LETTERS
FROM THE
Rev. SAMUEL DAVIES, &c.

SHewing
The State of Religion in Virginia,
particularly among the Negroes.

Likewise
An Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman in London to his Friend in the Country,

Containing some Observations on the same.

As cold Water to a thirsty Soul, so is good News from a far Country. Prov. xxv. 25.


LONDON:
Printed by R. PARDON, in Castle-yard, Holborn.
M.DCC.LVII.
[Price 3d. or 2s. 6d. a Dozen.]
ing them; and when I can discover the Feeling, and Practice of a Christian, I think them proper members of a Christian Church, although they should be very ignorant of many of its important doctrines.

There is, however, a number of them, who, I have not the least reason to doubt, are the genuine Children of Abraham by faith; and some of them seem to have made a greater progress in experimental Religion, than many sincere Christians of a fairer colour. Some of them are, indeed, astonishing monuments of divine Grace. There are ten of them in one quarter (so we call the little houses where the Negroes dwell) who, I have reason to hope, are all, or at least, nine in ten, sincerely and zealously engaged in the doctrines and duties of our holy Religion. This, indeed, is an instance, which, I am afraid, can hardly be paralleled, among either white or black, in these Parts. But there are other instances very remarkable, though not so surprizing—

SAMUEL DAVIES.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Mr. Davies at Hanover in Virginia to Mr. B. F. Feb. 7, 1757.

I have allowed my Friend Mr. Wright a Part of the Books I have at sundry times received, to be distributed in his congregation, where there are uncommon appearances of the progress of Religion: Some time ago
I received a Letter from him with the following Paragraph, intended to be communicated to the Society.

"I take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the Books you sent me at sundry times this Spring, before I had any claim as a Member of the Society to which I now have the honour to belong. And I desire to adore God for raising up such a spirit of disinterested and pious generosity in so many in Great Britain, as to contrive so noble a scheme for promoting religious Knowledge among those who were like to be destroyed for lack of knowledge."

"You may inform them that my infant congregation, in these uttermost parts of the earth, is like to receive an everlasting advantage by their pious Charity. I have had no opportunity of discovering the success of the books, except in two instances. The first, is a woman, singularly inquisitive; who, upon reading The Compassionate Address, told me, she had got so much advantage by it, that she would give ten Pistoles for it, rather than part with it: The other is a boy, who had just finished his servitude: He could hardly read a word, and was not able to buy a book, but hearing that I had books to distribute gratis, he applied to me for some, and the books I gave him, with the serious advices that attended them, were so far blessed to him, that
that he is now under promising serious impres- 
"ssions."

"In short, Sir, I cannot express the plea-
"sing expectations I have that God will do 
"great things in these remote parts by the 
"diffusive Benevolence of the Society, and 
"other good Christians. Pray convey this 
"account to the Society, and you will lay 
"an additional obligation, upon 

Cumberland County, Yours, &c.
Sept. 7, 1756. John Wright.

I have also intrusted my favourite friend 
and next neighbour, Mr. Todd, with the dis-
tribution of a number in his congregation. 
And he tells me, that The Compassionate Ad-
dress was likely to be of great service in a 
particular neighbourhood.

I will add one instance more in the bounds 
of my congregation, and that is, a Gentle-
man who accidentally met with the same ex-
cellent Address; and when he cast his eye into 
it, it so engaged his attention, that he could 
not put it out of his hands, until he had read 
it through; and he told one of my Friends, 
that it gave him the most solemn and affecting 
thoughts of eternal things, that ever he had 
in his life. May his goodness not be as the 
 morning cloud! That little Book, Dodderidge's 
Rise and Progress, and Baxter's Call, are, I 
think, the most popular and useful Books 
among the white People in Virginia—

SAMUEL DAVIES.

Copy