

A Letter from Dr. Ryland.

Copy of Letter from Dr. John Ryland, to the Rev Carapeit Chater Aratoon, Baptist Missionary at Surat. It has no address or date, but must belong to the year 1814-15. Aratoon was an Armenian; he joined the Serampore Church in 1808 and was baptised, following the submission of his case to the Home Committee, in 1812. The original letter is now in the possession of the Baptist Missionary Society.

My dear Bro^r.

Tho you are known to me only by name, and not by sight, yet I feel a sincere love towards you, for Christ's sake, who is your only hope and your only Lord, and who is also mine. You may have heard of my name, from our dear Brethren at Serampore, as formerly living at Northampton, and as being on(e) of those who first set on foot the Baptist Mission, who also baptised our dear Bro^r Carey and when I was removed to Bristol to superintend an Academy for the instruction of young ministers, I there B^d. our Bro^r Marshman, Grant and Brunsdon—Bro^r Chamberlain also, and others of our misionaries studied in the Academy over which I preside. I only mention these things to give you a little fuller knowledge of the person who now writes to you. The idear we can form of each other at this distance, however, must be rather indistinct. But we can well conceive of one another as fellow-sinners needing the same Savior, and depending wholly on his Obedience unto Death. We are his property, and being invited to him we feel a union of heart with all those who love him in sincerity, and rejoice in hearing of the prosperity of all those who love him, and rejoice in the success of his gospel, in every part of the world, and expect ere long to meet in one blessed world, where we shall behold his Glory, and wear his image, the outline of which is now imperfectly drawn in our souls, but which shall then be completed, so that nothing shall be left which can rend^r us unlike him. For that state of perfection we ardently long, that we may encircle his throne rejoicing and giving eternal praise to him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his blood. May we, having tasted how gracious he is, be assisted to recommend him with all our hearts to our perishing fellow sinners. May, you, my d^r Bro^r. be the instrument of turning many poor idolaters from the worship of idols, to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, even Jesus

who saveth us from the wroth to come. I wrote a short Note to you last week, and inclosed in a little parcel, with 3 or 4 pamphlets which I formerly printed. I did not then think I should have time to write a longer letter, as I supposed the pedoBaptist Missionaries, by whom I shall send it, should leave this City on Monday. But they will stay in town till Wednesday, and I have just returned, from a village, called Keynsham, 5 miles from Bristol, whither I have been to the Ordination of a young minister, whose name is Ayres. Having therefore time to write a longer letter, I embrace the opportunity gladly. And if you can hear of any opportunity of sending a letter directly to England, I shall be very glad to hear from you, to know how you go on. I believe these are very good young men, tho they differ from us as to Baptism, thinking that sprinkling is sufficient, instead of immersion, and supposing it right to baptize infants; yet this is almost the only thing in which they do not agree with us. We must act up to our own light, and try to keep the ordinances pure as they were first delivered. But we must love all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, whether they follow with us or not. So I trust I do; and I do not question but you also are likeminded. At present we know but in part, and understand but in part. But I pray God we may press towards the Mark, for the prize of the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus. I pray the Lord to keep you, and to uphold your goings in his paths, that your footsteps slip not. And I beseech you to pray for me also, for tho' I am now an old man almost 62 years old, yet have I no strength of my own, but need to depend on Christ as much as ever, and unless he pleases to keep me, I cannot hold out to the end, but shall dishonour his cause at last, after having professed his name nearly 48 years.

My dear Bro^r Sutcliff and his Wife are lately dead. He lived at Olney, in Buckinghamshire, and was one of my most intimate friends, and one of them who first set our Mission on foot. My Wife, who loves our Lord Jesus, joins me in love to you and your Wife. We are all one in Christ Jesus, and I hope to spend eternity with you in praising God, and the Lamb, I am

Your cordial brother

JOHN RYLAND.