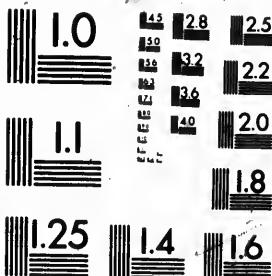
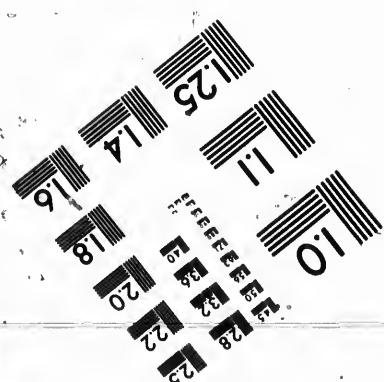


## IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)



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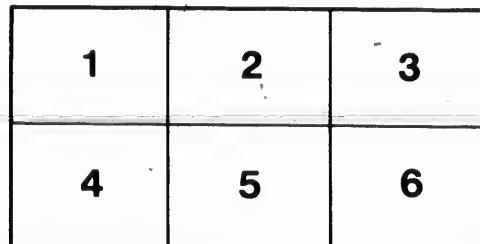
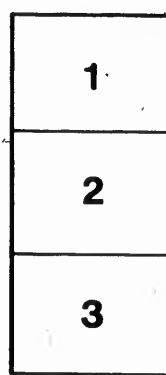
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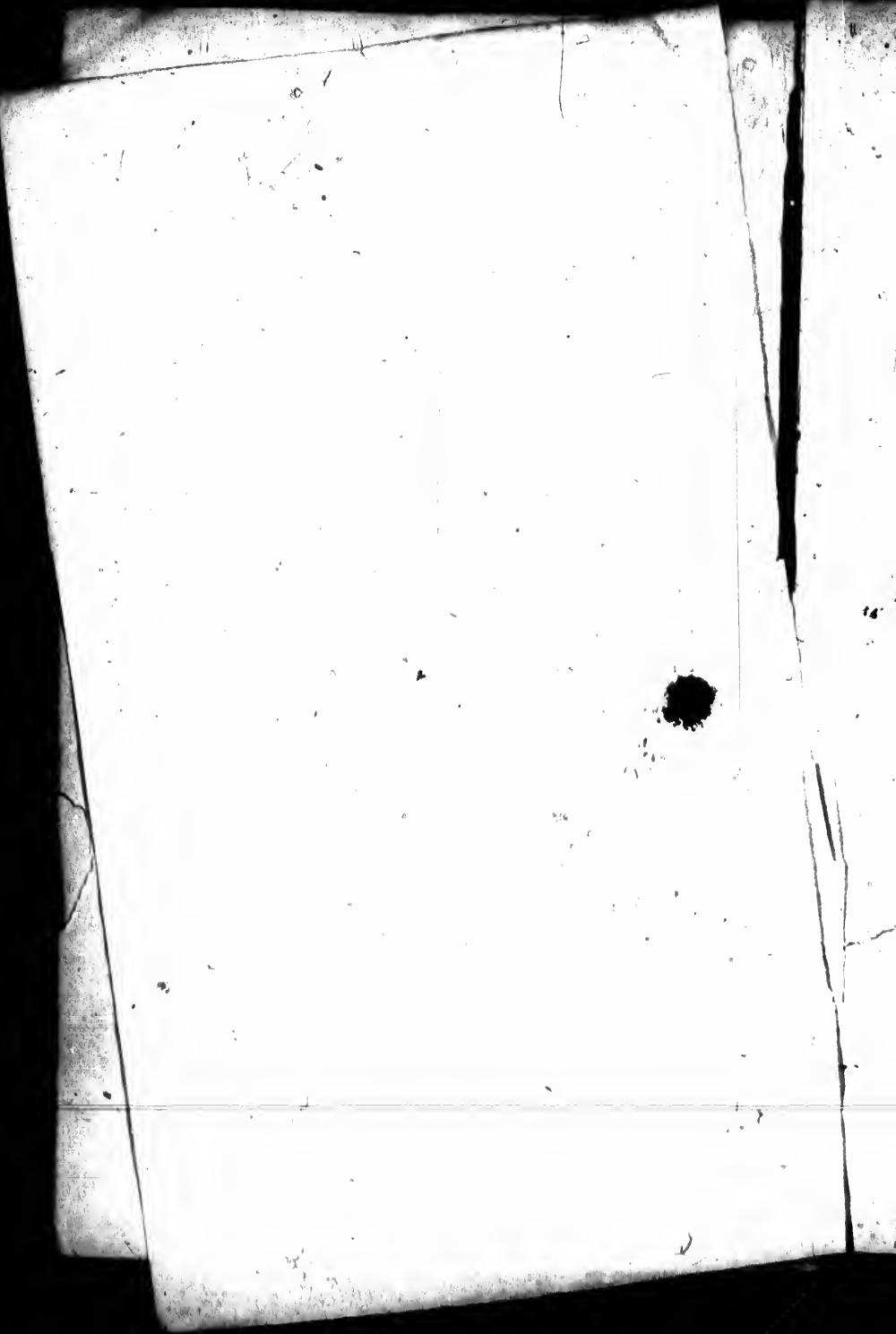
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No 2.

AN  
A D D R E S S  
TO THE  
GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS  
FOR THE  
SUPPORT of the MISSIONS,

Carried on by the METHODIST SOCIETY,

IN THE  
WEST INDIES, NOVA SCOTIA, and  
NEWFOUNDLAND.

By THOMAS COKE, LL.D.

[1787]

A RB

BV 25.0

56

A N  
A D D R E S S,  
&c. &c.

---

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,  
**I** EMBRACE the earliest opportunity of returning you my grateful acknowledgments for your liberal contributions, in support of our missions to the West Indies, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. I have laid my receipts and disbursements before a committee of the conference, having expended about fifty pounds more than I received.

I cannot present to you a clearer account of our success in the West Indies, than by laying before you extracts from two letters which I have lately received from two of the missionaries, which, with the account of my visit to those islands lately published, will, I trust, afford you some degree of satisfaction.

" *Antigua, April 30, 1787.*

" Reverend and dear Sir,  
" HAVING received information from brother Clarke that he had got the grant of one hundred and fifty acres of land near the Carribbs, " in St. Vincent's, in order to erect a chapel and school for the propagation of the gospel among them, and requesting, moreover, that " I would pay a visit to St. Vincent's, brother Warrener and I sailed to that island about

A. 2

" three

" three weeks ago. We met brother Clarke at  
 " Kingston; and the next day went to see the  
 " land above mentioned. The Carribbs are  
 " willing to receive us as missionaries, and to  
 " give up their children to be taught by us.  
 " This undertaking will be attended with ex-  
 " pence at present, in which I trust, our Eng-  
 " lish friends will assist us, as we have no re-  
 " sources yet in the West Indies. Antigua, in-  
 " deed, can support its own expence; but there  
 " is no provision made yet for a preacher at St.  
 " Vincent's. Brother Warrener is well received,  
 " and his labours much blessed at Antigua; but  
 " is in a poor state of health at present. Our society  
 " at Antigua consists of forty-three whites, and  
 " one thousand nine hundred and fifty-seven  
 " blacks, besides those we have on trial. I bless  
 " God I still desire to be entirely devoted to his  
 " service. I feel much my own weakness, and  
 " want of abilities and grace for so important a  
 " work. Wishing you all spiritual blessings in  
 " Christ Jesus, and hoping that your life will be  
 " spared, for the good of the church, I remain  
 " Your affectionate brother in Christ,  
 " JOHN BAXTER."

" St. Christopher's, June 15, 1787.

" Dear and reverend Sir,  
 " IF I do not get some assistance from Eu-  
 " rope or America, I must inevitably give up  
 " St. Eustatius; as the work at St. Kitt's is of  
 " much greater importance at present. I have  
 " occasionally visited St. Eustatius since your  
 " departure. Our numbers there are increased,  
 " whom I have put into regular classes. I waited  
 " on the captain of the island, who received me  
 " cordially, and gave me an invitation to dinner.  
 " He

" He desired me to get my recommendatory letters ready against the governor's arrival, who has been expected here for some time. Last night a gentleman from Montserrat visited me, who is under conviction, and longs for one of our missionaries to go to that island. He has under his influence two hundred negroes; and he told me, that the person we should send there might freely make use of his house as his home; and moreover, that he would give ten, or twelve *Johanneses*\* out of his own purse as a part of his salary, and that he might preach round the island, wherever he pleased. He heard me preach twice with great attention. About two years ago he was at Bath, and heard some gospel-ministers, which was of use to him. He tells me his wife and children are religiously disposed. This may be an opening for good. In my former letter I mentioned that we have in this island one hundred and fifty, and in St. Eustatius sixty-two; since I wrote that letter, I have an increase of one hundred, including Catechumens. The people begin to do something towards the support of the missionaries, which, with some more money from England (used withconomy), may, I hope, lay a foundation for the conversion of many thousand souls. After this year, the island will, I apprehend, fully support its own ministers.

" When I was at St. Eustatius last, I had an opportunity of seeing two Bermudians (men of consequence); who, when I mentioned my desire of going some time to their island to preach, gave me an invitation to their houses. Also two gentlemen of Anguilla, when on a

\* A *Johannes* is one pound sixteen shillings Sterling.

" visit

" visit at St. Kitt's, left their address at Sandy  
 " Point, on hearing of me, and expressed a de-  
 " sire that I should go there to preach. I feel a  
 " great desire that the *Grenadoes*, *Barbadoes*, and  
 " *Jamaica*, should be visited. O that God would  
 " dispose some zealous, pious young men to come  
 " here to seek and to save the wandering children  
 " of *Canaan*, many of whom are ready to re-  
 " ceive the truth! In St. *Kitt's*, I have begotten  
 " a *lawyer* in the gospel, who formerly resided in  
 " London; who had been a mocker of the truth,  
 " but was cut to the heart on hearing me preach  
 " from *Mark viii. 38.* and he is now justified. One  
 " of the searchers in the custom-house is also  
 " begotten to a lively hope, and is now a class-  
 " leader, whom, I trust, God designs for the  
 " ministry.

" I am, dear and reverend Sir, &c.  
 " WILLIAM HAMMETT."

Our preachers have also in those islands a large number of *Catecbumens*, or persons under instruction for baptism, who are not accounted members of our society. Our infant-work in *Nova Scotia* prospers also much: we have about six hundred (chiefly whites) in society, who maintain the few preachers we have there at present. In *Newfoundland* we proceed but slowly. Our great harvest in the British dominions in America, is in the West India islands, which contain, according to the exactest computation that has been made, not less than half a million of negroes, who seem to be all ready to receive the gospel. There the fields are ripe indeed: but for some years the expence will be very great, especially in supporting the mission among the poor *Carribbs* at *St. Vincent's*, the conversion of whom will be an unspeakable blessing

blessing even in a political point of view, but how much more in a religious!

O help us, my brethren, I beseech you by the love of God: have pity, have pity on those outcasts of men, the poor oppressed negroes. It is in your power to make a full compensation to them for the *temporal* distresses they endure, by enabling us to make to them in the name of the Lord an offer of *eternal* blessings. And ye well know, that "God is not unrighteous, to forget your work and labour of love which ye shew toward his name."

I am, dearly beloved in the Lord,

Your truly affectionate brother and servant,  
THOMAS COKE.

*Southampton, August 10, 1787.*

LITTLE, I think, need be added to the preceding account. Here is a glorious beginning and, I trust, it is only the beginning of those wonderful things which God is about to work upon the earth! Let all that fear him continue instant in prayer, that the whole earth may be filled with his glory.

JOHN WESLEY.





