



Silent Witnesses for Truth in Bengal



Being the One Hundred and First
Report of the Calcutta Christian
Tract and Book Society (Incor-
porated). Instituted in 1823, in
co-operation with the Religious
Tract Society, London

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1930-1931



Calcutta:
16, Elgin Road

THE
ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST
REPORT
OF THE
Calcutta Christian Tract & Book Society
(Incorporated)
1930-1931

INSTITUTED IN 1823

CALCUTTA :
PUBLISHED BY THE CHRISTIAN TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY,
16, ELGIN ROAD, AND PRINTED AT THE
BAPTIST MISSION PRESS.

1932

CALCUTTA

Christian Tract and Book Society

OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1932

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THE LORD BISHOP OF CALCUTTA

Vice-President :

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Members of the Committee

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MISS J. R. TAYLOR.

W. J. WISEMAN, ESQ.

THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY was held at 23, Chowringhee Road, on Wednesday, December 2nd, 1931, Principal J. R. Banerjea, M.A., B.L., presiding.

The proceedings were opened with prayer by the Chairman, after which the report of the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer was presented.

The following resolutions were adopted :—

That the Report now presented be adopted and printed, together with the Audited Accounts of the Society for the year ending 30th September, 1931.'

'That the following be appointed Officers and Members of Committee for the current year.'

[N.B.—The names embodied in the Resolution were those printed on the preceding page.]

CONSTITUTION

That the Society shall be denominated 'THE CALCUTTA CHRISTIAN TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY' and that its design be to supply, in various languages, Tracts for distribution among the Heathen, Mohammedans and others; and Books of Christian Instruction for Schools, and for the spiritual good of professing Christians.

That this Society, cordially approving of the object and the constitution of the Religious Tract Society in London, is desirous of holding friendly intercourse and co-operating with that Institution, in the circulating of Christian Books and Treatises.

That all contributors to the objects of the Society shall be considered members thereof, and be entitled to vote at the General Meetings.

That the business of the Society shall be conducted by a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Committee, consisting of at least twenty members, all of whom shall be elected annually.

That the Committee for the time being shall be empowered to fill vacancies occurring during the year. In all elections the representative character of the Committee shall be preserved.

That the Committee shall meet monthly for the despatch of business, or oftener, if necessary, at a time and place appointed by themselves—five members to be a quorum.

That the Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held on a date of which public notice shall be given; and at this Meeting a Report of the Committee's proceedings for the past year shall be given and officers for the ensuing year appointed.

REPORT FOR 1930-31

We have to report some falling off in Sales during the past year. To a certain extent this is due no doubt to the increased economic depression and consequent unemployment and poverty which have characterised the last year in India as in other places. Money has been scarce and numbers of even literate and book-loving people have had but little money to spend on reading of any kind. Under the circumstances we ought perhaps to be grateful that the falling off referred to has not been greater still and that our publications have sold as well as they have.

The period of five years for which the Baptist Mission Press agreed to act as the Selling Agency of the Tract Society expired early in 1931. A Sub-Committee was then appointed to look into the working of the arrangement with the Press and to report to the General Committee. After careful investigation the members of the Sub-Committee were unanimously of the opinion that in the interests both of economy and of efficiency the contract with the Baptist Mission Press should be renewed. A fresh agreement has therefore been made according to which the Baptist Mission Press will continue to act as the Selling Agency of the Tract Society for a further period of five years on the same terms as before.

R. T. S. Grants :—

We have received during the year the following grants for specific publications from the R.T.S., London :—

(1) A sum of £37-12-5 for a reprint of 'The Work of the Christian Minister' (published last year), by the Rev. J. M. B. Duncan.

(2) The sum of £50-0-0 for a re-issue of the 'Commentary on the Psalms, Part I', by the Rev. J. M. B. Duncan.

(This book is now in the Press.)

(3) A Grant of £130-0-0 towards the publication of the new 'Bible-Handbook' in Bengali. The greater part of this grant has been already spent as the book is nearly ready for publication.

REPORT FOR 1930-31.

The following new publications have been issued during the year :—

Village Preaching.—This is a translation into Bengali of a book by the Rev. James I. Macnair, formerly Principal of the United Telegu Seminary, Gooty, South India, and described by him as a simple course of Homiletic Instruction for Christian workers among illiterate people. It was translated under the direction of the Rev. J. D. Raw and the Rev. A. C. Ghosh of the Baptist Mission and is in use in the United Vernacular Theological School at Barisal, East Bengal. It is hoped that other similar Schools in Bengal will also find it useful.

Abdulla.—A booklet of 16 pages, is a translation into Mussalmani-Bengali by the Rev. D. A. Chowdhury, B.A., of a 'Dialogue' from the 'Moslem World' for July, 1930, by the Rev. L. E. Browne of Lahore. It is published at 1 pice per copy.

An account of the Kings and Prophets of the Old Testament—also in Mussalmani-Bengali—is really the Second Part of Miss H. McLean's 'Stories of the Prophets, Part I' issued by the Tract Society last year. Miss McLean has given much thought and labour to the production of this Second Part and the result is an attractive book of 168 pages published at 2½ annas.

Old Testament Stories in Garo Bengali by the Rev. Victor J. White of the Australian Baptist Mission. This was prepared for the use of people of the Garo tribes who have some knowledge of Bengali, but who cannot read Garo in the Roman character. An edition of 3,000 copies has been published at 2 annas per copy.

Hymn Book in Jalpaiguri Mech.—This was prepared by the Rev. A. Francon Williams of the Church of Scotland Guild Mission, and is intended for the use of Christians of the Mech tribes living at the foot of the Himalayas in the district of Jalpaiguri. It is the first Hymn Book to be printed in this dialect of Hindi.

Bengali Bible-Handbook.—The chief work of the year, however, has been the preparation and printing of a Bible-Handbook—the first of its kind to be printed in Bengali. The author is Mr. C. L. Mukerji, the Literary worker of the Christian Council of Bengal and Assam, of which Council the Tract Society is the

REPORT FOR 1930-31.

publishing agency. The Handbook is divided into two principal parts. Part I consists of a number of Essays covering a wide range of Biblical topics. In Part II the method followed resembles that of such well-known books as the 'Oxford Helps,' the 'Cambridge Companion' and 'The Universal Bible Dictionary' It contains Summaries of the Books of the Old and New Testaments, a Harmony of the Gospels, Short Lives of important personages and other valuable matter.

Mr. Mukerji's work was seen and approved by a competent Committee appointed for the purpose before being finally accepted.

The entire book is almost ready for publication and will be available some time before this Report can be issued.

Tracts in Bengali and Assamese.—Of the grants of Copping Picture Tracts made to us again this year by the R.T.S., London, 80,000 have been printed in Bengali and 40,000 in Assamese. In addition to the Copping Picture Tracts 5,000 new 4-page Tracts and Reprints of former Tracts to the number of 1,10,000 have been issued this year in Bengali.

Tracts for Muslims.—During the year a number of articles from the 'Moslem Friend' were selected and printed in Tract form for Muslim Readers. Numerous Reprints of former tracts for Muslims have also been issued. Altogether 90,000 tracts in Mussalmani-Bengali have been printed during the year.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

received from 1st October, 1930 to

30th September, 1931.



	Rs.	A.	P.
Lee Memorial Mission :—			
From Girls' Tithing money per Mrs. Ada Lee	5	0	0
Mercantile :—			
Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co.	125	0	0
Messrs. Mackintosh Burn & Co., Ld.	25	0	0
Personal :—			
THE LORD BISHOP OF CALCUTTA	25	0	0
Special grants for specific Publication Work :—			
The Religious Tract Society, London—			
For re-issues of 'The Universality of Jesus' and 'The Work of the Christian Minister' £37-12-5 ..	506	0	0
For re-issue of Commentary on Psalms, Part I by Rev. J. M. B. Duncan £50	668	15	9
Grant for 1931-32, towards publication of Bengali Bible-Handbook .. £130	1,745	7	3
Hati Bagan M. E. Church :—			
Per Mr. D. K. Das	2	0	0
TOTAL ..	3,102	7	0

Vernacular Books and Tracts received into the Depository from
1st October, 1930 to 30th September, 1931.



NEW PUBLICATIONS.

BOOKS :—

BENGALI—

Village Preaching (94 pp.) 500 copies.

MUSSALMANI-BENGALI—

Abdulla (16 pp.) 5,000 „

Nabider Bayan, Pt. II (168 pp.) 5,000 „

GARO-BENGALI—

Old Testament Stories in Garo-Bengali Character (56 pp.) 3,000 „

HINDI—

Jalpaiguri Mech Hymn Book (56 pp.) 2,000 „

TRACTS :—

BENGALI—

Unforsaken Christ (4 pp.) 5,000 „

MUSSALMANI-BENGALI—

Assorted (4 pp.) 45,000 „

ASSAMESE-BENGALI—

R.T.S. Coloured Picture Tracts (4 pp.) 40,000 „

Sets of 32 Copping Pictures (size 10" x 7½") without letter-
press matter 312 sets.

REPRINTS.

TRACTS :—

BENGALI —

Assorted (4 pp.) 1,10,000 copies.

R.T.S. Coloured Picture Tracts (4 pp.) 80,000 „

MUSSALMANI-BENGALI—

Assorted (4 pp.) 45,000 „

BOOKS IN PRESS.

Bible-Handbook in Bengali (New publication).

Commentary on Psalms, Part I (Reprint).

Imitation of Christ in Bengali („).

Khush Kechcha .. („).

CALCUTTA CHRISTIAN TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY.

Balance Sheet as at 30th September, 1931.

LIABILITIES.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	ASSETS.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
GENERAL BALANCE—							FURNITURE—						
As per last account ..	1,15,215		7 11				As per last account ..				800		0 0
Less Loss for the year ..	16,422		5 9				INVESTMENTS at market value						
	<u>16,422</u>		<u>5 9</u>		98,793	2 2	3½% Government Papers						
							Rs. 5,500/- ..	2,887		8 0			
SUNDRY CREDITORS—							5% Government Papers				4,411		8 0
Audit Fee					100	0 0	Rs. 5,100/- ..				<u>4,411</u>		<u>8 0</u>
												7,299	0 0
RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY—							SPECIAL INVESTMENT at market value						
Unexpended portion of grant ..					183	1 3	3½% Government Papers						
							Rs. 1,34,500/- ..					70,612	8 0
							STOCK OF PUBLICATIONS—						
							As per valuation of Secretary					18,498	10 0
							CASH—						
							<i>With Chartered Bank of India,</i>						
							<i>Australia, and China—</i>						
							General Account ..	654		2 11			
							Publication Account ..	1,211		14 6			
											<u>1,866</u>		<u>1 5</u>
TOTAL ..					<u>99,076</u>	<u>3 5</u>	TOTAL ..					<u>99,076</u>	<u>3 5</u>

ACCOUNTS.

Examined and found correct.

LOVELOCK & LEWES,
Chartered Accountants.

CALCUTTA, 26th November, 1931.

CALCUTTA CHRISTIAN TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY

Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 30th September, 1931.

	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.		Rs.	A.	P.
To SALES AGENCY	3,600	0	0				BY SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS	....		182 0 0
„ OFFICE EXPENSES ..	150	8	0				„ R. T. S. GRANTS .. ..	....		2,737 5 9
„ PETTY PRINTING ..	77	13	0				„ INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS, etc.			475 0 0
„ POSTAGE STAMPS ..	39	3	6				„ INTEREST (Special Investment)			4,707 8 0
„ STATIONERY	26	0	0				„ LOSS TRANSFERRED TO GENERAL ACCOUNT .. ..	....		16,422 5 9
„ SUNDRY GRANTS .. ..	...			3,893	8	6				
„ PENSIONS .. ..	....			112	13	0				
„ LEGAL EXPENSES .. ..	..			82	0	0				
„ AUDIT FEE .. ..	....			100	0	0				
„ DEPRECIATION ON INVESTMENT .. ..	....			1,089	2	0				
„ DEPRECIATION ON 'SPECIAL INVESTMENT'			16,812	8	0				
„ LOSS AS PER TRADING ACCOUNT			2,224	4	0				
TOTAL ..	24,524	3	6				TOTAL ..	24,524	3	6

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