

THE PANOPLIST;

OR,

THE CHRISTIAN'S ARMORY.

No. 10.]

MARCH, 1806.

[VOL. I.

Biography.

LIFE OF LUTHER.

[*From the Religious Monitor.*]

(Continued from p. 383.)

WHILE Luther was employed in the duties of his professorship at Wittemberg, the train of iniquity which had been laying for ages, was gradually advancing towards that dreadful explosion, which the avarice and violence of the satellites of Rome at length produced. The sixteenth century opened under the pontificate of Alexander VI., a monster of impurity, and almost every crime. From his pernicious influence, the church was delivered in 1503; but after a respite of only 30 days, the period of his successor's reign, she was again doomed to groan under the tyranny of Julius II., a man of violence and blood. He was succeeded in 1513 by Leo X. of the noble family of Medicis.

This prelate was remarkable for liberality of disposition, elegance of manners, love of splendour, and taste for pleasure. He was a munificent patron of learning and the fine arts; and him-

self no despicable proficient in the polite literature of the times: but his mind was devoid of piety and virtuous principle, and almost entirely destitute of the very rudiments of theological knowledge. His court, instead of being the temple of religion, and the residence of virtue, was the habitation of carnal pleasure, the haunt of debauchery and vice. The expense, which the splendour of his establishment and the sumptuousness of his entertainments necessarily occasioned, made him have recourse to various schemes for recruiting the treasures of the church, which he had found exhausted by the extravagance and ambition of his predecessors. Among other plans which were suggested, the renewal and extension of the sale of indulgences promised to be successful, and was attended with this advantage, that it could be accomplished without the exercise of temporal authority, or

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PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL.

Philadelphia, Feb. 4th, 1806.

To all who love the prosperity of Zion, and are disposed to aid in propagating the Gospel among the Heathen.

THE subscriber lately returned from a voyage to the East-Indies, touched in Europe, and was in London in August last, where he received from the Baptist Missionary Society in England for propagating the Gospel among the heathen, *one thousand guineas*, to be sent in the spring to the Missionaries in Bengal, for the purpose of printing the sacred scriptures in one of the languages of that country. There are seven languages that the Missionaries there aim to translate and publish the scriptures in. They have made such progress in three of them that it is expected that the above sum will enable them to complete the work.—The money is now in the hands of ROBERT RALSTON, Esquire, of Philadelphia, who will forward it in due time. Should any individual, society, or congregation of people in the United States of America, be disposed to contribute to this good work, *Mr. Ralston* will gladly receive whatever may be sent to him for that purpose, and add to it the above sum, to be forwarded to the Missionaries at Serampore near Calcutta.

(Signed) BENJAMIN WICKES, Sen.
Philadelphia, Nov. 4, 1805.

WE whose names are underwritten, Ministers of the Gospel in the city of Philadelphia, do hereby certify that we are fully ascertained that the statement made by Capt. Wickes, in the foregoing advertisement, is perfectly correct. We also take the liberty respectfully to recommend to the pious and the liberal of all denominations of Christians, in the United States, an attention to the important objects which this advertisement holds up to their view. Nothing, it appears to us, can be more interesting to a truly benevolent mind. The design contemplated, is not to disseminate the favourite tenets of any particular sect of Christians. It is to print and propagate, among a race of heathen, who are sunk and degraded by the vilest and cruelest system of superstition and idolatry, *the pure word of*

eternal life contained in the holy Scriptures, without any gloss or comment whatsoever. If this can be extensively effected, the happiest consequences may be expected to follow; since the natives of India, unlike most other pagans, are many of them able to read, and still more of them are disposed earnestly to listen to what the Bible contains. Even the melioration of their condition in this life, by a knowledge and belief of the scriptures, would be an event calculated to produce a lively joy, in every mind influenced by humanity: For their horrible superstition subjects them unceasingly to the most dreadful torments, and annually deprives a large number even of life itself.—But in addition to this, how interesting must be the thought to every truly pious mind, that many of these miserable creatures, by having a Bible in their hands, may not only better their worldly condition, but become truly converted unto God, and through the merits of the Saviour, be raised to eternal happiness and glory. Among the many objects which we know are now soliciting the patronage of the pious and the liberal, throughout our country, we cannot but think, that this deserves a marked attention. Nor can we forbear to add, that we have good reason to believe, that donations from the inhabitants of the United States, for the promotion of the design which has here been specified, would greatly animate and encourage the worthy men who are engaged in the translation of the scriptures, by giving them a striking proof that their arduous work interests the feelings, and is accompanied by the good wishes of Christians, in every region to which the knowledge of it has extended.

Some other important considerations, which it is hoped will as much encourage the liberality of the public, as they animate the hopes and labours of the Missionaries in India, ought to be briefly stated. At Serampore, the immediate seat of the Mission, there are a type foundery and printing

presses, together with a valuable library, consisting chiefly of books containing the various copies and readings of the scriptures, with whatever can materially facilitate the labours of a translator. Learned natives can be procured to assist in the work; and the local situation of the mission is such as will render its distribution throughout India easy and immediate.—The Missionaries themselves, (among whom is the laborious, learned, and pious Mr. CARRY, Professor of Oriental languages, in the college of Fort William, at Calcutta) have been so long engaged in studying language, and in translating, that the employment has become in a good degree habitual.

Seven languages are spoken in India: the *Ootul*, which prevails among four millions of the inhabitants; the *Telinga* and *Kurnata*, each spoken by about seven millions; the *Maharatta* used by eight millions five hundred thousand; the *Tamul*, by upwards of nine millions; the *Hindostanee*, by at least forty-five millions; and the *Bengalee*, in which the translation is already completed, by a number of the inhabitants nearly equaling the population of the United States of America. The total of the benighted idolaters of India, equals about the one eighth of the whole race of men now dwelling on our globe. How animating the prospect, that the Holy Bible, by the efforts of pious Christians in Europe and America, is likely soon to circulate among these millions of wretched people, by whom absurd and injurious *Vedas* and *Shasters* are now pronounced divine!

ASHBEL GREEN, *Senior pastor of the 2d. Presbyterian Church.*

J. HENRY C. HELMUTH, *Pastor of the German Lutheran Church.*

WILLIAM ROGERS, *Professor of English and belles lettres in the university of Pennsylvania.*

JOHN HEY, *Pastor of the Independent Church.*

JOSEPH PILMORE, *Rector of the Episcopal Church of St. Paul's.*

JAMES GRAY, *Pastor of the Scotch Presbyterian Church.*

GEORGE POTTS, *Pastor of the 4th Presbyterian Church.*

WILLIAM WHITE, *Pastor of the 2d. Baptist Church.*

JOSEPH SHAW, *Pastor-elect of the Associate Congregation.*

SAMUEL HELFENSTEIN, *Pastor of the German Reformed Church.*

JACOB J. JANEWAY, *Co-pastor of the 2d. Presbyterian Church.*

WILLIAM COLBERT, *Minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church of St. George.*

WILLIAM STAUGHTON, *Minister of the 1st Baptist Church.*

* * * IT is respectfully suggested, that as the season for the departure of the Calcutta ships is fast approaching, whatever is done to promote the design which has been specified above, must be done without delay: and it is requested, that the donations or collections which shall be made throughout the Union, may be forwarded to any of the under-mentioned gentlemen, who will remit them to Mr. RALSTON.

The Rev. Dr. Rogers, the Rev. Mr. Williams, New-York.

The Rev. Dr. Stillman, the Rev. Dr. Eckley, Boston.

The Rev. Joseph Buckminster, Portsmouth, N. H.

The Rev. Dr. Dwight, New-Haven.

Mr. Gauladet, Hartford, Conn.

The Rev. Dr. M'Whorter, Newark, N. J.

The Rev. Mr. Clark, New-Brunswick.

The Rev. Mr. Ingles, the Rev. Mr. Richards, Baltimore.

Joseph Nourse, Esq. Register of the U. S. Washington.

The Rev. Dr. Muir, Alexandria.

The Rev. Mr. Grigsby, Norfolk.

The Rev. Dr. Furman, the Rev. Dr. Keith, Charleston.

The Rev. Mr. Clarkson, the Rev. Mr. Clay, the Rev. Mr. Holcombe, Savannah.

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Extract of a letter to one of the Editors, Philadelphia, Feb. 25, 1806.

Rev. and dear Sir,

THE foregoing printed address will with you, Sir, be its own advocate.—We need not add a single motive in order to avail ourselves, or rather the best of causes, of your spirited and personal assistance. Connected with private or individual contributions we would humbly submit to you the propriety of preaching a sermon on the