controversial Divinity in its several Branches; that they may be able to defend their Faith, against Infidels, Papists, and all Adversaries of the Christian Religion, and of the Church of *England*, which they may meet with, and should be armed against.—That they on no Consideration be allowed to remove to any other College, nor have any Prospect given them, of rising in the Univerfity, or of being employed in the Church at Home.—And that their Designation being particular, and a particular College being appropriated to them, they have likewise some particular Distinction of Habit.

5. That besides their being well instructed in the above-mentioned Studies, Masters be procured, if they can be had, to teach them the Languages of the Countries into which they are respectively to be sent.—That for this Purpose, proper Persons should be had from the *East Indies*, to teach the *Indian*, *Malabar*, *Persic*, or such other Languages, as shall be judged most useful for Missionaries into those Countries to be acquainted with.—That others likewise be procured from *North America* to teach the *Micmac*,

and other Languages of that Country.—And at the same Time that these Persons be themselves instructed in the Knowledge proper for Missionaries; when they might return to their own Countries in that Quality, and would be likely to make the most useful Missionaries of any: And as such, the greater the Number of them that could be obtained, the better the Missions would be provided for.

6. That the Missionaries be ordained Deacons as soon as they arrive at a proper Age, and are duly qualified.—That they be admitted to Orders on no other Title than that of their Mission.—That immediately upon their being ordained, they be sent over to their respective Missions; the Duties of which having been diligently exercised by them, till they arrive at a proper Age to receive Priest's Orders;—That then they come over hither for that Purpose, unless Bishops be in the mean Time appointed for the Colonies, by whom they might be ordained, to the great saving of Expence, Time, and Hazard of the Voyage.—And that after they have served seven Years from the Time of their receiving Priest's Orders, they be at Liberty to return Home, and be permitted to be employed in the Church here.

7. That Application be made to Government, if thought necessary, for such Powers, and such Assistance, as shall be found requisite to an effectual Prosecution of this Design.

8. That when the Affairs of the *East India* Company come again under the Consideration of Parliament, Application be made, that the due Maintenance and Furtherance of Religion in those Countries, wherein they are concerned, be properly provided for; and that Measures be concerted between the Government and Company for that Purpose.—That the

the Company be obliged to employ Chaplains in all Ships which shall be sent by them into the *East Indies*, and in all Factories, Forts, and Garrisons, belonging to them in any of the *Indies*. And that Churches and Chapels be built where they are wanting in any of the said Factories, Forts, or Garrisons, for the benefit of Divine Worship.—And that the Company may be well provided with Chaplains to be employed in their Service, that the Trustees of the said Mission undertake to supply them with such, as shall be for their Lives and Learning approved of by them. And for the better Encouragement of those Ministers, who shall serve as Chaplains to the Company, that their Salaries be fixt at certain, and their Rank advanced, in order to enable them to maintain their due Weight, Dignity, and Influence.

9. That the Company maintain a School and Church, for the Benefit of the *Indian*, and other Inhabitants, in each of those Towns which belong to them in those Parts; and that a competent Provision be made for teaching the Word of God, throughout the extensive Territories belonging to *Great Britain* in that Country; which must contain many Millions of Souls, that would require a great Number of Ministers and Missionaries to be employed among them. It is moreover much to be desired, that a Bishop were appointed to ordain and govern them; a Want of which will be soon felt there, as well as it is in *America*: But the Remedy of it would meet with fewer Difficulties there at this Time, where, not to mention other Considerations, there is so large a Revenue unsettled; out of which a suitable Provision might be made for a Bishop and Clergy, at an Expence that would not be felt either by the Government or Company.

It is to be hoped something of this Kind will be done. All other Christian States, who have Settlements abroad, make good Provision for the Support of Religion. The Dutch East India Company, as great as the Attention of that People is said to be towards Gain, have for many Years maintained thirty or forty Missionaries in the *Indies*, for the Conversion of Infidels, at an annual Expence of Ten thousand Pounds; besides the Maintenance of a large College at *Ceylon*, at a great Expence likewise. All Popish States make good Provision for their Clergy abroad; and the Church of *Rome* is ever indefatigable in extending its Influence in those Parts, as well as all other Parts of the World. The *East Indies* are full of Jesuits, and other Popish Missionaries. So is *America* likewise: And how well the Popish Religion is provided for in *Canada* particularly, though subject to *Great Britain*, needs not be said. The Church of *England*, notwithstanding its Establishment, is more neglected in the Countries subject to the Crown of *England* abroad, and labours under greater Hardships, than any other Church whatsoever. All other Churches, Sects, and Denominations of Christians, have a Power lodged within themselves of ordaining or appointing their own Ministers. The Church of *England* alone wants this Privilege, in the *English* Colonies abroad, the Inconvenience of which is constantly felt by it.

It hath been often observed, that a great Error was committed, at the first Settling of our Colonies, in not bestowing greater Attention on the Concerns of Religion, and providing for it accordingly. It is to be hoped we shall not commit the like Error for the future, now that our Eyes are open to the ill Consequences of it: But that, while other Matters are settling, some Settlement will be made for the Support of Religion; and that it will not be left to subsist altogether upon Charity. The two Societies
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abovementioned have a Burden upon their Hands full as great as they can bear.

We are a People much favoured by Providence, in having such large Dominions put into our Hands in different Parts of the World. These should be looked upon as so many Talents committed to our Trust, of which an Account will one Day be demanded of us. We shall be unfaithful Stewards, and the most ungrateful of People, if we suffer all the Souls contained in all those several extensive Countries to be as Sheep without a Shepherd: And may provoke God to deprive us of our great Acquisitions, and to transfer his Vineyard to others, who will render him the Fruits in their Season.

Let us not suffer this to be the Case: But let us seize the present Opportunity of doing good to others as well as enriching ourselves: And let us extend Christ's Kingdom, and the Light and Benefit of the Gospel, to the utmost Extent of our Influence and Abilities.

Dr *Prideaux* made some such Proposals as these for supplying our Settlements in the *East Indies* with Missionaries, so long ago as the Year 1694. There is much greater need of such a Provision now, as the British Dominions are of late so much enlarged, both there, and in *America*. We have now more room for Choice of Youth to be educated for the Office of Missionaries; as many Charity Schools have been set up since that time, which, among other Advantages accruing from them to the Community, may serve as Nurseries to our Missions, from which they may be abundantly supplied. The present Juncture is most favourable, in many other respects, which it is needless to recount. There is in general, God be praised, a good Spirit of Charity among us; which it is hoped will be exerted on the present Occasion: And we have religious Societies to conduct such an Undertaking, which were not in being when Dr *Prideaux* first made his Proposals.

See Dr *Prideaux's* Letter to Archbishop *Tenison*; His Account of the English Settlements in the *East Indies*; with Proposals for the Propagation of Christianity in those Parts: And a subsequent Letter to Archbishop *Wake*, relative to the same Subject. Printed with Dr *Prideaux's* Life.

These Proposals have been laid before the Governors of *Christ's* Hospital, who have signified their Approbation of them, and given Encouragement to hope for a sufficient Supply of Youth educated in their Grammar School to be sent from time to time to the University in order to their being farther qualified for the Use of the Mission.

These Proposals have likewise been communicated to Dr *BRAY's* Associates; who, as they succeed him in carrying on his pious Designs, one Branch of which was to provide Missions for our Colonies, have kindly undertaken to lend a helping Hand in carrying this Design into Execution.

Annual Benefactions and Subscriptions, for carrying this Design into Execution are taken in by,

SIR GEORGE AMYAND, STAPLES, and Co. N^o 50.
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Messrs GOSLING and Co. Fleet-Street;

Messrs BIDDULPH and COCKS, Charing-Cross;

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Bishopsgate;

EDMUND PEPYS, Esq; Southampton-Street,
Bloomsbury;

Mr JOHN SPILLER, Princes-Street, Spitalfields;

Dr DIXON, Principal of Edmund-Hall, Oxford;

A N D

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