

approved by the Bishop of London, was in 1700 sent out by the directors of the new (the English) Company for service at the factory of Hoogly in Bengal, and who ran off as soon as he got on shore. 'We understand,' wrote the authorities at Hoogly, 'he is a very lewd drunken swearing person, drenched in all manner of debaucheries.'<sup>1</sup> He must have been an exceptionally bad specimen, but there were also cases of respectable men who were nevertheless quite unsuitable: such, it would seem, were a chaplain and schoolmaster sent out to Bombay in 1669, the year in which the island passed into the Company's possession, and of whom an account is given in a letter from Surat of January 1671-2.<sup>2</sup> But, in spite of misfits, the fact remains that the directors of the East India Companies considered qualified clergy to be an integral part of their establishment; and through the eighteenth century they looked also somewhat beyond their establishment and showed themselves markedly well disposed to the missionary efforts of the S.P.C.K. in India.

The directors of the old Company, in 1691, suggested to their Board at Fort St. George, Madras, that a church should be built there for Protestant black people and Portuguese and slaves; and in the following year they wrote that they were sending out for this church two ministers who had studied Portuguese. At a much earlier date, during the Protectorate, in February 1658, the old Company had addressed a

<sup>1</sup> See *The Diary of William Hedges*, etc., edited for the Hakluyt Society by Col. Yule (2 vols., 1778-9), vol. ii, ccx.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. ii, cccxvii. What follows in the text below is either supplied from or corroborated by these volumes, which are full of information but badly in need of a new edition.