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## The First Serampore Memoir, 1808.

THIS is reprinted from a copy once belonging to Isaac Mann, of Horton College and Maze Pond church. It was bound with the eight succeeding memoirs, and other reports, into a volume uniform with seven others, all lettered "Serampore Pamphlets." On 18 October 1830, Mann carefully indexed the whole series on the fly-leaves of each volume. Through William Brodie Gurney of Maze Pond, treasurer of the Baptist Missionary Society, the set passed into the library of that society, where it stands in the appropriate place. Shortly after reading it, the editor took from a shelf above it a valuable contribution to Indian Bibliography by Dr. G. A. Grierson, reprinted from the "Indian Antiquary" of 1903, entitled, *The Early Publications of the Serampore Missionaries*. This states concerning the First Memoir, "No copy of this is available. Neither the Baptist Missionary Society nor the British and Foreign Bible Society possesses a copy." Had Dr. Grierson tried the British Museum, he would have found it catalogued under Carey's name, as 3128 bb; this copy also has been known to the editor for years. But as the Memoir is so rare, it is reproduced by the kindness of the Rev. W. Y. Fullerton, Home Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society.

The Second Memoir states that the first was printed both in England and in Scotland: Mann's copy is the English edition. There is nothing to show whether it was originally printed at Serampore. The B.M.S. specimen consists of two sheets, each of twelve pages, 190 mm. by 170, within a four-page sheet, 180 by 170; with an inset 307 by 170. The present edition follows it closely, except that the inset is reproduced at the end instead of in the middle; a few notes are added, within crotchets.

The importance of the Memoir in 1808 was that it showed a new era in Bible translation. A band of scholars was busy executing versions into thirteen Eastern languages at once, many already in the press. Nothing like this had ever been known before. The importance of the reprint now, beyond many incidental statements, is that it brings to light three early pamphlets not known to Dr. Grierson, though two were noted by Dr. Moule at the Bible House. (1) Bengali Psalms and Isaiah, 1804; besides Bengali Psalms alone. (2) Bengali Luke-Acts-Romans, 1807, ten thousand copies. (3) Marathi Matthew in Devanagari character, quarto. The editor is not skilled enough to test whether these pamphlets are in the Mission House library; its experts say that they are not discoverable, so search is being made at Serampore.

MEMOIR relative to the  
TRANSLATIONS OF THE SACRED *Scriptures* :  
TO THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY IN ENGLAND.

*Printed by J. W. Morris, Dunstable, 1808.*

MEMOIR, &c.

Very dear brethren,

THE BRETHREN OF THE MISSION AT SERAMPORE beg leave to lay before you, and their fellow christians in Britain and America, especially those who have interested themselves in the Translations of the sacred Scriptures into the Eastern languages, the present state of that work; and that you and they may have an opportunity of forming a clearer idea of its nature and progress, they intreat permission very briefly to state the circumstances which gave rise to the undertaking, and which have attended its progress.

2. Nearly fourteen years have elapsed since the first and remote step was taken in this work, by Mr. Carey's immediate and assiduous application on his arrival in India, first to the Bengalee, and afterwards to the Sungskrit languages.<sup>1</sup> Nearly five years since, circumstances seemed to call our attention to the translations of the sacred Word, not merely into the Bengalee language, but into those spoken in the neighbouring countries, and closely allied with the Bengalee

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<sup>1</sup> Justice to the memory of our deceased brother, Mr. John Thomas, requires us to mention, that the idea originated with him; and that, though more particularly calculated for other parts of missionary labours, he had actually translated Matthew and James before Carey's arrival. [This fact also has been forgotten. It is not said that his version was printed, or even that it was used as a basis of Carey's work.]

by their springing from one common parent, the Sungskrit; and by an affinity in the great mass of words in idiom and construction, scarcely to be imagined but by those well acquainted with the fact.

3. The circumstances which encouraged us to this undertaking have already been partly detailed to you. Of the indispensable [*sic*] nature of this duty, as far as within our power, the perishing state of our fellow-creatures around, and the inestimable value of the word of God as the means of everlasting life, had long impressed us—and the facility of acquiring languages, with the greater part of the words and the idiom of which the Sungskrit and Bengalee had already made us acquainted—the ease with which learned natives could be obtained, the advantages arising from proper helps in the originals, and from having been already accustomed in some degree to the work—the printing press, and the opportunities of casting new founts of types—these with the well-known effects of the Divine blessing upon persevering, though feeble attempts to glorify Him, encouraged us to engage in the work.

4. We were by no means, however, without our discouragements; the idea of three or four men succeeding in the acquisition of a number of languages, and the unspeakable responsibility attached to translating the word of God with other difficulties, weighed so much with us, that we determined to conceal the fact of our having engaged in such a work till we had advanced so far as to convince ourselves and others of its practicability.

5. This resolution we in part observed; for though circumstances constrained us to lay our plan before the public much sooner than we intended, yet it was not till more than a year's assiduous application had convinced us that we were not laying before the friends of religion a chimerical scheme, but a

plan which required only the continuance of the same Divine blessing which had marked its commencement, in order to bring it to a happy conclusion.

6 With peculiar sensations of gratitude to the Author of all good, we would now, dear brethren, in Christ, lay before you the present state of the work in each of these languages, beginning with those most immediately connected with the Sungskrit..

7. The *Bengalee*. It is already known to you, that early in 1801 the first edition of the New Testament was published, consisting of 2,000 copies, all of which have been long since distributed. This was followed by an edition of the Pentateuch, consisting of 1,000 copies, which have also been some time distributed; and we wait only for ability to put to press a second and improved edition of it. In 1804 an edition of the book of Psalms (and the prophesy of Isaiah was published, consisting of nearly 1,000 copies, the whole of which have been for some time distributed: a number of the Psalms alone were also printed off, and distributed at the same time. In 1806 another volume of the Old Testament, containing the book of Job, the book of Psalms, the Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon, was published. This is properly the *third* volume of the Old Testament. The fourth, consisting of all the Prophets, is also nearly completed: it contains about 700 pages. Of all these we have printed the same number of copies, namely, a thousand. Thus far we have proceeded with the *Old* Testament: one volume remains, the second, which will comprize the historical books, from Joshua to Nehemiah, which we expect speedily to put to press.

The first edition of the *New* Testament being distributed, a second became necessary; and a view to future improvement, together with the state of our finances, made a moderate number appear pre-

ferable to a very large edition. We therefore agreed to print 1,500 copies. As the desire for the Scriptures however seemed great, we thought a selection could be made, of which a larger number might be printed. The gospel by Luke, the Acts, and the Romans, were chosen for this purpose; the first, as containing a complete account of the Redeemer's life; the second, as exhibiting the gospel in its first promulgation and progress; and the last, as containing a summary of Christian Doctrine and Practice. Of this selection, which makes above 260 pages octavo, we have printed an edition of nearly 10,000.

8. In the *Orissa*, we have been greatly helped. The proportion of words already familiarized to us by the Sungskrit and Bengalee, may be about nine in ten. This of course has rendered application pleasant, and proficiency comparatively [*sic*] easy. Nearly the whole of the New Testament is translated; as well as several books of the Old; and in printing we have advanced as far as the middle of Luke. The whole of the New Testament will make an octavo volume of about 650 pages. The number of copies we are printing is a thousand.

9. The *Telinga* and *Kernata* languages follow next in the order of the countries. In these the words already known to us through the general medium, are about three fourths: in the former, the translation of the New Testament has advanced as far as the gospel by John, and in the latter to the end of Luke. There is a happy similarity between the characters of these two languages; so that the addition of a letter or two unto the alphabet of one, will enable it fully to express the other.

10. In the *Guzzerattee*, the translation has advanced also as far as the Gospel by John. The proportion of words already known is about six in seven, which renders this part of our work pleasant

also. The first sheet of Matthew is printed off in a quarto size, and in the Deva Nagree, the character in which learned works are printed throughout India.

11. We next notice the *Mahratta*, spoken by a nation who on the western side are our nearest neighbours. Their language of course early engaged our attention, and the general affinity of languages both invited and amply repaid application. The proportion of words already known to us was about nine in ten. In this the New Testament is nearly finished, and several books of the Old. The Gospel by Matthew was printed off nearly two years ago, in the Deva Nagree character: it was included in about 100 quarto pages. We have now however cast a fount of types in the current Mahratta character, which will comprize the whole New Testament in 700 octavo pages. Of this edition, which consists of a thousand copies, the Gospel by Matthew is nearly all printed.

12. The *Hindoostanee* has admitted perhaps a greater number of foreign words than any of the dialects of India. This mixture is indeed so great as to render two translations necessary; one into that which draws principally on the Persian and Arabic for its supplies of difficult words [Urdu<sup>2</sup>], and another into that which has recourse in the same manner to the Sungskrit [High Hindi<sup>3</sup>]. Indeed the difference

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<sup>2</sup> [The gospels had been published in 1805 at the Hindoostanee Press, Calcutta, under the superintendence of William Hunter, a capital Urdu scholar, who deliberately used Persian and Arabic as much as possible. The language was adopted by the H.E.I.C. for official purposes, despite the exposition of its artificial character in the Sixth Memoir, 1816. Yet the version was a failure; its being printed in the Devanagari character perhaps tended to this. In 1814 Martyn's version was printed at Serampore in Arabic script, and it became the basis of all later work.]

<sup>3</sup> [In the fourth memoir, 1812, the text calls this Hindee, and a note explains:—"We apply the term Hindooee, or Hindee, to

in these two kinds is so great, that the gospel translated into the former kind of Hindee, under the auspices [*sic*] of the College of Fort William,<sup>2</sup> is in many places quite unintelligible to Sungskrit Pundits, born and brought up in Hindoosthan; while our Mussulman Moonshis have professed, if not felt, equal ignorance relative to common words derived from the Sungskrit.<sup>3</sup> In this Sungskrit-Hindee version, nearly the whole of the New Testament waits for revision, and the book of Job, the Psalms, the Proverbs, and some other parts of the Old. We have begun printing the New Testament in the Deva Nagree character, and in a quarto size: it will probably make a volume of about 600 pages. The book of Matthew is nearly finished. Conscious that a number of defects must unavoidably attend a first edition, we have in this also restricted the number of copies to a thousand.

13. The language of the *Seeks* is a modification of the Hindee, and has nearly the same affinity with the Sungskrit. Although so nearly allied to the Hindee, however, its grammatical terminations are different, and it has a different character, to which the *Seeks* are so much attached, that the mere circumstance of a book being written in it, recommends it strongly to their notice. These considerations have determined us to attempt alluring this nation to the perusal of the sacred word by presenting it to them in their vernacular language and character. A learned *Seek*, eminently skilled in Sungskrit, has been for some time retained for this purpose, and the translation has advanced to the Gospel by John.

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that dialect of the Hindoost'hancee which is derived principally from the Sungskrit, and which, before the invasion of the Musulmans, was spoken throughout Hindoost'han. It is still the language most extensively understood, particularly among the common people." The Gospels and Acts were issued in 1809, the whole New Testament 1811.]

14. We will now mention another version which it has appeared our duty to begin. Though the languages spoken by the great mass of people will necessarily have the first claim on the attention of those who feel the worth of immortal souls, and this, however uncouth some of them might appear, yet it has occurred to us that a *Sungskrit* version of the sacred oracles is an object worthy of attention. The language itself, from its copiousness and exquisite grammatical structure, seems fitted to *receive* the divine oracles beyond almost any other, while its being a language in which the meaning, not only of the terminations but of every individual word has been fixed for ages, enables it to retain and preserve the precious treasure with as much firmness perhaps as the Greek itself. The currency of it exceeds that of any other language in India. Every pundit converses in it: the Word of God therefore, in this language, will be rendered equally intelligible to the pundits of Nepaul and of Malabar, of Guzzerattee and Cashmire; while its being the language esteemed sacred by the Hindoo pundits, may incline them to read what their fastidiousness would lead them to despise in the vulgar dialects. Under these impressions, we began a translation of the Scriptures into the Sungskrit, which has proceeded so far that the Four Gospels are already printed off. The edition is in quarto, and will be included in about 600 pages in the Deva Nagree, the proper Sungskrit character. This version, while it is to us one of the most easy, will we trust come nearer to the idiom of the original than any of those in the common dialects. Its ample and exquisite grammatical apparatus permitting us to follow the Greek, not only in rendering tense for tense and case for case, but generally in the collocation of the words.

15. Respecting the *Persian*, we were aware that

little could be expected from affinity of languages; and that except the assistance to be derived from the currency of a number of Persian words in the Bengalee and Hindoosthanee languages, and a few already familiar through the medium of the Hebrew, we had entirely a new language to acquire. This inclined us to apply to it at an early period; and we had proceeded so far as to complete a great part of the New Testament, as well as the Psalms and some other parts of the Old.<sup>4</sup> Providence however has been pleased in a singular manner to provide for this version, by preparing a person for the work peculiarly qualified; NATHANIEL SABAT, a native of Arabia, a descendant of Mahommed, and one his devoted follower; who by residing some years in Persia, has acquired that language in a degree of perfection scarcely to be attained by a European. A number of circumstances concurring to bring him to Bengal, he has been retained for the Persian translation, and is at present at the Mission House, Serampore.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> [Apparently this version was never published. Its existence has been forgotten, and Dr. Moule makes no mention of it.]

<sup>5</sup> [This statement also has been forgotten. The Persian New Testament of 1815 is usually credited to Nathaniel Sabat "under the supervision of Henry Martyn." And it is true that the Second Memoir, in November 1809, states that the preparation of the Persian translation "is removed from under our care." But this First Memoir shows that Sabat began his work at Serampore, and was there in August 1807. Paragraphs 30 and 31 discuss the expense of the version, 2½ years at 200 rupees monthly for translation alone. How far Sabat proceeded at Serampore, the Second Memoir does not say; but in 1809 the Serampore Press printed for the Calcutta Corresponding Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, a version of Matthew and another of Mark, by Sabat. Dr. Moule says that Matthew (at least) was translated under the direction of Martyn at Dinapore. But it deserves enquiry whether the gospels of 1809 should not be credited to Sabat, on foundations laid by the Serampore missionaries. The Journals of Martyn, published in 1837, might throw

16. The *Chinese*. In no language has the care of providence over the translation of the divine Word more eminently appeared, perhaps, than in this. So effectual indeed has it been, that this version, which once appeared to present almost insuperable difficulties, is now brought into a course, which in the exercise of diligent and patient application, seems to render it as certain of accomplishment as any of the others. *Mr. Lassar* is steady and diligent, and through divine goodness we have been enabled to advance in the translation to the middle of Luke. The lads who with *Mr. Marshman* have engaged in the study of the Chinese, have applied to it with constancy and diligence, and their proficiency has been such as could scarcely be expected from those more advanced in years: so great indeed as to encourage the hope of the work being continued by the assistance of native Chinese, should any unforeseen circumstance deprive us of our present able teacher. The helps afforded in the work have been very great. Among these are to be reckoned a learned Chinese, with whom the lads can converse pretty freely in his own language, and a valuable collection of Chinese books to the amount of nearly 300 volumes; including among others, two editions of the works of Confucius; that is one of the simple text, and the other the text with the addition of a commentary. This work the lads are now reading and committing to memory, after the manner of the Chinese. But a more valuable acquisition is that of three different Chinese

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light on the question. *John C. Marshman* simply says that it was during 1807 *Sabat* came to Serampore, that he gave up his time and attention to the translation of the scriptures, that the Serampore missionaries were prosecuting the Persian translation with the aid of *Sabat*, but relinquished it at *Buchanan's* strong desire. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* implies that it was not at Dinapore, but at Cawnpore after April 1809, *Martyn* turned from Urdu to Persian.]

Dictionaries; viz. a small one in four volumes 12mo, said to be in most general use in China; another in fourteen volumes 12mo, and a third is the Imperial Dictionary in thirty-two volumes 12mo, compiled many years ago by command of the Emperor Konghi. This is the standard dictionary in China, and is said to include every Chinese character, both ancient and modern. When these dictionaries are completely accessible, a period by no means distant, it will in due time being in our power to examine the translation with a degree of accuracy, almost equal to that with which the English has been examined. Furnished with these invaluable helps, we are enabled to advance with a degree of pleasure, both in the acquisition of the language, and in its translation. *Printing* in this language is very far from being impracticable with us; nor is the expense likely to be very great, especially if, as we have reason to expect, we should be favoured with a brother from England skilful at engraving in wood. The patterns of the letters can be given here with accuracy; and through the cheapness of labour in Bengal, it is probable that the Chinese Scriptures may in process of time be printed to nearly as great advantage at Serampore as at Canton or Pekin.

17. Providence has also given us an opportunity of entering on another work of this nature. It has pleased the God of mercy to open a door for us into the *Burman* empire, and therewith to afford us an opportunity of translating his Word into the language of that extensive and populous country. A native of Rangoon has been obtained, who is acquainted with Hindoostanee as well as with his native tongue; by whose assistance a translation of nearly the whole of *Mætthew* has been effected, which our brethren, Chater and F. Carey, about to depart thither, will be able to take with them, and improve themselves

in the knowledge of the language, even by correcting its defects.

We are also preparing a fount of Burman types: their written character (for they have at present no printing among themselves) is distinct and beautiful, and moderate in size. We have reason to hope therefore, that providence is opening a way for the introduction of the sacred Scriptures into that country, in a form intelligible to the inhabitants, and not enormous in its expense.

18. Thus, dear brethren, we have laid before you a plain and brief statement of the progress of these translations, in which divine providence has called us to engage. You will perceive that of the *twelve* here mentioned, *six* are in the press, and the other six advanced as far as the Third Gospel; and that of those in the press, a second edition of the New Testament as well as three volumes of the Old, has been printed in one; in two more, the Gospels nearly completed, and in the other three, nearly the Gospel of Matthew;—that in the greater number of these translations, the work has been rendered easy by the affinity of the different languages; and in those of peculiar difficulty, such helps have been unexpectedly furnished by divine providence, as the work seemed to require.

19. On the whole, we are abundantly encouraged; and through the encreasing [*sic*] assistance with which God is favouring us in the study of these different languages, from brethren added to the mission and the rising branches of the family, are ready to indulge the hope that under the divine blessing, this work will be carried forward, not merely to the completion of a first edition, but through successive ones, till the Word of God in its pure and genuine form pervade all the countries around us.

20. We lay this before our brethren in Christ,

with peculiar pleasure and confidence; because the experience we have had in the work has solidly convinced us that we are not entreating their support to an impracticable scheme nor inviting them to adopt plans, which present the idea of expense undefined and unknown. On the contrary, we are happy to lay before them not only a faithful account of the monies received and expended in this work, but also a rough statement of the probable expense attending *its full completion*. It may not be improper however first to notice the article of Types.

21. It will be obvious to you, that the present state of things in India, it was in many instances necessary to cast new founts of types in several of these languages. Happily for us, and India at large, *Wilkins* had led the way in this department; and by persevering industry, the value of which can scarcely be appreciated, under the greatest disadvantages with respect to materials and workmen, had brought the Bengalee to a high degree of perfection. Soon after our settling at Serampore, the providence of God brought to us the very artist, who had wrought with *Wilkins* in that work, and in a great measure imbibed his ideas. By his assistance we erected a letter foundery; and although he is now dead, he had so fully communicated his art to a number of others, that they carry forward the work of type casting, and even of cutting the matrices, with a degree of accuracy which would not disgrace European artists. These have cast for us two or three founts of Bengalee; and we are now employing them in casting a fount on a construction which bids fair to diminish the expense of paper, and the size of the book, at least one fourth, without affecting the legibility of the character. Of the Deva Nagree character we have also cast an entire new fount, which is esteemed the most beautiful of the kind in

India. It consists of nearly 1,000 different combinations of characters, so that the expense of cutting the patterns only, amounted to 1,500 rupees, exclusive of metal and casting.

22. In the Orissa we have been compelled also to cast a new fount of types; as none before existed in that character. The founts consists of about 300 separate combinations, and the whole expense of cutting and casting has amounted to at least a thousand rupees. The character, though distinct, is of a moderate size, and will comprize the whole New Testament in about 700 pages octavo, which is about a fourth less than the Bengalee. Although in the Mahratta country, the Deva Nagree character is well known to men of education, yet a character is current among the men of business which is much smaller, and varies considerably in form from the Nagree, though the number and power of the letters nearly correspond. We have cast a fount in this character, in which we have begun to print the Mahratta New Testament, as well as a Mahratta dictionary. This character is moderate in size, distinct and beautiful. It will comprize the New Testament in perhaps a less number of pages than the Orissa. The expense of casting &c. has been much the same.<sup>6</sup>

23. We stand in need of three more founts; one in the Burman, another in the Telinga and Kernata, and a third in the Seek's character. These, with the

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<sup>6</sup> [Specimens of type are bound in Mann's set of the Memoirs, after the Memoir for 1813 printed at Kettering in 1815. The Mahratta is second, just below the Sungskrit in Devanagari. A tiro can see that though smaller, it is akin. The Eighth Memoir contains a certificate by the chief Marathi pandit of the H.E.I.C., saying of this version that, all Mahrattas would understand it. The certificate is printed in the same character, but a yet smaller size. Dr. Moule says that the type employed for the New Testament "is variously described as an antiquated form of Modi, and a form of Devanagari with Modi peculiarities."]

Chinese characters, will enable us to go through the work. An excellent and extensive fount of Persian we received from you, dear brethren, last year. The expense of these founts of types we have not thrown on the fund for Translations; as we sometimes use them for other purposes, we could not feel ourselves justified in charging this expense to a fund which, as it is subscribed solely for the sake of Translations, common probity requires, should be sacred to that work alone.

24. Here follows a statement of all the monies subscribed for the purpose of translations from the beginning of the mission, and of the manner in which they have been expended. For the sake of greater accuracy, the sums subscribed in England have been extracted from the Periodical Accounts, in whatever manner they may have been remitted to us.<sup>7</sup>

25. Our brethren will perceive, that in addition to the generous benefaction of the friends of religion in Britain, we have to acknowledge the liberality and the public spirit of our worthy friends in America, who have so cordially interested themselves in the work, that unsolicited by us, they have within the last two years collected and sent out for that purpose nearly 6,000 dollars.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> [Every pound sterling is treated as equivalent to eight sicca rupees, as if that coin were worth half a crown. Different states in India coined rupees, of varying size and value. When the English power was dominant, in 1835, the rupee of the H.E.I.C. was fixed at one tola weight, 150 grains. The rate of exchange then varied, but was seldom less than two shillings till 1873. Since 1899, India has had a gold standard, fifteen rupees being accepted as equivalent to the sovereign. Thus the rupee is now sixteen pence, the anna a penny.]

<sup>8</sup> [The dollar, which had been a Spanish silver coin, was in 1787 adopted as the unit in the United States; and a bimetallic system was enacted in 1794. Each dollar sent exchanged for nearly two rupees and one anna in 1807.]

26. In the effort made to raise a fund in India for the purpose of translating, we acknowledge with gratitude the zeal of our worthy friends in the Establishment. This attempt succeeded in a considerable degree, and a sum was subscribed amounting to nearly 14,000 rupees: out of which fund we received monthly 300 rupees for Mr. Lassar's salary, and the same sum towards the support of the translations in general, from May 1806 to 1807: since which time, the fund being reduced below 5,000 rupees, has been confined to the Chinese and Persian translations.

27. On examining this account, it will appear that the greatest expense attending this work is that of *printing*.<sup>9</sup> This, by the end of 1806, had amounted to nearly £3,500, though confined almost entirely to the Bengalee; while that of translating had scarcely amounted to a third of that sum, though the Chinese and indeed the whole of the translations were included. This will enable us to speak with a degree of precision respecting the probable expense of finishing the whole of the twelve translations.

28. Of the expense attending ten of these, namely, the Sungskrit, the Bengalee (Old Testament), the Hindee, the Orissa, the Mahratta, the Telinga, the Kernata, the Guzzerattee, the Burman, and that in the language of the Seeks, we can speak with a good degree of certainty. The printing of the whole *ten* will probably be completed in about *four years*.<sup>10</sup> Less than half that period however, will probably complete the New Testament in several of these; as, the Sungskrit, the Orissa, the Hindee, and the Mahratta, as well as the whole of the Scriptures in the Bengalee.

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<sup>9</sup> [The first Bengali New Testament cost 12/6 a copy; even the book of Psalms about 11d. Modern prices are 1/-, and 2d.]

<sup>10</sup> [The Third Memoir, four years later, mentions five Testaments in print and in circulation, four at press, three preparing.]

If however a pundit were retained in each of these languages, during the whole of that period, the expense of ten pundits on an average of about 25 rupees monthly, and 300 annually, would be for the whole ten a yearly sum of 3,000 rupees.<sup>11</sup> So that 12,000 rupees will probably defray the remainder of the expense attending the *mere translation* of the New Testament in these ten languages.

29. The expense of *printing* each respective version can be easily calculated. It may probably be as follows:—

	<i>Rupees.</i>
The Sungskrit, 1,000 copies, about 600 pages, 4to ... ..	5,000
The Hindee, ditto 700 ... ..	5,500
The Mahratta, ditto 800 8vo ... ..	4,000
The Orissa, ditto 700 ... ..	3,500
The Guzzerattee, ditto 700 4to ... ..	5,500
The Kernata, ditto 900 8vo ... ..	4,500
The Telinga, ditto 900 ... ..	4,500
The Seeka, ditto 700 4to ... ..	5,500
The Burman, ditto 900 8vo ... ..	4,500
The Bengalee (last vol. of the Old Testament), 1,000 pages ... ..	3,500
Printing ... ..	46,000
Translating ... ..	12,000
	Rupees 58,000

Or £7,250 sterling. When from this we deduct 12,371 rupees, or £1,546, the surplus now in our hands (the sum advanced for printing these versions excepted) the sum required to complete these ten versions will be about 46,000 rupees, or £5,750 sterling. So that about fourteen hundred pounds annually, for four years, will as far as we can guess, enable us, not only to finish the whole of the Scriptures in the Bengalee, but also to translate the New Testa-

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<sup>11</sup> [A scholar for £3 a month.]

ment into the Sungskrit, the Hindee, the Orissa, the Mahratta, the Telinga, the Kernata, the Guzzerattee, the Burman, and the language of the Seek, and print an edition of a thousand in each.<sup>12</sup>

30. The expense of the Chinese and Persian translations is considerably more than that of the others. Mr. Lassar's wages are 300 rupees monthly, and Mr. Sabat's 200 rupees. In the Chinese, the New Testament will probably be finished in two years.<sup>13</sup> Mr. Lassar's wages will in that time, at 3,600 annually,

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<sup>12</sup> [The Sanscrit, 600 copies, more than 600 pages, cost 4,000 rupees, and was finished 1808. The Hindi was a quarto of 600, issued 1810. The Marathi, an octavo of nearly 800 pages, also came out in 1810; both of these were delayed by lack of funds. The Orissa ran to 976 pages octavo, cost 3,500 rupees, was published 1809. The Gujarati was delayed till 1820, when it appeared in a dialect and a character not in general use; it filled 675 pages. The Kanarese or Kurnata version was finished in 1809, and in 1811 the type was ready for it; both were destroyed in the fire of 1812, and only in 1823 did the New Testament appear, in 1,008 pages; work was then relinquished in favour of the L.M.S. Of the Telinga or Telugu, a version of the synoptics by Des Granges was printing in 1811, 160 pages; the Serampore band also revised their own version by his, but lost the MS. and the types in the fire; a new version was published in 1818, in 960 pages. The Panjabi version for the Sikhs appeared in 1815, in 647 pages. In Burmese, Chater and Felix Carey edited extracts from a version by a Catholic, before December 1811; Matthew was published in Chater's version during 1815; the work was then left to Judson. In Bengali, Joshua-Esther completed the Bible in 1809, 1500 copies costing 4,500 rupees.

[The Memoir of 1809 confirmed the estimates given here, after two more years' experience. This and succeeding memoirs repeated that the cost of no version was charged to the account of the public till it was issued. In June 1812 more than 8,000 rupees had been expended on editions in press, and had not been carried to account. The fire of that year naturally made many estimates antiquated. On the other hand, the sympathy evoked drew forth large gifts for the work.]

<sup>13</sup> [By 1810 only Matthew and Mark were published; the New Testament about 1816.]

amount to 7,200.<sup>14</sup> If we allow two years and a half for the completion of the Persian, this will be 6,000 rupees. Together 13,200 rupees, or £1,650 sterling.

31. The expense of *printing* the Persian will be rather less than that of the Sungskrit, as the New Testament may be comprized in about 500 pages quarto. We also have a fount of Persian ready.<sup>15</sup> Nor is it probable that the expense of printing the Chinese version will much exceed, especially if we procure a brother from England capable of cutting the types (or rather blocks) as we have reason to expect.<sup>16</sup> This would indeed curtail the grand article of expense; as these, being in the mode of stereotype, require only two men to throw off any number of copies at pleasure.<sup>17</sup> Chinese paper can be procured

<sup>14</sup> [Lassar was an Armenian from Macao, and this high rate of wage had been fixed by Brown and Buchanan of the College of Fort William.]

<sup>15</sup> [This fount had been sent from England, see paragraph 23. It was apparently used for Sabat's Matthew and Mark in 1809, and for Sebastiani's Gospels; but it must have been destroyed in the fire. As the punches and matrices were not made at Serampore, the type does not seem to have been replaced. Not till 1841 did the Baptist Mission Press issue any other version in Persian.]

<sup>16</sup> [The Second Memoir, November 1809, describes how Bengali wood engravers had been set to cut double pages of Chinese on tamarind blocks, in the style employed in China for twelve centuries. The Third Memoir tells how a Bengali lad had suggested improvements. The Fourth, in July 1812, alludes to the new Chinese types, cut in metal. This style of printing has gradually made its way in China for newspapers, where speed of composition is important. At Serampore it was found that a lad could set up two pages from metal types in half an hour.]

<sup>17</sup> [The comparison with stereotype is due to the fact that this process had recently been made practical, and an English Testament had been produced by it in 1805. But printing from wooden blocks had been practised in Europe from the fifteenth century, and did not die out till 1880.]

in abundance at Calcutta.<sup>18</sup> If to the 13,200 before, we add 10,000 more for the expenses of printing, this will make 23,200 rupees or £2,900. So that about three thousand pounds more, will, we trust, finish the translation of the New Testament in the Chinese and the Persian. If we add this sum to that required to complete the other ten, it will appear that somewhat more than *eight thousand pounds* are required to finish these *twelve translations* of the New Testament. It is with propriety that the sum for the two last versions is added; for although three thousand rupees remain of the fund subscribed in India, yet we have at present no ground to expect that anything further will be subscribed; the whole must therefore, as far as we can say, depend on the generous exertions of the friends of religion in Europe and America; and we cannot but feel thankful to our gracious God, that this work has been so far succeeded by him, as to require only the sum of *two thousand pounds annually for about four years*, to complete Translations of the New Testament in *twelve languages*, and to print an edition of a thousand copies in each of them.

32. As the Old Testament consists of a little more than thrice the quantity of the New, the expense of that part of the work is easily calculated. Several circumstances may also concur to reduce the expense; such as, facility in the work, improvement in the types, and other things of that nature. It is however scarcely necessary, to touch on this part now, as the way being once opened in these languages by the completion of the New Testament, no one can doubt that the friends of religion will give every due encouragement to the Translation of the whole Scriptures.

33. Thus far helped of God, we desire to adore his

<sup>18</sup> [The Third Memoir, 1811, describes how a paper-mill had been set up for the manufacture of a new paper invented at Serampore.]

mercy and wisdom, and through you, dear brethren, to present our grateful and cordial acknowledgements to the friends of religion in England, Scotland,<sup>19</sup> and America, who have so generously come forward to assist in the work. To press them to go forward, is as unnecessary as it would be unkind in us, after the liberality we have experienced, to doubt their future support. Nor is it less superfluous to represent the nature of the work. It commends itself to the conscience and understanding of all who love the word of God. Were it only for the assistance it will afford European Missionaries in attempting to spread the gospel in these languages, it would deserve attention; but we cannot help looking to something beyond this. It is promised, that the Spirit shall be poured out on all nations; to HIM alone it belongs to know the times and the seasons, but we cannot forbear hoping that the Spirit of God may be poured out on the natives of these respective countries in the perusal of his holy word; nor avoid foreseeing that, were He to vouchsafe this blessing on his word, the wilderness would soon become a fruitful field, and the desert blossom as the rose.

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<sup>19</sup> [The first entry in the accounts is of money from the "Edinburgh Missionary Society." The fact has been obscured for two different reasons. That Society, formed in 1796, afterwards changed its name to the "Scottish Missionary Society." Its work among the Fulahs near Sierra Leone was exchanged for a mission to the Tatars; when the hostility of the Russians ended this in 1824, India and Jamaica were chosen. The Church of Scotland took over the former in 1835, the United Presbyterian Church took over the latter in 1847. Thus the first Society which had the honour of aiding the Serampore work, passed out of existence, and perhaps few know what a share Edinburgh had in this translation work. The aid explains why this Memoir was printed in Scotland as well as in England. Again, the publication in England aroused more interest, and the new British and Foreign Bible Society found its best opportunity for foreign work in helping Serampore, as it continued to do for thirty years.]

Intreating your earnest supplications for Divine assistance through the whole of this work, and for the hastening of these glorious days,

We remain,

Very dear brethren,

Most affectionately yours,

W. CAREY

J. MARSHMAN

W. WARD

J. CHAMBERLAIN

R. MARDON

W. MOORE

J. CHATER

J. ROWE

W. ROBINSON

F. CAREY.<sup>20</sup>

Serampore,

Aug. 14, 1807.

*N.B.—It may not be improper to add, that the advanced state of four versions now in the press has taken up nearly half of the balance in our hands, and that about nine months more will probably absorb the whole sum.*

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<sup>20</sup>[Felix Carey went to Burmah this year and "shrivelled from a missionary into an ambassador" in 1814. Chater was transferred to the Ceylon mission in 1812, and lived till 1829. Mardon died 1812; Chamberlain 1821; Rowe and Ward 1823; Carey 1834, Marshman 1837, Moore 1844, Robinson 1853.]

## The First Serampore Memoir, 1808

### DR. TRANSLATIONS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

		<i>sa. rs.</i>	<i>as.</i>	<i>p.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1801	To 2,000 Bengalee Testaments, 1st edition, on Patna Paper, 8vo, 900 pages ...	10,000	0	0	1,250	0	0
	„ 500 Matthew's Gospel in Bengalee, ditto, 118 pages ...	250	0	0	31	5	0
1802	„ 1,000 Pentateuchs, ditto, 732 pages ...	3,000	0	0	375	0	0
1803	„ An edition of 900 of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Solomon's Song, ditto, 400 pages ..	2,000	0	0	250	0	0
	„ 900 of the Psalms alone, ditto, 220 pages	337	8	0	42	3	6
1805	„ 465 Matthew's Gospel in Mahratta, Nagree type (quarto), 108 pages ...	465	0	0	58	2	6
	„ Bengalee Pundit's wages for 7 years, down to December 1806 ...	1,680	0	0	210	0	0
	„ The Hindoosthanee, Persian, Oorea and Mahratta Pundit's wages from March 1803 to April 1806 ...	2,021	0	0	252	12	6
	„ Eight month's wages for pundits in the different languages, including the Chinese, from May to December 1806	3,703	14	3	462	19	3
1806	„ 1,500 Bengalee Testaments, 2nd edition, on Bengalee Paper, 8vo, 900 pages ...	4,500	0	0	562	10	0
1807	„ 10,000 Luke, Acts and Romans, ditto, 264 pages, at 12 <i>as.</i> ...	7,500	0	0	937	10	0
	„ Seven Month's wages for pundits in the different languages, including the Chinese, from January to July ...	3,485	7	7	435	13	5
	„ An edition of the Prophetic books, 8vo, 660 pages, 1,000 copies... ..	2,500	0	0	312	10	0
<i>Sicca Rupees</i>		41,442	13	10	£5,180	6	3

## The First Serampore Memoir, 1808

CONTRA.

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		<i>sa. rs. as. p.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
1799	By Cash received from the Edinburgh Missionary Society ... ..	2,000 0 0	250 0 0
1800	„ Ditto, collected from 1798 to 1799 ...	1,600 0 0	200 0 0
1801	„ Ditto 1799 to 1800 ...	9,142 15 1	1,142 17 4
1802	„ Ditto 1800 to 1801 ...	164 0 0	20 10 0
1803	„ Ditto 1801 to 1802 ...	9,258 2 7	1,157 5 5
1804	„ Ditto 1802 to 1803 ...	140 13 0	17 12 0
1805	„ Ditto 1803 to 1804 ...	184 9 5	23 1 6
1806	„ Ditto 1804 to 1805 ...	} 10,387 14 9	1,298 9 10
	Received from England by way of America <i>sa. rs. as. p.</i>		
	9,818 0 0		
	In Books, &c. ... .. 569 14 9		
	By Amount received from America in September 1806 ... ..	2,858 12 0	357 6 6
	„ Ditto in October ... ..	4,139 0 0	517 7 6
	„ Messrs. Alexander & Co., from the fund raised in India ... ..	5,100 0 0	637 10 0
1807	„ Ditto for 7 months, from January to July	3,900 0 0	487 10 0
	„ 2,398 Dollars from America ... ..	4,938 0 0	617 5 0
	Amount received, Sicca Rupees	53,814 2 10	6,726 15 1
	Expended ... ..	41,442 13 10	5,180 6 3
	*Balance in hand, Sicca Rupees	12,371 5 0	£1,546 8 10

*\* Of this sum above five thousand rupees are already expended in the outlay for the versions now in the press, which will absorb the whole balance in about nine months, as they require nearly a thousand rupees per month.*