

pared and scattered abroad, converts were gathered, and those received were of the stronger and more useful character. Most of them seemed to have been pupils who had been in mission schools or people who had long been connected with the missionaries. Many professed to believe but could not break family and caste ties, and it may well be supposed that not a few were secret disciples.

CHAPTER X

ORGANIZATIONS

A new day dawned, and the outlook seemed favorable save for the feebleness of the working force. Four men, at three widely separated stations, were struggling along while antagonistic elements among the pagans were increasing rather than decreasing.

The Christian community in Assam grew, nevertheless, and in 1845, the organization of the first three Baptist churches was reported. On January 25, Messrs. Brown, Bronson, and Barker, with a few native Christians, gathered at Gauhati for the purpose of organizing the first Baptist Church of Assam. This church was composed of three branches: Sibsagar, Nowgong, and Gauhati — Sadiya and Jaipur having been abandoned. The articles of formation were drawn up, and the Baptist covenant was adopted. Mr. Barker was appointed pastor. The Lord's Supper was celebrated in the evening, and all present rejoiced that the true light had at last indeed dawned upon dark Assam! Steadily it grew brighter. Before the end of that year twenty more baptisms of hopeful converts were reported.

On February 8, the same year, the branch church at Nowgong was recognized as a part of the new Baptist church. Regular services were established and Mr. Bronson was elected as the leader.

On March 9, the little group at Sibsagar also organized themselves into a church. Thus the first three indigenous Baptist churches were organized into branch