

Title:	Letter from George Cran regarding a Christian mission in India, 1803.		
Creator:	George Cran		
Dates of Material:	1803	Record Group Number:	RG 226
Summary of Contents:	<p>1 double sided, handwritten 3 page letter</p> <p>A letter to Mr. W. Smith of Aberdeen Shire regarding the plan for a Christian mission on the coast of Coromandel, India written by George Cran, on November 19th, 1803.</p>		
Physical Description / Condition:	Letter is fragile and torn in spots. It is slightly stained with age, but otherwise legible.		
Administrative/ Biographical Sketch	<p>George Cran was the son of a farmer in the parish of Forgue in Aberdeen Shire, Scotland. He became a member of the church at Huntley, Scotland where his devotion to God inspired him to become a Sunday school teacher. He subsequently became a member of the London Missionary Society. In 1801 he was sent to study at the seminary in Gosport, England where he spent two to three years. His desire was to preach Christ to the "heathens". Messrs. Ringeltaube, Des Granges and Cran were designated to work in India. No ships for the East India Company would grant passage to missionaries due to the open hostility of the government therefore they set sail from Copenhagen on April 20, 1804 and reached Tranquebar on December 5th, 1805.</p> <p>Cran and Des Granges were designated to supervise the churches in Tinnevely and they were to begin a mission among the northern Circars. This would have meant that they would have to work in two different places which would have separated them by over 500 miles. The society didn't seem to be aware of the vast hindrances that the missionaries had to face. Cran and Des Granges decided instead to work in Vizagapatam where they were welcomed by many of the European residents. They conducted English services for which they were paid a monthly salary by the governor. They also conducted services for the natives and opened a school for native children. By November of 1806 a mission house had been built and a "charity" school for Eurasian</p>		

	<p>children was opened. Cran and Des Granges were also diligently studying the native language and they began to translate the Bible into Telugu (spoken by the Hindus who live along the lower basins of the Kistna and Godaveri Rivers).</p> <p>In November of 1808 Cran was almost killed by a fever which left him severely weakened. He was only partially recovered, but accepted an invitation by the general who commanded the local district to accompany him on a journey around the province. The journey proved to be too much for Cran and he died on January 6th, 1809. He is buried at Chicacole, India. He is remembered for his successful work at Vizagapatam and his translation of the Bible. The fact that it was 27 years after the arrival of Cran before a single native was converted attests to the fact that this was a very difficult undertaking.</p> <p>The London Missionary Society was formed in 1795 in England by evangelical Anglicans and nonconformists. It is a non-denominational society and now forms part of the Council for World Mission.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">with information from <i>The Voice of God to the Churches a Sermon on the Death of George Cran, Augustus Des Granges and Jonathan Brain</i> by David Bogue and <i>The History of the London Missionary Society 1795-1895</i> by Richard Lovett</p>
Location:	Brock University Archives
Source Information:	This letter was found in a Bible donated by Anne McPherson on November 29, 2007
Subject Headings: Added Entries:	100 Cran, George 600 Des Granges, Augustus 610 London Missionary Society 610 Congressional Council for World Mission 650 Missions zIndia
Related material held at other repositories:	The School of Oriental and African Studies Library, London, England

Described by:	Anne Adams	Date:	Sept. 19, 2011
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