

At the reformation the light of the Gospel burst forth on
the nations of Europe like the sun in the morning after a dark
night. By degrees it spread from Country to Country & dispel-
ed the shades of ignorance & error in which they had been
enveloped for a series of ages. Filled with a sacred zeal
for the cause of religion the Reformers followed a superstition
to her most secret haunts, brought her forth to the view of
the world & exposed her in all her native deformity. In
the prosecution of this object they were appalled neither
by difficulties nor dangers; they triumphed whilist they
ched on the rock; they sang in the midst of the fire —
By the vigorous efforts which they made the authority of the
Pope was shaken to its centre; his throne was as seen to totter,
& ever since that period his influence has been diminish-
ed even in those countries which continue to acknowledge
his spiritual sway. Engaged in propagating the light of the
Gospel through the benighted Kingdoms of Christendom, the
Reformers could scarcely be expected to direct their atten-
tion to the Heathen world. But notwithstanding the mag-
nitude of their other exertions, this object was not totally
overlooked by them. In 1550 14 Protestant Missions were
sent by the Church of Geneva to plant the Christian
Faith in the lately discovered regions of America. Since
this period the principal denunciations of Reformers
have not been inactive, but seeing the vast number
enveloped in darkness & idolatry they have continued to
fulfil the command of an almighty Redeemer. Than-
smen who no more than 2 centuries ago, had no other
guide than clouded reason, have been enlightened with
the glad tidings of salvation, which removed the obscu-
rity of a future state, & gave them clearly to see the
way to heaven — The number of Missionary Societies
formed within the last hundred years for this grand design

are the following. A Society for the furtherance of
the Gospel among the Heathen was instituted by the
Missionaries in London in 1751 - This Society was, af-
ter some interruptions in their meetings renewed in 1766
& took the whole charge of the Mission on the coast of
Labrador upon themselves; besides continuing to assist
the other Missions as much as lay in their power, especi-
ally those in the British dominions. As no regular com-
munications was kept up with the coast of Labrador
by Government a small vessel was employed to convey
the necessaries ^{of the} to the Missions once a year. In
1787 the Presb. & Moravian ^{in America} established a Society for
propagating the Gospel among the Heathen, which was in-
corporated by the state of Denmark, & has been very
active in assisting the Missions among the Indians.

In 1793 they formed a similar Society at Zeeb near
Amsterdam this Society took particular charge of the
Mission on the Cape of Good Hope; but the late troubles
in Holland have rendered them unable to lend much
assistance for the present. These three Societies do all
in their power to support the great & accumulated
Benevolence of the above mentioned Missions, & departments, &
God has blessed their exertions. The most flourishing Miss-
ions at present are those in Greenland, Antigua,
St. Kitts, the Caribs W. India Islands, & the Cape
of Good Hope, the latest accounts say they have 163
Missionaries in different parts of the world. - In
1791 a Society was instituted among the Baptists
called the particular Baptist Society for propa-
gating the Gospel among the Heathen, under the aus-

pieces of which missionaries were sent to India, & favourable accounts of their success have been received. We learn that through their indefatigable industry, the N. Testament, & part of the O. T. have been translated & printed in the Bengalee; & that parts of the scriptures have been translated into two of the languages spoken in the East.

In September 1795 an institution was formed in London, on a large & respectable scale, for the propagation of the Gospel among the Heathen, under the name of the Missionary Society. It consisted of Christians of various denominations, who came forward in this great cause with a unanimity & zeal never before witnessed in modern ages. The flame kindled in the West, quickly spread over the whole country, it extended even to the continent of America & the shores of America. The institution of the Missionary Society was every where hailed as a new era in the history of the Christian world. Scarcely was the Missionary Society instituted, when it turned its attention to the Islands of the South Sea. In August 1796 - 29 Missionaries embarked for these Islands - the labours have been crowned with success. The Edinburgh Missionary Society, consisting of Ministers & laymen members of the established Church, & of other denominations of Christians in the town & neighbourhood, was instituted in February 1799. Soon after the formation of the Society, they resolved to commence their operations by a mission to the Yaulah Country, in the neighbourhood of Severa & Seone, in conjunc-

tion with the London & Glasgow societies each of
which agreed to furnish a missionary for the
purpose. In April 1802 two missionaries were
sent by the Edinburgh society to the countries lying
between the Caspian & Black sea. Mr. Burman
one of the missionaries translated the N. Yestarn out
into the Nogoy Tartar language which is the principal
mentioned of their languages. — The Church missionary

society was instituted in 1800 by some members of
the Church of England; they commenced their oper-
ation by a mission to the Insoo country, in the neighbour-
hood of Sierra Leone in 1804. In 1806 the Society
sent 4 other missionaries to Sierra Leone. The Church
missionary society has besides many other stations
4 on the western coasts of Africa. —

A Society in Scotland for propagating Christian
knowledge, was instituted at Edinburgh in 1709.

The chief design of this institution, was the extension
of religion in the highlands & Islands of Scotland
by the erection of schools for the education of
the young; but it likewise extended its views

to the conversion of the Heathen. In 1720 they
sent 3 missionaries to the Indians on the borders
of England, these missionaries were maintained
by the Society till the year 1737, when they were
dismissed on account of want of success
& their declining to live among the Indians. In
1742 they sent 2 missionaries to the Delaware
Indians — & in other many other parts of the world

The following are a list of societies which have
 been established in the U. States; though the opera-
 tions of most of them have been chiefly among
 white people in the N. Settlements
 The Society for propagating the gospel among the in-
 dians & others in N. America, instituted at
 Boston 1787 — The N York ~~trav.~~ Society
 instituted 1795 — The northern missionary society,
 in the state of N York 1797 — The Connecticut
 missionary society — 1798
 The Massachusetts M Soc — 1799
 The Hampshire M S, in Massachusetts in 1800
 The N Jersey missionary society — 1801
 The Baptist M S - Massachusetts 1802
~~The Disciplinary M S, New York 1802~~
~~The St Louis M S~~
 The Western M S, consisting of the Synod of Pitts-
 burgh ~~instituted 1802~~ a branch of the general
 assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U States
 in 1802 — & then 1804 The London M S sent
 missionaries to the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone,
 Bengal, Newfoundland & various other places
 The American board of commissioners for
 foreign missions ^{was} incorporated in 1812 — ~~at~~
~~its~~ ~~constitution~~ ~~consists~~ ~~of~~ ~~60~~ ~~members~~, ~~residing~~ ~~in~~
~~different~~ ~~parts~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~United~~ ~~States~~, ~~of~~ ~~whom~~ ~~20~~ ~~are~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~South~~
~~and~~ It has under its direction missions in India,
 Western Asia — the Sandwich Islands & the
 N American Indians. The Methodist Com-
 m. Soc a society in 1819 of which no interesting
 account is given.

The primitive disciples of our Lord received
the command Go ye forth into all the world &c
in the most literal sense & this same command is
still binding on every Minister of Christ; & will
continue to be so, while there is one district of
the globe, however small, unconverted to the Chris-
tian faith - And if it be the duty of preachers
to carry the glad tidings of salvation to every
part of the habitable globe; it is the duty of the
people who know the joyful sound, & walk in the
light of God's countenance, to furnish the means
whereby the messengers of peace may be support-
ed in their arduous undertaking. It is true
the God must open the door of Faith to Heathen;
& we should wait till we hear a voice, as in a
certain case, saying, Come over to Macedonia &
help us! But is not this door opened in different
dark parts of Europe - in Africa - in America,
& the almost-innumerable Islands, in that part
of the Globe? & also in Asia, where either Pa-
ganism of the worst species, or oppressive hegen-
dom of Mohammedanism, governs more than one
fourth of the Globe with an absolute & des-
tructive sway. The ear from these different
regions is not equivoical: it is clear, distinct & strong.
The harvest is plenteous. We may approve the
sentiments of good men on the subject of religion

of missions at large, of the heavenly prince
who in constituting the soul of all genuine mis-
sionary efforts, & of the noble exertions which indi-
vidually & societally have made for the salvation
of the heathen, & yet so quite invisible to the
nature & merits of the subject, quite unconscious
of our personal concern in it, our great &
indispensable obligation to promote it. We
may admire the heroic firmness, the intrepid
courage, the benevolence & persevering labors
of a Christian missionary, & our admiration
may be succeeded by the most culpable indiffer-
ence & stupidity. We may contemplate the piti-
ful condition of the heathen, & be grateful for
whatever is more eligible in our view. An help
which is exercised the spirit of the gospel -
we shall read & approve & admire & believe
to little or very unworthy purpose. When
the subject of missions is understood, & the mission
any spirit vigorously exercised, it will be seen
that while human wisdom may lead men to
speculate on the differences between different
portions of the human race, Christianity alone
leads man justly to estimate that difference,
to trace it to its moral source, & to endeavor
means for removing it. We have great reason
to be thankful that the Lord thus far has at-
tended the missionary exertions with his benediction.

& the Christians do all in their power for this glor-
ious cause they can humbly trust in the benev-
olence, & wisdom of God for the conversion of
Ooooo who have not heard of ~~the~~ their
true God & consequently in darkness