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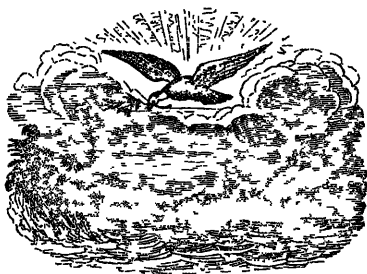
Margaret Macdonald
from her Uncle Robert

April 1835

TRAVELS AND RESEARCHES
OF EMINENT
ENGLISH MISSIONARIES;
INCLUDING
AN HISTORICAL SKETCH
OF THE
PROGRESS AND PRESENT STATE OF SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL
PROTESTANT MISSIONS OF LATE YEARS.



BY ANDREW PICKEN.



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PREFACE.

PERSUADED that, besides the importance of the subject in the view of the religious and benevolent, there is much in the history of Missionary travels, researches, and adventures in heathen countries, which demands a more general attention from the public;—the object of the author, in compiling the present series of abridgments, has been to select from out of the vast mass of matter written by the Missionaries, that portion of it, which, presented in a light and popular form, might be found to interest

those who seldom look into Missionary accounts.

Fully aware of the sort of feeling, with which any thing connected with religious missions abroad, is regarded by a large portion of the world, and of which any one acquainted with literature who wades through their general records, is very apt to partake; the author yet imagines,—from the excellent opportunities that the peculiar purposes and employments of Missionaries afford them of acquiring a species of knowledge not easily or hastily obtained,—that much may be culled from their communications, which is both important in itself, and equally interesting. In regard particularly to enquiries respecting the traditional superstitions of nations, or the natural biases of the “untutored mind,” with its vague

researches after a knowledge of the origin and future destiny of man--the peculiar habits of thinking of the intelligent Missionary, accustomed constantly to view human nature with reference to Deity and a hereafter, must be exceedingly favourable to obtaining such information as mere worldly men or philosophers could not easily reach. This is particularly applicable to the Missionary enquirers into the complex superstitions of the ancient nations of the East; and even to those who have of late years laboured so successfully in the romantic islands of the South Sea. But though condensation and digest of his materials, has been the aim of the author, as far as was at all consistent with the general objects of his book; the importance of the remarkable changes that have lately been effected in

these islands, has led him so far into the history of the colonies planted among them, that he has been unable, in the bounds of the present volume, to overtake those other Missionary travellers, whose works, in an extended form, have from time to time been so favourably received by the public.

Upon the encouragement that may be given to the present volume, will depend his extending the subject to the remaining religious travellers, and other points of Missionary history and statements. In so far, however, as he has at present gone into the subject, should the author, from out of the vast and confused field of Missionary journal and report, have succeeded in making his volume as pleasing to general readers, as the chief objects of it are important in the eyes of the supporters of Missions, he will

have accomplished that which, extensive as the materials are, has scarcely been attempted heretofore. It may, perhaps, be unnecessary to add, that in the accounts of countries and their inhabitants contained in this volume, the author has not thought himself warranted in giving any scientific form to the facts stated, but has merely, where he has not quoted the words, given the sense and spirit of the simple observations of the Missionaries.

London, December, 1830.

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