

## BAPTISTS IN ASSAM

Christianity in Assam today is commanding the attention of the churches in the west; and often the thought has been expressed by missionaries and church historians that there is need for a history of the Baptists in Assam.

From the beginning of the mission in the nineteenth century and on through the first two decades of the present century, the progress of Christian work was slow, since it consisted mainly in the laying of foundations. Since 1920, or thereabouts, the growth has been phenomenal. Twenty years ago there were less than three thousand Christians among the Lushai, a hill tribe among whom the Welsh Presbyterians have done acceptable work; but today there are about sixty thousand, or nearly one-half of the total population. In Manipur State twenty years ago, Christianity was forbidden, and there were only a few who dared to own the name of Christ, while today there are over ten thousand Christians.

In other words, during the last ten years the Christian community in Assam has increased from 132,106 to 249,246, or by 88.7 per cent. There are today eleven Protestant denominations at work in Assam, namely:

### BRITISH SOCIETIES

The Baptist Missionary Society.  
The Church of Scotland Foreign Mission Committee.  
The Lakher Pioneer Mission.  
North East India General Mission.  
The Foreign Mission of the Presbyterian Church of Wales.  
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel.

### CONTINENTAL SOCIETIES

Gossnersche Missionsgesellschaft.  
The Santal Mission of the Northern Churches.

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## PREFACE

### UNITED STATES SOCIETIES

American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and Woman's  
American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.  
Church of God Mission Board.  
Seventh-Day Adventist General Conference.

The Welsh Presbyterians are the strongest, with a constituency of about 110,000. The Baptists come second, with about 80,000, and the balance is divided among the others. The Roman Catholic Mission, which is conducted by the Salesian Fathers, has expanded considerably in the last ten years, and a Seminary for the training of young men for the priesthood has been founded in Shillong. Over one-third of the Catholics are in the Khasia and Jaintia Hills. The total number of Catholics is approximately 15,000 and is included in the figure given above.

As no previous attempt to furnish a critical account of the Baptist mission in Assam has been made, the writer has had to rely almost entirely upon reports and correspondences from the field. The American Baptist Foreign Mission Society has published from time to time a number of pamphlets dealing with certain periods. In 1911, Mrs. Nettie P. Mason, an American Baptist missionary, wrote an article entitled "These Seventy-five years", which was published in connection with the eleventh biennial report of 1911. Government reports have been consulted as a check upon missionary reports. "Journals" and "Letters" which appeared in the *Missionary Magazine*, published in America by the Baptist denomination, during the years 1828-1934, have also been read. The originals of some of these letters have been examined, they being on file in the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society's office at 152 Madison Avenue, New York City.

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