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THE LITERARY WORKS

of the

FOREIGN MISSIONARIES of the MORAVIAN CHURCH.

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By

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THE LITERATURE OF THE MISSION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A. - The Cape Colony.

Moravian Mission begun in 1738.

The founder of this enterprise was George Schmidt, who preached to the Hottentots in Bavianskloof-not in their own difficult language, but in Dutch, with which the natives were familiar.<sup>18</sup> In 1744 the undertaking was relinquished; in 1792 it was resuscitated. The Dutch language continued in use. Hence there was not the same call for original works as in other Missions. The Dutch Bible, Dutch school-books, and the Dutch Hymnal of the Moravian Churches in Holland were introduced. The first Hymnal specially for the use of the converts was published by the Bible Society of Zeist in 1836, on the occasion of Bishop Hallbeck's visit to Europe.<sup>19</sup> A new edition appeared in 1856, with an Appendix containing a number of new hymns by Suhl, Kühn, and Hartmann.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> George Schmidt was born, September 30, 1709, at Kunewalde, in Moravia; for six years he suffered imprisonment in chains for the Gospel's sake; labored among the Hottentots from 1737 to 1744; and died at Niesky, Germany, August 1, 1785.

<sup>19</sup> Hans Peter Hallbeck was born, March 18, 1784, at Malmö, Sweden, and was an alumnus of the University of Lund. In 1811 he joined the Moravian Church, taught in its German and English schools, and in 1817 was appointed Superintendent of the South African Mission, in which position he remained until his death. In 1836 he was consecrated a Bishop.

<sup>20</sup> Suhl and Hartmann were former missionaries in South Africa. Frederick William Kühn, now a Bishop, formerly the Superintendent of that Mission, is now President of the Mission Board at Herrnhut, Saxony.

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Many of these hymns were translations. The latest edition, revised and greatly improved, came out in 1880. This edition is used in the Dutch services at Paramaribo also. A collection of Liturgies, published at Zeist in 1839, was probably compiled by Hallbeck.

In 1859 a printing office was established at Genadendal in connection with the Normal School. The first press was an old one sent from Zeist; a new and better one was subsequently presented by friends in England. From that office is issued a monthly newspaper called De Bode van Genadendal, of which the Director of the Normal School is the editor, and a monthly magazine for children, called De Kinder-Vriend.

In the same office have appeared the following works: Envoudige Lessen ten gebruik van Klein Kinder Scholen, being the second edition of a Bible History and Natural History in rhymes composed by Hallbeck, 1859; Hymns on the last Words of Christ while hanging on the Cross, 1861; De Kleine Zangvriend, a collection of Hymns for Children, 1861; The Passion Week Manual, 1864; Instructions for the Candidates for Baptism and the Lord's Supper, 1864; Seed Corns out of the Word of God, arranged according to the chief articles of Christian doctrine, 1864 - all these by Benno Marx;<sup>21</sup> Kühn's Summary of the Doctrine of Jesus Christ, in questions and answers, 1865, second edition, 1876; and Bechler's Instructions in Bible History, 1865.<sup>22</sup> Large editions of Luther's Catechism and an Appendix to the Collection of Liturgies, containing the Order of Baptism, of Confirmation, of Reception, etc., have also appeared.

B. - The Kaffre Mission.

Moravian Mission begun in 1818.

In this Mission the works published by other Churches laboring among the natives have been extensively used. The first Kaffre version of the Bible that circulated among the Moravian converts was that of the Wesleyans, which many consider artificial and anything but idiomatic; after a time it was superseded by the version of the Scottish missionaries, which is crude and even vulgar.

<sup>21</sup> Benno Marx, for many years was Director of the Normal School at Genadendal; now he is stationed at Wittewater, in the Western Mission Province.

<sup>22</sup> William Ferdinand Bechler formerly was the Superintendent of the South African Mission; now he is a member of the Mission Board at Berthelsdorf, in Saxony.

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Among Moravian missionaries the most distinguished Kaffre scholar was Bonatz.<sup>23</sup> In 1847 he published, at Capetown, a Bible History noted for its idiomatic Kaffre; in 1856, at Bautzen, Saxony, a Collection of Hymns, and The Church Litany; and in 1862 in German his Guide to Acquiring the Kaffre Language. The principal part of this last-named work is a condensed translation of the Kaffre and English Grammar of Appleyard, the translator of the Wesleyan version of the Bible, but contains also other parts that are original.

The Genadendal press has furnished several works for the Kaffre Mission, namely - Luther's Catechism, translated by Kropf, of the Berlin Missionary Society - the first edition in 1856, the second in 1863 - and the Passion Week Manual in 1861. The latter is not a new translation, but a compilation arranged by the Moravian missionaries from the Wesleyan version of the New Testament.

The first Collection of Hymns in use at the Moravian stations was the Hymnal of the Berlin Missionary Society, containing some contributions by Bonatz and other Moravian missionaries. In 1869 a number of their hymns appeared at Bautzen in the form of a small Supplementary Collection, comprising also six Litanies and Liturgical Services; and in 1885 an entirely new Hymnal, compiled by Richard Baur and Theodore Weiz, was published at Herrnhut.<sup>24</sup> In addition to the best production of the Berlin and English missionaries, it contains a large number of original

hymns and translations by Moravian missionaries, as also all the Litanies, Liturgical Services and Formulas of the Church. The cost of both these publications was borne by the Mission Society in Zeist.

A complete Kaffre-English-German Lexicon by Richard Baur remains in manuscript. In Grey's Library of Capetown are deposited the following manuscripts: A German-Kaffre Dictionary by Christian Adolphus and Christian Theodore Küster, compiled in 1843 at Clarkson; A Grammar of the Kaffre Language, by Christian Adolphus Küster, written at Clarkson in 1857; and a small Kaffre-German Vocabulary, by the same. <sup>25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> John Adolphus Bonatz, a deceased South African missionary, was for many years the Warden of the Mission at Shilo. He represented the South African Mission at the General Synod of 1857.

<sup>24</sup> Both these missionaries are still engaged in the service of the South African Mission, the latter being the Superintendent of the Eastern Province and stationed at Baziya in Kaffraria.

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Works relating to the Mission in South Africa.

1. La Trobe's Journal of a Visit to South Africa in 1815 and 1816. London, 1818, pp.406, with a map and colored plates. The same work without the plates. New York, 1818, pp.395.
2. Ledderhose's Büchlein von den Hottentotten und ihrem ersten Apostel, Georg Schmidt. Basel, 1849. pp.56.
3. Vormbaum's Georg Schmidt, Missionar unter den Hottentotten, und seine nächsten Nachfolger. Bielefeld, 1858.
4. Henry Hutton's Visit to Genadendal, South Africa. London, 1845.
5. Hallbeck's Narrative of a Visit made in 1848 to Enon, in South Africa, London, 1850.
6. The Leper Hospital in South Africa. Bristol.
7. Geschichte der Ausbreitung des Christenthums unter den Heidenvölkern Süd Afrikas. Berlin, 1831.
8. Geschichte der Brüder Missionsstation Silo in Süd Afrika, und zugleich der Anfang der Missionsthätigkeit der Brüdergemeine unter den Kaffern. Gnadau, 1878. pp. 150.

<sup>25</sup> Christian Adolphus Küster, a deceased South African missionary, had charge at one time of the Leper Hospital on Robben Island.

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