

(See footnote on page 25). Here the missionaries settled down in peace to accomplish some of the things they had longed to do ever since their arrival in Sadiya in 1836. At last their hope seemed to be fulfilled; and Barker wrote jubilantly:

"No thundering edicts are promulgated against our entering this interesting field; but the doors are thrown wide open. The people are in peace, and none molest or make afraid. A beginning had been made. Books are circulated, and the people are becoming interested to know what they contain. A great many who can read, and a great many by hearing them read, have become acquainted with the contents, and wish to know more about the religion of Christ."²

Visitors from the higher ranks of society called upon the missionaries daily for inquiry and discussion. Brown gave himself over to translations and preaching, and Barker to learning the language. A school for girls soon flourished under the direction of Mrs. Barker, by the aid of Ramsagar, a native assistant.

In the meantime, Mr. Cutter made arrangements for the "security of the mission property" left at Jaipur; and on November 30, he and Mrs. Cutter, with their two converts, Montan and Nidhi, left for Sibsagar, which place they reached on December 8, 1841. The following Sunday, December 11, was long to be remembered in Sibsagar, for on that day the sacred waters of Siva's Sea were for the first time consecrated to Christianity in that Mr. Brown baptized Montan,* while a number of Europeans and Indians stood on the banks and were interested on-lookers. Brown wrote of this occasion:

* Montan, the second convert, had come under missionary influence while he was a student at Sadiya. He did not prove to be of much comfort to the missionaries as according to old church records, he was suspended from the fellowship of the church a few months later because of immoral conduct.

"The scene was solemn and affecting. The sound of sacred music, rising above the calm and peaceful waters, brought vividly to mind the remembrance of similar scenes in our native land. May this beautiful expanse of water, long since dedicated to the heathen deity but now consecrated to the service of Christ be often thus honored by the footsteps of willing converts."³

In 1845, the waters of Siva's Sea were stirred three times: first, by the baptism of an Assamese convert named Batiram, on March 9; again, on July 13, when Calibor, a *dhobi*, or washerman, who had been considering Christianity for several years, was baptized; and third, on December 20, when Ramsing, a cousin of Batiram, who had showed much enmity toward Christianity, finally decided to follow his cousin's example.

The missionaries no longer thought of the work in terms of a tribe or of a particular district; but they viewed their task in terms of the whole province. *Assam for Christ!* became their slogan, and with that slogan in mind they pressed forward in all lines of missionary activity. On November 15, 1843, Mr. and Mrs. Cutter brought to Sibsagar the printing press establishment from Jaipur. Books and tracts were soon turned out by the thousands, while Mr. Brown labored feverishly to keep the press going with his translations, revisions and compositions of Assamese literature. In 1845, they reported that 3,740,100 pages had been printed. Much of the expense of the press was defrayed by the proceeds of "job" work and generous gifts from friends. It is significant to note that the government servants and the tea planters of that early day were keenly interested in the missionary activities and aided the mission both with financial and moral support. Captain S. F. Hannay gave the mission his valuable