

Besides putting such upon trial as offered themselves for 3 or 6 months during which time they were more thoroughly instructed in the doctrines & duties of our holy religion. Still cases often occur which show that the real character was mistaken besides as trials increase my fears increase that I may have been mistaken with regard to more.

After the most solemn professions have been made, & all possible pains taken to instruct individuals as to the nature & importance of Christian duties &c. and after they have given apparently a hearty assent to them all, it is most painful to witness their total disregard of them all if not contempt when a time of trial comes. All of these restraints and vows which they have voluntarily taken upon themselves then appear as powerless as cords of sand. The Missionary who will "sew pillows to all arm-holes" and never reprove is sure to please — It is exceedingly painful to see what a repellant effect fidelity often has upon some of whom on the whole better things are hoped, when they have been out of the way.

Insincerity or self-deception is a striking trait in t[he] native character — So that at length it becomes difficult to avoid a feeling of suspicion towards any who may appear serious or express a determination to seek the salvation of the soul. After the Missionary may have taken great pains to instruct an individual in religion & indulged high hopes of his future usefulness, some untoward event may at length show how utterly destitute of Christian principle he is thus all of his fond anticipations are at once blasted. Even where it must be charitably hoped there is a change of heart gross inconsistencies often appear under trials or temptations, which clearly show that the old man of sin has still a fearful grasp upon them. The remarks of the Missionaries upon the Island of Ceylon when they say, "were we to give the Chapter of our sorest trials with the Native Church the caption should be, *Peter and Judas acting out of Character* — Peter, even Simon Bar Jonas, acting the part of an adversary and a traitor in denying his Lord, & Judas Iscariot, who had a devil, acting for years the part