

LETTERS

FROM THE

Rev. SAMUEL DAVIES,
and Others;

SHEWING,

The State of RELIGION in
Virginia, South Carolina, &c.

PARTICULARLY

Among the NEGROES.

PROV. XXV. 25.

*As cold Water to a thirsty Soul, so is good News
from a far Country.*

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Rev. Mr DAVIES, &c. 23

Drunkeness, Sabbath-breaking, &c. which Books appear to be excellently adapted to the case of *this* country. I shall not distribute them to my own people, but intend to send or take some of them to *Pee-Dee*, where wickedness triumphs. They have no *Minister*, and I know not if they have the *form* of Religion. I intend to visit them very soon.

I am, &c.

W. RICHARDSON.

A LETTER from the Rev. Mr *Todd* in *Hanover County, Virginia*, to Mr *B.F.*
Dated *August 7, 1760.*

THE poor subjects of the generous charity of the SOCIETY, both white and black, have received inexpressible advantage from the well-chosen donations sent hither. I would beg leave to return the most grateful thanks to the generous members of the SOCIETY in *Great Britain*, for their pious liberality to the poor in this uncultivated clime.

I cannot point out the exact number, but am well assured some hundreds of *Negroes*, besides *white* people, can read and spell, who a few years since did not know one letter. And the sacred hours of the *Sabbath*, with other leisure times, are improved in reading and other profitable exercises, which were not long since prostituted to *vicious* practices;
and

and a goodly number are, in a judgment of charity, brought out of darkness into GOD's marvellous light.

To see a goodly number come, time after time, with great concern and seriousness, with the important inquiry, *Sir, What shall I do to be saved?* how shall I get an interest in the great Redeemer? — To see them attend public worship stately, at the distance of eight, ten or twelve miles; and frequently wanting private instructions from their Minister, not being satisfied with public alone: — To see them full of pious jealousies and tremblings about a worthy approach to the Lord's Supper, and give such hopeful evidence of their right to it: — To find them reading, praising GOD in psalms and hymns, and praying in companies! — In a word, striving to enter in at the strait gate. What encouragements are these to benevolent minds, to help forward the salvation of multitudes! I dare say the Books given by the SOCIETY have greatly contributed to produce these happy effects, which myself and others have seen; and seen in some instances with pleasing amazement!

I have been obliged to turn sundry *empty* away who have come to me for *Watts's Psalms* and *Hymns*, the *American Psalmody*, and *Watts's Catechisms*. Sundry of the Negroes and poor white people have come to me for a *Prayer-Book* to help them in that divine exercise, but having nothing of that kind well suited to their capacities, I wish we could be favoured with a small collection of devout, familiar

Prayers

Prayers for their use, in our next parcel of books; which I am eagerly looking for, and have great need of.

I am, with the most affectionate salutations to the Gentlemen of the SOCIETY, theirs and yours, &c.

JOHN TODD.

A LETTER from Serjeant *Hannon* at *Goree* in *Africa*, to Mr G. R. Dated *December 19, 1760.*

SIR,

THE Books which the SOCIETY sent to *Goree* were thankfully received by the few people that are enquiring their way *Zionward*; and be ye well assured, that in a more acceptable time such a blessing could not come. The people were somewhat discomfited by the death of your late friend Serjeant *Adam Johnston*, (a pious, zealous, and useful man) but now, blessed be GOD, there seems to be a stir among the dry bones, and all seem to put on new resolutions, and say, That although they are in a distant island, the Lord vouchsafes to bless them, and send them large supplies: And thus they rejoice to think that GOD hath not utterly forsaken them; for none can set limits to his bountiful hand.

They are greatly delighted with the *Bibles*, for there were scarce any in the island before

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