

kins, Governor-General's agent and commissioner in Assam, wrote to Mr. Trevelyan, a civil service man in Bengal, inviting the Baptists to do Christian work "in the northeast district of Assam occupied by two tribes of the great Shan family, the Khamtis and the Singhpos".<sup>3</sup> He further points out that the Missions would be under "the protection of our government and would not be liable to those checks which the Rangoon mission has constantly suffered from the jealousy and barbarity of the Ava government".<sup>4</sup> Mr. Pearce, the Secretary of the English Baptists, wrote to the missionaries in Rangoon saying, "It appears evident that an effectual door is opened for the establishment of a branch of your mission to the northeast of Assam. I must confess I shall feel truly happy if you feel inclined to enter it. Its geographical situation with relation to your mission seems to render it particularly desirable."<sup>5</sup>

The Board seems to have been moved by the enthusiasm on the part of the Burma missionaries and also by the invitation of Captain Jenkins, who is represented as a "man of activity, intelligence and benevolent feeling, whose character and exertions stand very high in the estimation of the government";<sup>6</sup> and further by the very generous offer of Captain Jenkins made in connection with the opening of a station at Sadiya.

"No attention of mine," he wrote, "should of course be wanting to make the place comfortable to any missionaries and I will be willing to contribute my mite to their establishment. You may mention that I will subscribe 1,000 rupees, if a family is settled as a mission at Sadiya; and whenever they have had a press at work for six months I will be happy to double that sum, if I remain in charge of the province."<sup>7</sup>

Nathan Brown, one of the missionaries in Burma, when approached as to his willingness to make the

attempt "embraced the proposal with instant enthusiasm".<sup>8</sup> On December 16, 1835, the Board wrote to Captain Jenkins over the signature of Lucius Bolles, corresponding secretary, accepting the invitation and informed him of their action regarding the appointment of Brown for the task. "It is probable you will have been apprised before this letter shall have reached you of the measures we have adopted for the immediate location of a mission at Sadiya, the place recommended in your letter to Mr. Trevelyan."<sup>9</sup> The Board further commends Mr. Brown to Captain Jenkins as being a man of "strict integrity, enlarged views and truly Christian kindness, and will prove himself deserving of your favorable regard".

Thus the venture was launched. Sadiya was to be the frontier station and the doorway into the celestial empire. It was hoped that Jones, at Bangkok, and the other Siam missions would thus be of easy access. Mr. Brown wrote, "You will easily see, by inspecting the map, that brother Jones can ascend the Siam river about two-thirds of the distance to Sadiya." Alas! The map did not reveal the impassable mountain track, nor did it mark in modern fashion, with red and blue pins, the location of the wild and barbarous tribes in those hills. That was knowledge which Brown was later to acquire through some of the most painful missionary experiences recorded in human history.

People everywhere were keenly interested in the project; and friends, both in India and America, sent in funds to launch it.\* From a commercial, as well as from a religious point of view, Sadiya gave promise of be-

\* Major White 200/-; Mr. Bruce, a tea planter, and Lt. Charlton 100/- each; Mr. Bird from Alahabad 250/-; Captain Jenkins 3000/-; *Missionary Magazine*, 1835, Vol. 16, p. 195.