

## A "Carey" Letter of 1831.

THESE have come recently into the possession of the Baptist Missionary Society copies of four letters written by William Carey from Serampore. The earliest, written from Calcutta on May 3rd, 1810, is to his father, Edmund Carey. The other three are to his sisters, Ann and Mary. They are dated March 10th, 1812, June 5th, 1830, and October 25th, 1831. The copies were made in 1895, apparently from the originals; they were sent by William Carpenter, of Wood Green, to Thomas Wright, of Olney, and have been presented to the Baptist Missionary Society by the Rev. A. E. Allen, now of Pimu, Congo.

The last of the letters has special interest, as authentic Carey material for the last few years of his life is rare. It is given in full below. Ann Carey (1763-1843) had married William Hobson (1756-1826); their home was first at Cottesbrooke, and later at Boxmoor. Mrs. Hobson cared lovingly for her invalid sister, Mary ("Polly"). In the letter there are allusions to Carey's sons, William, Jabez and Jonathan. Lucy was the daughter of his eldest but deceased son, Felix; she had married James Penney, of the Baptist Missionary Society. Levi Hobson, one of the younger generation of the Hobson family, went out to India but not as a member of the Mission. Dr. Rippon was the celebrated Baptist minister of that name. Mr. Goode was probably the Independent minister from Potterspurty, whom Carey had known in his youth. "Dear Morris" was Webster Morris, printer and minister in Clipston and Dunstable.

The letter shows the old man thinking lovingly of his family and friends, recalling the few survivors of his English years, modestly disdaining notoriety, sincerely concerned for the state of his own soul, assured, as ever, of God's triumph, and eager for the ending of slavery and other evils.

ERNEST A. PAYNE.

Copy of A LETTER FROM WILLIAM CAREY TO HIS SISTERS: MRS. ANN HOBSON and MARY CAREY: Written from SERAMPORE: 25th October, 1831.

My dear Sisters,

Through the good hand of God upon me I am now in health, though a series of attacks of fever has kept me very weak through the greater part of the this year. After three weeks or a month silence, I preached last Lord's day at the Danish Church. My not preaching was not because of absolute

inability, for I scarcely ever omitted attending at Worship, but my friends thought it would be likely to bring on new attacks. I never felt myself so old as I now do, indeed, I never, except in the very hot months of March, April, May and June, felt the burden of age, and during those months almost every young person feels old. My whole family is also in good health. Mr. and Mrs. Baker went to visit William last week and found them well. I had lately a letter from Jabez giving me an account of their being all well. Jonathan and all his family were here last week in good health, and Lucy who is now Mrs. Penney was with them. Thus, so far as worldly things are concerned you see I have abundant reason for thankfulness. I have not lately seen Levi or heard of him. I was in Calcutta a month ago, but was too ill to go to see anyone. I believe Levi and his family are well. I wrote to him on Saturday, but have not got his answer, had they not been well I should have heard. When I look around me I see almost all those both in England and India with whom I was formerly on terms of intimacy removed to another world. None of my former acquaintances in England are living but Dr. Rippon and Mr. Goode—I dined with Mr. Goode's nephew, a clergyman, seven or eight years ago, and when telling about his uncle he said, "The old gentleman is now seventy-four years old." I was astonished, for the last time I had seen him he was a young man about thirty-six. I could not bring my mind to make the jump from thirty-six to seventy-four at once. There are men living who were ministers when I was in England, as Dr. Steadman and Rowland Hill, but I had no acquaintance with them. Mr. Burder formerly of Coventry, with whom I was well acquainted is I believe still living, and so is my old Friend Morris. Dear Morris wrote to me for letters and other documents to assist him in writing memoirs of me, after my death, but there was a spirit in his letter which I must disapprove. I therefore told him so in my reply, and absolutely refused to send anything. Indeed I have no wish that anyone should write or say anything about me, let my memorial sleep with my body in the dust and at the last great day all the good or evil which belongs to my character will be fully known. My great concern now is to be found in Christ. His atoning sacrifice is all my hope; and I know that Sacrifice to be of such value that God has accepted it as fully vindicating his government in the exercise of mercy to sinners and as that on account of which he will accept the greatest offender who seeks to him for pardon. And the acceptance of that sacrifice of atonement was testified by the resurrection of our Lord from the dead, and by the commission to preach the gospel to all nations, with a promise or rather a

declaration that whosoever believeth on the Son shall be saved, shall not come into condemnation but is passed from death unto life.

I trust the public events now taking place in the World will ultimately bring about such a state of things as shall be for the glory of God. I wish to see Idolatry, Mahomedanism and all the political Establishment of religion in the world swept from the face of the earth and also to see slavery and war abolished and Infidelity cease. I account Socinianism and Arianism as nothing but modifications of Mahomedanism. Or if you will Mahomedanism only a modification of what they choose to call Unitarianism. They must all stand or fall together.

I am, my dear sisters,

Your affectionate brother

Wm. Carey.

Let me hear from you as often as practicable and give me all the news, especially that which relates to Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. I trust you are remembered by me in my addresses to the throne of Grace.

#### DR. ALDWINCKLE'S THESIS.

The Baptist Union scholarship in 1936 was awarded to Mr. R. Foster Aldwinckle, B.A., of Regent's Park College. He proceeded to Strasburg University, where he has been awarded the D.Th. for a thesis on *The Object of Christian Worship*, a study of the notion of objectivity in relation to religious experience. We are glad to see that the thesis has been published and copies (5s.) can be obtained from the author at 6a, Meadow Close, Clacton-on-Sea.