

churches, and the missionaries no longer had to carry the burden of Christianization alone. A new dawn appeared. The failure and disappointments which had dogged them during the first nine years were changed into victory and encouragement.

The three branch churches continued to grow, "and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved". It soon became evident to the missionaries, as well as to the native workers, that if the work which they had commenced was to be made permanent, it needed to be organized on an indigenous basis. A committee was appointed to propose suggestions as to procedure. The first conference for the purpose of taking into consideration the expediency of recognizing the three branch churches as separate and independent churches, and also of organizing them into a regular Baptist association, was held at Sibsagar. The Association gathered on Friday evening, October 30, 1851, and was called to order by Mr. Brown. The members present at this first association were as follows:

Gauhati: Brethren Danforth, Ward and Apinta.
Nowgong: Brethren Bronson, Stoddard, James Tripp, Lucion D. Hayden, Monroe B. Wood, and Ebenezer Carrow.
Sibsagar: Brethren Brown, Whiting, Cutter, Batiram D. Peck, and Nidhi L. Farwell.

Mr. Brown was elected the moderator, O. T. Cutter, clerk in English, and Batiram D. Peck, clerk in Assamese. A constitution was prepared and adopted. It was read both in English and Assamese. It is interesting to note the make up of this first constitution:

"1. The Association shall be called the *Baptist Association of Assam*.

"2. The officers shall be a moderator, two clerks, for the purpose of keeping the records in Assamese and English, and a treasurer, — to be elected at the commencement of each

regular meeting, and to continue in office until another appointment shall be made.

"3. The Association shall be held annually at such time and place as shall be voted. Each church shall be entitled to send six delegates.

"4. Each church shall send with their delegates a letter, giving an account of their condition, their joys and their sorrows.

"5. The object of the Association is to promote the cause of Christ, and to counsel and assist each other.

"6. This Association disclaims any right to control or influence the action of the churches in their individual capacity.

"7. Any church of like faith and order may be admitted into the Association on application by letter at any regular meeting.

"8. The Association shall appoint two preachers, one to preach in English, the other in Assamese, at each regular meeting, for the next meeting of the Association.

"9. This constitution can be altered at any meeting of the Association."¹

Considerable business was transacted, and it is noteworthy that the native brethren and the missionaries considered this as their common task. Often a motion was made by one of the native delegates, then seconded by a missionary, and vice versa. The problems that confronted them were many and varied. One of the first things done was the ordination of Mr. G. Dauble, formerly connected with the German Lutheran Mission at Tezpur. He had changed his views on baptism and had been appointed by the Baptist Board as an American Baptist missionary.

Their agenda of business contained, among many other things, the problem of evangelism. The Executive Committee of the Board had submitted instructions with "reference to the work of directly preaching the gospel to the heathen", which stated that the "leading