



Periodical Accounts Relating to the Foreign Missions of the Church of the United Brethren Volume 6

Brethren` Society for Heathen



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1905 Excerpt: ...the right of usage given them, but the Mission Superintendent and his successors in office were appointed Trustees, or responsible Directors of these places, and his name appeared in the lease-deeds. In the abstract this position as Title-holder and Trustee secured for the Superintendent a sufficiently influential position. On the one hand it made him responsible for the well-being of the whole settlement in every respect, and at the same time it gave him the legal power to make and carry out all necessary and beneficial arrangements for the good government of the place, as also to collect the taxes levied by the Government. And it might have been possible to conduct the affairs of so large a community as Genadendal with its 3,000 inhabitants without any great difficulty in the strength of this position, provided the Government remained friendly towards us--which, by the way, it has done, speaking generally. But, unfortunately, the great mistake was made of tacking on to the title, which was quite sufficient in itself, a document which was directly contradictory to it, viz., a collection of ancient regulations and customs which from necessity had been framed in former years, in 1827 (? 1857?--Ed.). These had their origin in entirely different circumstances and conditions, and placed the management of the communities in church matters (in consonance with the ancient tribal system of the early inhabitants), and above all in parochial affairs, in the hands of the Mens Meeting and of a body of elected overseers and church servants appointed by the missionaries. These regulations, which had been built up upon so very different a foundation, were, unfortunately, not revised when the titles were being framed, but were, instead, tacked on to them almost unalte...

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