

# THE MISSIONARY HERALD.

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## SEVENTY-FOURTH REPORT.

VERY varied have been the events of the year, the history of which it is now the duty of your Committee to record. Amidst much anxiety, with affliction and death invading the ranks of the missionary band, and dark clouds shrouding the future of the churches of Jamaica, the Committee have nevertheless had to rejoice over the blessing that has come to many portions of their missionary field. Although human energies and life may fail, and unexpected difficulties impede the triumphs of the Kingdom of God, the Word of the Lord endureth for ever.

### FINANCES.

The accounts of the Society closed in 1863 with a balance in the Treasurer's hands of £2,723 15s. 6d., and in 1864 with one of only £8 11s. 5d. It was therefore felt by the Committee that as the expenditure for the past year had so largely exceeded the income, the whole question of Finance should be carefully considered. Very early in the year they appointed a Sub-Committee of "Ways and Means." No time was lost in preparing an estimated balance-sheet, that of the year preceding being taken as the basis of the calculation. This estimate showed a probable deficit of at least £2,000. The Sub-Committee at once addressed a communication to all the Churches in around London, proposing to meet such friends as the pastors and deacons might invite, for the purpose of prayer and conference with the officers of the Society, or one or more members of the Committee, who might be deputed to this service. This proposal was kindly met in several instances, and ultimately the pastors and deacons of these Churches met the Committee in the Metropolitan Tabernacle, on which occasion Joseph Tritton, Esq., presided. Some time having been spent in prayer, papers were read, and submitted for discussion—by Dr. Angus, "On the individual Responsibility of Christians to obey Christ's Law to Diffuse the Gospel in the World;" and by John C. Marshman, Esq., "On Organization in the Churches themselves." The

conference was followed by a public meeting in the evening, A. A. Croll, Esq., in the chair. These services were pervaded by a devout and cordial spirit, and the Committee believe that the measures adopted have not been without tokens of the Divine blessing.

The Sub-Committee subsequently gave much consideration to a proposal to divide the whole country into convenient districts, and the appointment of some one in each to undertake the superintendence thereof, visiting the Churches, animating existing organizations, forming new ones where required, and arranging for an annual public service in each Church. Their deliberations on this subject were frequent and prolonged. But the difficulties in carrying it out were found to be so great, and the probable expense so large, that it was abandoned. It is now, however, intended to communicate with the Secretaries of the various associations, requesting them to bring this subject before the pastors and delegates, and to adopt such measures as they may deem best to effect the purpose contemplated. If this be done heartily and zealously, success is sure; while the Churches will thereby be brought into more immediate co-operation with the Committee, and into more direct connection with the Mission itself.

Meanwhile several friends, impressed with the necessity of more active effort to maintain the Society's operation, had a preliminary meeting during the sittings of the Baptist Union at Bradford, in October last, and a few weeks after, another meeting was held at Birmingham, when gentlemen from all parts of the country were present. The freest expression of opinion marked these gatherings, and all who took part in the discussion seemed animated by a most earnest desire to enlarge the sphere of Mission labour, and to intensify and diffuse the Missionary spirit in the Churches. After prolonged deliberation it was, on the whole, deemed most expedient, while the Committee continued their best efforts, to devolve the work of organization in the Churches on their pastors and deacons; since it is mainly through them that the Churches can be effectually moved at all. It is only needful to say that these assemblies were not summoned by the Committee; they were called together by the spontaneous act of a few leading friends. The Committee are therefore glad to refer to them as indicating a determination in those who were present to place the Society in a better financial position, and of the revival of new life and zeal in the hearts of its friends.

In connection with these movements, the Committee record, with great satisfaction, the formation of the London Association, which promises not only to promote the spiritual interests of its members, and to extend the Denomination in the metropolis, but also to take in hand, with determined good will, the interest of the Mission in the numerous Churches composing it. They rejoice to know that the public meeting which followed its second quarterly meeting was wholly devoted to this object—the commodious chapel

in Regent's Park being filled by an audience who were evidently most deeply interested in it.

The total receipts for the year amount to £27,716 12s. 6d. and the expenditure to £30,133 12s. 6d., leaving a balance against the Society of £2,408 8s. 7d. The Committee are, however, happy to state that this adverse balance is more apparent than real, which a few remarks will make quite clear. When the Rev. C. B. Lewis—who, in addition to the pastorate of the Church at Dumdum, and other important labours, more particularly assisting in the preparation and issue of the Society's translations, has, since the death of the Rev. J. Thomas, as the Committee's Indian Financial Secretary, conducted the affairs of the Mission Press in Calcutta with distinguished ability and untiring zeal—was about to visit England to recruit his health, after twenty years of faithful toil in India, the business was handed over to the care of the Rev. J. Wenger. Though not a total stranger to this work, he was by no means accustomed to it. Mr. Lewis thought it expedient to place in the Bank of Bengal a sum of £3,000, to enable Mr. Wenger to carry on this large concern with comparative comfort and ease. But for this arrangement, which the Committee cordially approved, the "press advances," which, for this year, amount only to £1,021 10s. 4d., would have equalled those of previous years—*i.e.*, over £3,000. Such an advance would have turned the balance to the other side of the account. The simple fact, then, is, that the money is in Calcutta instead of the hands of the Treasurer.

The Committee have the satisfaction further to state that the income derived from various sources has, in almost every instance, increased, as the following instances will show. In the contributions from the Churches, the most important, perhaps, of all, the increase has been £1,328; in grants from the Bible Translation Society, and a few contributions, £105; in contributions to special objects and station funds, including the Native Preachers' Fund, contributed almost wholly by the scholars of the Sunday-schools and young people in the various congregations, £595; in the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, to which, not the wealthier Churches alone, but many of the smallest and poorest, contribute, nearly £100. The falling off for the past two years has been mainly in legacies, which have been only a little over £500. But the expression of any regret, on this account, would be exceedingly unbecoming and out of place.

A notion has somehow extensively prevailed that the interest taken by the churches in the Mission has declined, and, consequently, their contributions have declined too. As this is a mistake, it is important that it should be rectified. A brief review of the past few years will place the matter in the true light. In the year 1850 the receipts from this source amounted to £12,612, and for the following ten years they only once, in 1854, exceeded £13,000. In 1860 they were £13,836. From that time down to the present day they

have gone on increasing at the rate of very nearly £1,000 a-year, except during the period of the prevailing distress in Lancashire. Making due allowance for the increase in the number and wealth of the Churches during that period, this may not be wholly satisfactory. But taking those contributions as an indication of their attachment to the Mission, that attachment has surely not diminished. The Committee, therefore, consider the financial position of the Society to be encouraging, and that there is no solid ground for apprehension in regard to the future.

Without doubt the efforts made to raise a special fund to sustain the brethren in Jamaica in this day of bitter trial, and which will be referred to in another part of the Report, have affected the Society's current income. That effect can only, however, be temporary; and no one will regret that the Committee have interposed to prevent these brethren from being crushed by an unforeseen calamity, and by fierce denunciations and accusations, alike unjustifiable and unfounded.

The expenditure of the Society calls for no especial remark. No new fields have been entered, nor has there been any increase in the number of Europeans sent forth to the work of the Lord. Death has thinned the ranks, and the Committee can name only one accepted candidate for Mission service, a fact more to be deplored than any which they have to record.

In regard to the future, it is proper to state that the present staff can scarcely be sustained by the present income. All over India, and in most of the Colonies, the cost of living has, of late, vastly increased. Allowances which were sufficient twenty, or even ten years ago, are now found to be wholly inadequate; and if the missionaries are to be sustained, they must be better provided for. The Committee cannot any longer hesitate in taking this step. Hence they once more appeal to the Churches for renewed help and enlarged contributions.

It will be seen that the charges on House account are greater than usual. This simply arises from the fact that the Committee have not determined how much of the cost of the removal to the present premises shall be charged to the interest accruing from the principal placed in the hands of the trustees, nor have they felt themselves as yet called upon to take any action in regard to new premises. But during the coming year this subject will have their most careful consideration.

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### THE MISSIONARIES.

While last year celebrating the anniversary of the Society, the Bahamas mission was deprived of the efficient services of the amiable wife of the Rev. W. K. Rycroft, to be followed in a few weeks by the departure to his

heavenly rest of the sorrowing husband. For more than twenty years the Rev. W. K. Rycroft had very successfully preached the Gospel to the freedmen of the Bahamas. Only a few months before his decease he returned to his work after a first, and, as it proved, a final visit to his native land, receiving, on his arrival at Grand Cay, the most gratifying expressions of respect and affection from every portion of the population. In the month of July, the Rev. John Diboll was summoned to the presence of his Lord. In the Report of last year the Committee had the pleasure of announcing his departure for Sierra Leone, to take the oversight of two Baptist churches which have long existed in that colony. With the ardour that had characterized his previous labours in Fernando Po and on the Cameroons River, he entered on his new sphere. In the few months that preceded his decease, he had set the churches in order, bringing them into one communion, had baptized several converts, and was extending his usefulness in the vicinity of Free Town. Though advanced in years, he retained unusual vigour of body and mind; but was almost suddenly arrested by the fatal coast fever which has smitten down so many of our countrymen before him. He was one who counted not his life dear, so that he might win souls for God.

The Society has lost another indefatigable missionary by the decease of the Rev. L. F. Kalberer, of Patna. He died on the 29th November, to the regret of both heathens and Christians, after a missionary career of twenty-nine years. The bazaars of Patna and of the towns and villages for many miles in the district around, can testify to the simplicity, the fervour, and the boldness with which he proclaimed the way of salvation through Christ Jesus.

Others of the missionaries have been called to suffer in the persons of those most dear to them. The Rev. Robert Smith, of Cameroons, has had to mourn the decease of his excellent partner, after a short but very useful missionary life, while the brethren Lawrence of Monghyr, Anderson of Jessore, Allen of Ceylon, Martin of Barisal, and McKenna of Chittagong, have seen disease invading their homes and depriving them of the wonted assistance of their dearest companions.

Another missionary, the Rev. A. Leslie, with one exception the oldest of the Society's labourers in India, through illness and infirmity consequent upon it, has been led to resign the pastorate of the church in Circular Road, Calcutta, and to retire from the active service of the mission in which he has for forty-two years been engaged. His ministry, both among the natives and Europeans, has been greatly blessed. He carries with him into his privacy the warm affection and high esteem of the Committee, and of a wide circle of sympathizing and attached friends.

The missionary staff of the Society has been further weakened by the return to this country from China of the Rev. H. Kloekers and W. H. McMechan. The latter has entered on the work of the ministry at home.

The Society has thus lost the services of six missionaries during the year. Two only of the vacancies have been filled up. A gentleman of high attainments, the Rev. Albert Williams, has accepted an invitation to the pastorate of the church in Circular Road, whither he will proceed in the autumn of the present year ; and the Rev. E. Bate, of Regent's Park College, has been accepted for the mission in India. Beyond this the Committee have not been able to proceed ; nor can they feel justified in accepting others until the Society has secured a considerable increase in its funds.

Of the missionaries at home last year for the restoration of their health, the Revs. Thomas Evans and John Robinson have returned to India. But various stations have been deprived of the services of others. The Revs. W. Sampson of Serampore, John Gregson of Agra, Robert Robinson of Dacca, John Davey of Nassau, and W. Gamble of Trinidad, have been compelled to revisit their native land. The Committee have also renewed with pleasure their personal intercourse with the Rev. C. B. Lewis, their financial Secretary in India, and the efficient and valued superintendent of the Calcutta Mission Press, and have availed themselves of his presence and thorough acquaintance with all departments of the work in India, to review the condition of the mission, and to adopt measures for its improvement and stability.

But although the Committee are glad to see their brethren who have for years toiled in unpropitious climes to spread the Gospel of Christ, and to receive from their own lips the story of their successes, their discouragements, and their hopes, they cannot but regret the interruption thus occasioned in the progress of the Kingdom of God. In this, as in all else, it becomes them to say, "The will of the Lord be done." But they are painfully reminded that the work is one of peril ; that all who enter upon it must reckon on many sufferings, on the sacrifice of personal interests, and must not count even their lives dear to them to secure the salvation of men.

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#### GENERAL SUMMARY.

Before entering on a more particular survey of the missionary work of the year, the Committee would briefly summarize the entire foreign agency employed in connection with the Society, its general results, and the extent of its influence, so far as the returns from the stations will permit. The missions carried on under the Society's auspices are found in India, China, Ceylon, the West Coast of Africa, the West Indies, Brittany, and Norway.

The number of Missionaries and Assistant Missionaries  
employed is . . . . .

Of Native Converts as Pastors and Preachers, &c. . . . .	213
The number of Stations and Sub-Stations is . . . . .	289
In which are erected, Chapels . . . . .	162
Schoolhouses . . . . .	51
The number of Members in full communion is . . . . .	6,334
And the Candidates for Fellowship are returned at . . . . .	659
The number of Persons connected with the various Stations as Nominal Christians is estimated at . . . . .	17,177
The Day-schools supported are, in number . . . . .	72
Teachers . . . . .	109
And Scholars . . . . .	2,734
The Sunday-schools number . . . . .	70
Sunday-school Teachers . . . . .	337
Scholars . . . . . , . . . . .	2,766

These figures do not include the churches of Jamaica, nor do they take account of the multitudes that, as in India, hear the Gospel from the lips of Christ's messengers in their daily ministrations. With the members of the churches, and those here called nominal Christians—under which designation may be understood the families of converts and others who have placed themselves under regular instruction—there are from 23,000 to 25,000 persons who have been rescued from idolatry and ungodliness, and provided with the means of grace and other opportunities of mental and spiritual improvement, by the 384 brethren, European and Native, engaged.

The distribution of these numbers in the various mission fields may be seen from the following table :—

	India.	Ceylon and China.	West Indies.	Africa.	Europe.	Totals.
Missionaries and Assistant Missionaries	40	6	8	5	3	62
Native Pastors and Preachers .....	148	21	38	4	2	213
Stations and Sub-Stations .....	96	76	93	11	13	289
Number of Chapels .....	65	23	69	3	2	162
„ School-houses .....	22	15	5	9	—	51
„ Members.....	2,303	471	3,237	169	154	6,334
„ Nominal Christians .....	6,198	945	9,846	160	28	17,177
„ Day-schools .....	41	19	2	9	1	72
„ Teachers .....	70	23	2	13	1	109
„ Children in Attendance ...	1,764	558	59	339	14	2,734
„ Sunday-schools .....	28	11	23	8	—	70
„ Teachers .....	80	23	203	29	—	335
„ Children in Attendance ...	624	247	1,576	319	—	2,766
„ Candidates for Fellowship..	219	47	344	49	—	659

If, now, we add the 50,000 or 60,000 persons who, in Jamaica, look to our Missionaries for spiritual instruction, it will be seen that, in these results,

there is ample reason for gratitude to God, and that, amid all our difficulties and discouragements, there is cheering proof that of a truth, according to His promise, the Lord is with us.

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## INDIA.

By far the larger part of the Society's missionaries are labouring in India. Forty brethren, assisted by 148 native converts, are striving in various ways to lead the myriads of idol-worshippers to the service of the only true and living God. Passing over the smaller stations, the Committee select a few of the most important for detailed description.

### BACKERGUNGE.

The mission in Backergunge, conducted by the Revs. J. C. Page and R. D. Ellis, from its extent and the nature of the results, demands the first attention. The district lies to the east of Calcutta, and is a level alluvial country, intersected by very numerous rivers and watercourses, which convey the waters of the Ganges and Brahmaputra to the sea. Owing to the frequent inundations the inhabitants raise their dwellings on mounds of earth, which, for a large portion of the year, can be reached only by boats. The people are chiefly agriculturists, their principal crop being rice. The population is said to number nearly a million souls. Schools were established in the district by the Serampore missionaries in 1830, but for several years few converts were made. The missionaries now report the number of stations at twenty-six, and of native helpers at twenty-nine. The members of churches number 749, and ninety candidates for baptism await examination and approval of the churches. Upwards of three thousand persons, gathered from the ranks of idolatry and from among the adherents of Mohammed, have been brought under Christian influence and instruction. This large body of native Christians is scattered over some hundred villages, and is receiving, from year to year, constant accessions. The converts are gathered into twenty-four churches and congregations, each church having its own pastor, the whole being visited from time to time by one or both of the missionary brethren. The character of the piety of the people may be judged from the following incident:—Owing to the drought of last year, and the consequent failure of the crops, a number of them had gone from Kotwali-para, one of the worst swamps in Eastern Bengal, to cut paddy for a ryot living on the estate of an Irish gentleman. Seeing a bungalow, they thought there must be a sahib there, who, being a Christian, would keep the Lord's day. It so happened that the proprietor was one of the comparatively few who remember, in a foreign country, the customs of the land of their birth. The native Christians



requested permission to hold a service in an outhouse, but the proprietor of the estate bade them hold it in his own dwelling. There was no preacher with them, but some of them had their Bibles; so one of their number read several portions of Scripture, led the rest in praise and prayer, and fervently exhorted them to continue in the good way. A Mohammedan afterwards attacked them on some article of their faith; an hour's argument followed, and at last, the Irish gentleman reports, "they completely demolished him." To the crowd which by this time had collected about the bungalow, the Christian advocate then boldly preached the Gospel.

During the year the cholera has made fatal inroads on the Christian community, carrying off 150 persons, and among them some of the ripest and best of the people. Their last hours were such as to call forth adoring gratitude to our God and Saviour. Aradhoni was a member of the church at Soogaon. In reply to a remark of the native pastor, she said, as the hand of death touched her, "I did not become a Christian that I might be rich in this world's goods, but that I might, through the infinite grace of God and the merits of his Son, become a partaker of eternal happiness." As he left her she said, "Give me my dismissal. I am now about to depart." And thus, after a consistent Christian life of eighteen or nineteen years, she went to be with her Lord. Horichund had served Christ for some fifteen years. When the coldness of death was creeping over him, and apparently lifeless, he responded to his pastor's words by saying, "I do not fear death, since Jesus has overcome it; and as for the judgment, why should I be judged? My confidence is in the atonement of Christ." He fell asleep in Jesus with the Bible he had been reading still resting on his breast, and apparently in the act of prayer. An old disciple, Ishan by name, who for twenty years had set an example of piety to his family and neighbours, and had endured persecution for the truth, in the interval of repose from pain, thus expressed the brightness of his hope—"This pain is but for a little, soon I shall be with my Lord. With him I shall be for ever happy." Said his pastor, Motilall, "Your departure is apparently near?" "Yes," he replied, "I feel it to be so," and was adding, "The Lord said ——," when his utterance failed. He folded his arms on his breast and expired. Thus have many left behind them a most cheering testimony to the saving power and grace of the Lord Jesus.

Not all, however, are thus faithful to the Saviour. Some have fallen away, and not fewer than 78 persons have had to be separated from Church fellowship. The habits of idolatry are not immediately overcome, and the godly discipline of the Church has to be called into play to correct the aberrations of those who are unmindful of the vows they have taken upon them.

From this mission seven students were sent to the Theological Class at Serampore, and two other brethren have been devoted to the work of Scrip-

ture distribution. In pursuance of this object they have visited 337 places, and have distributed 1,515 copies of some portion of Scripture, and 738 tracts and books.

Not less active have the native preachers shown themselves in proclaiming the Gospel to the heathen. The daily journals show that for this purpose 2,349 places have been visited, and that an aggregate of 111,474 Hindus and Mussulmans have heard the message of life. In Barisal, the chief town of the district, Mr. Ellis, with his two native helpers, has preached, in addition, to nearly 12,000 Hindus, and 28,000 Mohammedans, most of them belonging to distant parts of the country. Speaking generally, the attention of these numerous auditors has been deep and serious.

The Barisal native Church, it is pleasing to know, has established a "half-pice fund," so called from each member being supposed to contribute half-a-pice, or a farthing from every rupee he earns. It amounted to £3 16s. 4d., from which the expenses of the native chapel were defrayed. The Mission box has furnished £1 8s. 9d., and the fellowship fund £14 16s. 0d. The Committee note these contributions with great pleasure, as a very gratifying feature of the progress making among the converts in liberality to the cause of Christ. They are glad to say that similar collections are being made in the other Churches of the district.

The long absence of Mr. Page in Australia, for the restoration of his shattered health, has, doubtless, delayed the addition of larger numbers to the Churches during the year. But this has been fully compensated by his return to his beloved people, to whom he is justly most dear, in excellent health, and by his success in enlisting the sympathies of the Australian Churches in Mission work. The Committee rejoice at the prospect of their Australian brethren becoming fellow-helpers in this fertile field, and that our Antipodes will have their representatives in the neighbouring district of Fureedpore, where the Committee have long anxiously desired to plant the banner of salvation.

#### JESSORE.

Lying to the westward of Backergunge, its lower portion forming the marshy tract of the Sonderbunds, is the district of Jessore. It contains nearly half a million of inhabitants. It was very early visited by the missionaries from Serampore, and a few converts were made. At present there are three missionaries engaged in the district, assisted by seventeen native brethren. The number of stations is nine. Of members in Church fellowship there are 148. The nominal Christian community is estimated at 433. One of the Churches has endeavoured, not very successfully, to carry on its own affairs. Personal strifes have much injured its progress. In other stations the Roman Catholics have created considerable obstructions but,

with few exceptions, the native Christians have remained steadfast in the truth. At Magoorah Mr. Hobbs has commenced a new station, where an orphan-school and a Sunday-school, containing both children and adults, have been most usefully begun. The latter is particularly popular, the expositions of Scripture narratives being very attractive to the people. The first baptisms—three in number—took place in July last, in the presence of a deeply-interested and large assemblage of persons, some of them of the higher classes. The converts were a father and his two sons. The father's name is Joy Chundro. He is about forty years of age, and a native of the neighbouring district of Fureedpore. His early years appear to have been spent in sin and crime. Having obtained some official appointment under Government, he was brought under the influence of a pious magistrate, from whom he received a Bengali Testament and some instruction in the Gospel. In his early interviews with the missionary he appears only to have sought official advancement. Disappointed of his aim, he left, and sought out the Roman Catholic priest. Receiving nothing but promises, he took to a wandering life, which brought upon him great privations. One morning he re-appeared at Magoorah, and flinging himself at Mr. Hobbs' feet, he cursed the pride which had driven him away, and expressed his willingness to take any kind of work that should be offered him. Employments formerly spurned, he and his son now cheerfully accepted. It became, after a time, apparent that a great change had been wrought in his moral nature. Step by step he made such advances in biblical knowledge and consistent behaviour, appeared so anxious as to his condition as a sinner, and professed such full reliance upon Jesus as his Saviour, that when he solicited baptism and union with the Church, he was gladly welcomed as a brand plucked from the burning. His eldest son had from the first shown a strong desire to be a Christian. The seed of the Word of Life appeared to fall into his heart as into ground prepared for it. The second son, a lad of fourteen years of age, and blind, with good abilities and an amazing memory, soon after his arrival exhibited the effect of the ministry of the Word upon his life. It showed itself in the restraint he put upon his temper, being naturally highly excitable and passionate, and then in his delight in prayer. "When you pray, Holodhar," said the missionary to him one day, "what do you ask God for?" In an instant he sprang to his feet, clasped together his hands, turned upwards his sightless eyeballs, and poured forth such a series of simple but beautiful and earnest supplications, "that my heart," continues the missionary, "bounded for joy. It was a happy day for us all when father and sons were baptized in the presence of about 200 persons. The magistrate lent us his tank and tent." Such was the first Christian baptism in Magoorah.

For a portion of the year Mr. Hobbs assumed the direction of an Anglo-vernacular school, which had previously been under the control of the Govern-

ment, continuing to receive a grant in aid from the Council of Education. Although it is not customary for the Committee to regard such assisted schools as a part of their missionary agency, it is mentioned here from the opportunity it has given Mr. Hobbs to bring the claims of the Gospel before the minds of persons of high social position. In the Bible class, which has sprung out of the school, about a dozen youths became regular attendants, and some thirteen Bibles have been purchased by the scholars, besides a number of smaller books. For a time, at least, the influence of Christianity has been substituted for that of mere Deism, and many have heard of Him who is the Light of the World.

The itinerating work of the mission has been, as usual, very extensively carried on, and a large distribution of the Scripture and tracts secured. Not many villages within four or five miles of the stations have remained unvisited; some have been visited a dozen times, while once a month the preachers have gone to the large markets in their vicinity, and remained for three or four days preaching to hundreds of people. One incident may be given as illustrative of the effect produced by these itineracies among the thickly-strewed villages of Bengal. A few months ago a man of the sect of the Korta Bhojas came to Khoolneah. The Korta Bhojas are a modern Hindu sect, professing to see in their Guru the god Krishna incarnate. They are also said to be no observers of caste. The native preachers were engaged at the time in preaching, and distributing the Scriptures. Seeing the New Testament in their hands, the stranger eagerly inquired the price of a copy, and immediately consented to pay the eight annas, or one shilling, asked. An interesting conversation ensued, after which the preachers proceeded to the obscure village to which the stranger belonged. They found a group of poor villagers, comprising ten or fifteen families, having in their possession three or four copies of the New Testament. Their views of the nature of Christianity were confused and erroneous, but they had fully recognized the excellence of the Gospel teaching. They affirmed that the new Shastre they had acquired was the Word of God. On account of their attachment to the views they had embraced and endeavoured to propagate, they had for years been put out of caste, and only lately had their neighbours consented to its restoration. They assured the preachers that they had not given up their belief in the Gospel, and continued to be diligent readers of the New Testament. At first they endeavoured to show the native brethren what the Book, as they understood it, taught, instead of listening to the exposition given them. Thus there is proof continually accumulating that the wide proclamation of the Gospel, and the circulation of the Scriptures, carry the truth to unknown places, and exercise a powerful influence, where missionaries, from the fewness of their numbers, can never come

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## MYMENSING AND DACCA.

For several years past your missionaries, especially the Rev. R. Bion, have diligently traversed the vast regions of Eastern Bengal watered by the mighty Brahmaputra and its tributaries. Eight millions of human beings live in this great valley. What they know of the Gospel has been communicated to them by the agents of the Society, and our latest reports show that the harvest is indeed plenteous. Labourers only are wanting to gather it in. Many months of the year are spent preaching in the numerous towns that line the banks of the rivers. Two missionaries and twelve native preachers have been thus engaged during the year. "Our native preachers and myself," writes Mr. Supper, "have been throughout the year much engaged in making known the Gospel to many thousands, in the bazaars, in the people's houses, and in our own homes." One while the preachers may be seen addressing thousands in the open air, at another they are found in the house of some zemindar, in the presence of 50 or 100 persons, holding lively conversation on the way of salvation. Hospitality and an unusual degree of respect are often shown them, and the preachers return home in high spirits at the good reception they met with, their broken voices testifying to the zeal and diligence with which they had prosecuted their work. Four or five Churches have been established, embracing about one hundred members, the first fruits, it is hoped, of the incoming that awaits the continued diligent labour of the servants of God. In Dacca itself Mr. Allen has been much engaged in controversy with the increasing sect of Brahmists, whose progress in divine knowledge leads him to hope that many of them may at length find, by faith in Christ, the fulfilment of their aspirations after the Good and the True. The obvious present effect of their inquiries is to destroy all confidence in idols, and to create a ferment of expectation that stimulates thought, and secures a welcome reception to the messengers of Christ wherever they go.

## TWENTY-FOUR PERGUNNAHS.

In the villages to the south of Calcutta there are some pleasing tokens of a religious revival. The Christian community is here somewhat numerous. In thirty villages, about 1,200 persons profess to be followers of Christ, of whom 224 are in Church fellowship. They are divided into ten churches and congregations, and fourteen native brethren exercise themselves in the ministry of the Word among them. These converts are, for the most part, very poor, and suffered much in the destructive cyclone of the previous year. The missionary, Mr. Kerry, reports concerning them, that in morality and intelligence they excel the same class of heathen around them. They love the truth. Yet are they timid, and do not seem to understand the aggressive character of the Gospel of Christ. Nevertheless, their influence on the

surrounding population is very obvious, many of whom are learning to talk *like* Christians. During the last two years an annual meeting of the Churches has been held in one of the villages of the district. The result has been most gratifying in deepening the piety of the converts, and in stimulating them to activity for the souls of others. The expenses attending these gatherings have been wholly provided by themselves, and in some of the Churches weekly offerings have been commenced for the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ. The Committee are glad to learn that the mischievous effects produced by the interference in former years of the agents of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, are likely to be removed by a cordial understanding between the missionaries of the three Societies labouring in the district. Closely connected with these Churches is the Girls' Boarding-school at Intally, which is under the care of Mrs. Kerry. The children are almost entirely drawn from the villages, whither they return on the completion of their education, carrying with them the piety and instruction they have received. Mrs. Kerry has been greatly cheered by the conversion and baptism of not fewer than ten during the past year. The sorrow experienced in the loss of her own dear child has been turned into joy, by its sanctifying effect on the children of the school. Fifty scholars are now under her charge, and the Committee most cheerfully commend her labours to the sympathy and support of the friends of the Society.

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#### DELHI.

Of the mission in Northern India the Committee select for special mention the work proceeding in and around the important city of Delhi. It was a long night of toil during which the devoted Thompson seemed to labour in vain in this centre of Mohammedan power. Few converts were made, and what good was done appeared to be obliterated during the mutiny. The burning and shining lights of Mackay and Walayat Ali were quenched in blood. On the resumption of the Mission in 1859, by the Rev. Jas. Smith, it soon became manifest that the labour of so many years was not lost. Many flocked to the sound of the Gospel, and a movement was commenced which, with some variations and drawbacks, has continued to this day. Co-operating with the two missionaries there are not fewer than thirty native agents, striving by preaching, by teaching, and by the distribution of God's word, to establish Christ's kingdom in this imperial city. The Church members in the five congregations number 168 persons, in addition to whom there are some 500 individuals who have broken with their country's gods, and are under Christian instruction. The candidates for baptism number fifty-seven, and the children in the schools are 155. A very striking feature of the work in Delhi is the

numerous prayer meetings held several evenings of every week in various parts of the city. The average attendance is given at 460, and the meetings are described as of a most edifying character. Among other means of usefulness, a room is kept open for four hours a day for the use of inquirers. It is well supplied with Scriptures, religious books, and tracts. Tracts and gospels have, also, been regularly lent out in the several bazaars, to such as are able and willing to read them, and have been changed once a week.

By an admirable arrangement the six districts into which the city is divided are daily visited for some religious duty or object, while beyond the city walls are eight suburbs, which also receive daily attention. Besides this regular work, ten different tours, for the preaching of the Gospel, have been made by the missionaries and their native assistants. The district immediately around Delhi has been mapped out into four divisions, and it is the intention of the brethren, during the coming year, to traverse these sections at least three times. The Committee cannot but be thankful for the grace given their brethren so wisely and systematically to arrange for the thorough evangelization of the region where they dwell.

It is worthy of note that it is no part of the plans of the Missionaries to segregate the converts from their countrymen. They form no Christian villages. The town Missionaries, Scripture Readers, Preachers, and members, all live among the heathen. The converts continue to follow their usual occupations, and to reside in their old localities. It is hoped that they will thus escape the moral feebleness which has ever been found to follow, when converts are removed from the natural operation of those social influences of the outer world, which are so powerful to mould and strengthen, as well as to try the character.

It can well be understood that under such circumstances the missionaries should write of one of their stations in the city—"Not a few in this locality have become thoroughly acquainted with Christianity, and the effect is not to be reckoned according to the number of Christians only. Idolatry has to a large extent been given up. An old woman on one occasion, at the close of a prayer-meeting, said: 'Before you began to come amongst us we were all superstitious, and when there were melas we went to them, taking our children, to worship Seeta, Bhowani, and Kali. I was one of the worst of them, but now I care nothing about those gods. I worship the one God, and look to him alone for protection from sickness.' At another meeting a man, who obtained years ago a Hindi Testament, said: 'I can remember the time when you could not find a family here that was not under the slavish influence of idolatry. Now you can find whole rows of houses occupied by families, not one of which is idolatrous.'"

The Church in Shadra is reported as manifesting more independence of action than any other of the station. During the greater part of the year, this

small Church of twelve members has managed its own affairs without the presence of any agent of the society. It is the only really independent Church in Delhi. The people have been thrown on their own resources, and have evidently benefited by it. They will, however, need some assistance for their school, and this it is proposed to supply.

Were space at their command, the Committee might add to the above encouraging details from the remaining portions of their mission-field in India. Other brethren have been not less faithful, nor have they toiled without reward. There is scarcely a district that has not seen some added to the Church of God. The great cause of regret is, that with openings so numerous, and prospects so bright, your Committee have been unable to seize the opportunities for usefulness afforded them.

#### THEOLOGICAL CLASS.

Before closing this portion of their report, the Committee have to record with great gratification the entire success which has followed the efforts of the Rev. Geo. Pearce to establish at Serampore a class for the training of native preachers. Twenty young men were last year members of the class, and the report of their progress and conduct is all that the Committee can desire. They have come from nearly every district of the Mission in Bengal, and afford the best hope that the Church of the future will not fail to possess men of God, in all respects, fitted by natural gifts and Divine grace, for the ministry of the Word.

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#### CEYLON.

The progress of the Mission in this beautiful island has, during the year, been most encouraging. Not fewer than sixty-eight persons have been baptized, a number very much beyond any previous accession to the Churches in a single year. Four missionaries are attached to this mission, with eighteen native helpers. At seventy-four stations, most of them situated in the depths of the forests, they preach the Word of Life. The Churches now contain 453 members, and the estimated number of nominal Christians under direct instruction is about 950, thus giving about 1,400 persons as rescued from the deadly soul-apaty of Buddhism, and brought under the regular ministry of the Gospel. The day-schools contain some five hundred and fifty scholars, and the Sunday-schools 247. The children are usually apt scholars, displaying that great precocity which is the characteristic of the children of the sun. The general diligence of the brethren may be gathered from the fact, that in that portion of the Colombo district under Mr. Allen's care, there are twenty-six services held every Lord's day, and on the week days.



forty-seven; besides teaching from house to house, and frequent gatherings in the jungle during the tours of the missionaries. Mr. Allen regards the estimate of nominal Christians as far too low, and that three times the number stated are under the influence of the Society's agents. A very commendable spirit of liberality has the last two or three years begun to show itself among the Churches, while three have established their independence of the funds of the Society.

In the district under Mr. Pigott's care, one new station has been formed. A substantial chapel, to seat eighty people, has been built, a good portion of the cost having been furnished by the people on the spot. Three new preaching stations have been opened at other places. The pastor of the Gonawelle Church, Juan Silva, has been engaged at Waragodde in controversy with a priest, a champion of the Buddhist faith. Of the result the Christian community had no need to be ashamed. Another discussion took place in the Kandy district, when the Christian advocates had to confront no fewer than seven priests. These discussions have attracted great attention; they are cases, which of late have become numerous in Ceylon, in which Buddhist priests have assailed Christianity with extreme bitterness, availing themselves of the sceptical writings of a Colenso and a Parker to stop the progress of Divine light and truth. Buddhism seems to have cast aside the apathy of ages, and the activity of its adherents shows that they think they have cause to dread the increasing power of the Gospel.

The girls' school, so long and so efficiently conducted by Mrs. Allen, has been transferred to the care of Mrs. Pigott, Mrs. Allen's health having given way, and obliged her to revisit her native land. Three young persons from this school were baptized during the year. At Kottigahawatte, two of the scholars employ their knowledge in teaching a girls' school which they have formed; it contains twenty-three scholars. A member of the Church has undertaken to collect ten shillings monthly to meet the expenses of this interesting school.

Mr. Carter continues to employ his enforced silence in the preparation of a new version of the Old Testament into Singhalese. The recent discussions with the Buddhists show the great necessity for an accurate translation, some of their objections to the Bible being founded on the incorrect translation of the version in use.

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## CHINA.

The departure of the Revs. H. Z. Kloekers and W. H. McMechan from Chefoo early in the year, necessarily greatly weakened this infant mission, and delayed its progress. Sickness, too, interfered with the move-

ments of Mr. Laughton, which, with the time lost in obtaining more healthy residences, prevented the brethren from taking the extensive tours they meditated in the district of Shantung. Mr. Kingdon has, however, found abundant opportunities for making known the Gospel to the numerous patients who have resorted to his medical skill. Mr. Laughton has daily preached to the people, and has also devoted a portion of his time to the systematic instruction of the native assistants, one of whom he especially mentions as an acceptable and zealous preacher, as an earnest student of the Word of God, and as giving him unqualified pleasure and satisfaction. The migratory population of Chefoo has had abundant opportunities of hearing the Gospel. In the sowing of the seed of the kingdom, the Mission, says Mr. Laughton, has been eminently successful. A Presbyterian missionary reports that in tours he made in the district he met with more than a hundred men who were more or less acquainted with the way of salvation, and had gained their knowledge at the mission chapel in Chefoo.

The station at Tsongkya has been visited several times by Mr. Laughton in company with the native assistant. One person has been baptized and added to the Church, and another is awaiting baptism. The visits of the missionary to this village and the neighbourhood have given much encouragement. At present it is the day of small things; but the missionaries feel their faith strengthened by the reception their message has met with, and are hopeful for the future.

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#### AFRICA.

Amid the barbarism, wretchedness, utter ignorance and vice of the uncivilized tribes on the Cameroons river, the missionaries have continued steadfastly to labour for the salvation of the perishing people, and not without signs of the Lord's presence with them. The congregations and the attendance in the schools have increased; both at Bethel Town and at Victoria there have been considerable additions to the Churches. The new chapel gradually approaches completion, and Mr. Saker, with the aid of one of the female members of his family, is hastening at the press his translation of the Word of God. Through Divine protection Mr. Saker's life has been preserved from a watery grave and in the illness that succeeded, while his fellow-labourers have been permitted safely to traverse the neighbouring rivers, and to penetrate to tribes hitherto unvisited by the messengers of peace, everywhere finding a hearty welcome and a desire for the Gospel. From the vast mountains of the Cameroons—from the numerous and populous towns that extend for many miles along the river side—from Wuri with its thousands, and

Abo with its tens of thousands—from Malimba, and Dibumbari, the high lands of Ndonga, and the tribes of Bassa and Rolli—the cry of help has come. Your missionaries are too few to supply the need. “We long for, we expect,” say the missionaries, “better and brighter days for Africa. There is, we believe, a harvest to be reaped which will far outweigh all that has been expended thereon; but there is work to be done too, and if we would have the harvest we must do the work. We want four new missionaries, and permission to employ three additional native preachers. Again we beg you to help us.” Your Committee can only make known to the Churches the earnest appeal of their brethren on behalf of these perishing multitudes. Gladly would they obey the call which summons them to the noble work of giving the knowledge of Christ’s name to those buried in Pagan darkness. Will the Churches supply both the men and the means?

The Committee have with pleasure to record the visit to Victoria of the Commodore of H.M.’s fleet on the station, and the appointment of their long-tried native friend Mr. Johnstone to be H.M.’s Consul, thus placing the settlement under the protection of the British flag. This will remove a fear that had begun to prevail, that it was the intention of the Spanish Government to lay claim to the mainland opposite to Fernando Po. Had this come to pass, there can be no doubt that the same intolerance which expelled the Mission from that island would have been exercised at Victoria. Happily this catastrophe is now entirely averted.

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#### WEST INDIES.

There is little of special interest to note in the Society’s missions in Trinidad, Hayti, and the Bahamas. The numerous Churches established in these islands have continued to enjoy their usual degree of prosperity. Notwithstanding the civil war in Hayti, Mr. Webley reports an increasing interest in the Gospel. Six persons have been baptized, and several pleasing instances of the power of the Gospel in conversion and at the hour of death have cheered the missionary, and produced an impressive effect on many witnesses. In Nassau the chapel has been materially enlarged and opened under the auspices of the Governor of the colony. The chief part of the cost—amounting to £600—has been found on the spot. The Committee are rejoiced to learn from the personal testimony of their esteemed missionary, the Rev. John Davey, that the freedmen of these islands are steadily advancing in moral character and material prosperity; by their social order, obedience to the laws, and desire for education, they show themselves worthy of the liberties they enjoy.

## JAMAICA.

The affairs of Jamaica have necessarily occupied during the year a large share of attention. The distress prevailing among a considerable portion of the population, owing partly to the severity of two or three seasons, and partly to the decadence of the agricultural and commercial interests of the island, greatly affected the resources of the Churches. The strife of political parties, which was greatly embittered by the course taken by Governor Eyre and the island press with regard to the letter of Dr. Underhill to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, added to their difficulties. At the Quarterly Meeting of the Committee, held in October last at Bradford, numerous letters were laid before them exhibiting a state of things calculated to jeopardize the very existence of the mission, and the continuance of many of the brethren at the posts they have so long and so efficiently filled. The deliberations of the Committee led them to make a further appeal to the Churches for at least an additional £1,000; but so liberally was this appeal met that the fund has reached £2,250, and enabled the Committee to meet the pressing cases of need that were brought to their knowledge. Scarcely were these measures taken than the country was startled by the announcement of those disturbances which have not yet ceased to occupy the attention of the nation. It is no part of the duty of your Committee to narrate the savage deeds which have desolated one of the finest portions of the island. But their indignation was justly roused at the public charge made by an influential organ of the press, and also affirmed by Governor Eyre in his despatch describing the measures of suppression that he had taken, that your missionaries and one of the Secretaries of the Society, were the parties to whom this lamentable outbreak of lawless violence was to be attributed, in perfect harmony with very similar conduct in the Slave Insurrection of 1832. Your esteemed Treasurer lost no time in challenging the slanderous accusations of the *Times* newspaper, while the publication of the facts soon convinced all reasonable men of the injustice and untruthfulness of the statements of Governor Eyre.

In compliance with the Resolution passed at the influential meeting of the friends of the Society held at Birmingham on the 28th November, a numerous deputation of ministers and gentlemen from the principal districts of the country waited on the Right Honourable E. Cardwell to present a memorial to Earl Russell, expressive of their opinion and earnest desire that a full and impartial investigation should immediately be instituted by the Home Government into the causes of the outbreak, and the measures taken for its suppression. This, the deputation were informed, Her Majesty's Government had resolved to do, and the nation is awaiting the Report of the Inquiry now nearly closed. At the same meeting, another resolution was passed expressing

their hearty sympathy with Dr. Underhill, and their confidence both in the purity of his motives and in the propriety of the step he took in calling the attention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the condition of Jamaica.

Following the information of the outbreak at Morant Bay, came intelligence of the direful results consequent on the proclamation of martial law, of the violent measures taken by the House of Assembly to destroy civil liberty and the liberty of the press, and the teaching of all religious bodies, except that of the Church of England, the Church of Rome, the Kirk of Scotland, and the Jews, under the plea of preserving the public worship of God from scandalous abuses, superstitious practices, and seditious purposes.

The Committee lost no time in communicating with other missionary bodies, and a conference was held on the 15th December, at Freemason's Hall, for the purpose of taking united action with respect to a measure that threatened the extinction of all missionary labours in Jamaica. Dr. Raleigh presided at the meeting. There were present gentlemen of the Independent, Baptist, Wesleyan, Moravian, and Presbyterian denominations, and a resolution was unanimously passed condemnatory of the measure proposed in the Jamaica House of Assembly. A memorial was also agreed upon for transmission to Earl Russell, urging Her Majesty's Government to refuse their sanction to *any* measure which interfered with the religious liberties of the people. Your Committee were happy to learn that the bill proposed, and also a modification of it confined in its operation to the irregular religionists of the island, were *both* dropped, and that the House of Assembly, by which these intolerant measures were entertained, and which has so long misgoverned Jamaica, had surrendered all its powers and privileges into the hands of the Crown. They cherish the sanguine hope that under new modes of administration prosperity and peace will, in the future, be secured to all classes of the population of Jamaica.

At an early stage your Committee formed a Sub-committee specially empowered to watch the course of events, and to take such steps as the exigencies of the case might require. The cruel arrest and rigorous imprisonment of the Rev. E. Palmer, of Kingston, had their immediate attention. The measures taken on the spot for his protection received their warm approval, and instructions were sent out to engage the services of George Phillippo, Esq., for his defence. A writ of habeas corpus was obtained, and after two months of cruel sufferings Mr. Palmer was released on bail. Under a law passed by the House of Assembly in its last moments, a Special Commission Court was formed, before which Mr. Palmer was indicted in February; first, for seditious language at a public meeting, held in Kingston, five months before the outbreak; and secondly, with others, for conspiracy. One indictment was quashed on the ground of the improper mode in which the jury was

empannelled. It was renewed before the same jury; a conviction was obtained, and a sentence of eight weeks' confinement passed. Up to the day of the trial the terms of the charge were unknown to Mr. Palmer. The construction both of the Court and the jury deprives the conviction of all moral weight, and the Committee are now waiting for such information as may enable them to ascertain the practicability of invalidating the entire jurisdiction and proceedings of this Special Commission. The indictment for conspiracy broke down, and, at the suggestion of the Court, was abandoned.

Concurrently with these transactions, the Royal Commissioners have been pursuing their investigations, and the Committee adopted measures to represent both the missionaries and the case of Dr. Underhill before them. Should the Committee fail to secure the vindication of their brethren by the Royal Commissioners from the unjust aspersions cast upon them by Mr. Eyre, it may become necessary to bring the matter before Her Majesty's Government, and, perhaps, before Parliament itself.

Your Committee have very anxiously deliberated on the course to be taken for the future welfare of the Mission in Jamaica. It was to be expected that these events would have a very prejudicial effect on the Churches themselves, and they are not surprised to learn that the returns of the year show a diminution in the membership of some 2,000 persons, and only 300 additions to the Churches by baptism. It is more than probable that for a few years, until the industry and social order of the community are restored to a normal condition, the missionaries will need both sympathy and support from this country. The Committee have therefore ventured to resolve that they will attempt to raise the present fund to a sum of not less than £3,000, and by grants in aid, spread over the next three years, endeavour to secure the Mission from further injury. They are strongly urged to extend the Mission by establishing a station in the district of Morant Bay. By many influential persons in Jamaica the presence of Baptist missionaries is regarded as a guarantee for peace and good order in those portions of the island where they labour. Our own brethren earnestly urge this step on the Committee. Under such circumstances the Committee have resolved to assist their missionaries to enter on this field, and to establish a station in this spot.

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#### EUROPE.

The Committee report with regret that the authorization for the opening of the chapel at Tremel for public worship, now finished for more than two years, is still delayed. Every opportunity has been seized to induce the Imperial Government to give the requisite sanction. Meanwhile the mis-

sionaries find much encouragement in their work. Early in the year Mr. Jenkins was permitted to preside at the foundation of a Union of the Baptist Churches in France. Five Churches entered into fellowship, and will doubtless find in co-operation mutual strength and blessing.

In Norway Mr. Hübert reports a gracious outpouring of God's blessing at Arendal, a place about forty-five miles from Kragerøe, his present residence, where he hopes that a church of Christ will shortly be formed. His labours have been chiefly directed to the following places:—Eidsvold, where there is a Church of fifteen members; Kragerøe, having a Church of thirty-two members; and Forsgrund, where the Church counts about fifty members, and is making much progress. At Skien a Church of fourteen members was organized on Christmas day. The members of these Churches do not all reside in the places named. Many of them live at distances more or less remote, but they form centres of light in the midst of the ungodliness and indifference to spiritual things which so sadly characterize this professedly Protestant country.

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#### CONCLUSION.

The review of the year exhibits abundant proofs of the presence and blessing of God with the Missionaries in their work. But it is also equally apparent that the means at command are utterly inadequate to meet the pressing need. Sickness and death have interrupted the labours of some; and the Committee are unable to fill up the ranks. Inviting fields lie open in all directions, and there are none to enter them. Must this always be? It is from no lack of trust in God that the Committee turn to the Churches, and beseech them to remember their Lord's command—"*Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that He would thrust out more labourers into His harvest.*" May the coming year be specially marked as one of prayer! May prayer—importunate, believing, earnest prayer—arise from all the Churches throughout the land. The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ will not turn away from the cry. It is His purpose we are seeking to fulfil. It is the object which brought His only begotten Son from heaven to earth that we desire to accomplish. In a work so great and glorious every Christian heart should long to engage. May a holy enthusiasm inspire our souls; earnest wrestling with God mark our devotions; and may our zeal be kindled at the altar of Divine love! Then God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall see His salvation.

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## THE GOSPEL IN DELHI.

BY THE REV. JAMES SMITH.

I do hope the Lord is doing a great work in Delhi among the lower castes. I think our inquirers are as numerous in the city as they were in 1860. Every evening our prayer meetings attract crowds of from fifty to eighty and a hundred people, and our city preaching is also producing a good deal of excitement. The Lord does appear to be reviving his work in this seat of Mahomedanism. We are getting our native assistants well in hand. Our plan for labour is becoming more complete, and we are able to preach, hold meetings, and visit a large number of places. Our attention is being especially given to the development of the talent in the churches, and I see some little glimmering of success. Fakeera, a member of the Pahar Gunge Church, has long resided at Allygunge, and so successful have his disinterested labours been, that the people not only assist him with some support, but are proposing to build a place of worship. Jaggooa, another member and a shoemaker, resides at Bullubgurh, and, like Carey of old, he not only makes shoes, but teaches ten or twelve children, and preaches the Gospel. There are several other scattered brethren besides Subha Chund, of Rona, who are labouring disinterestedly for the spread of the Gospel. I think we are gradually seeing our way to the withdrawal of our agents from the churches at Pahar Gunge and Shahdra. This is the only way to render them independent; for we find that so long as a paid agent of the Society remains among them he is sure to act as pastor, and they look to him and lean upon him. I need not repeat that we are as much alive as you can be to the absolute necessity for independent action in the native churches, before a solid foundation can be said to be laid for an extensive spread of the Gospel. We intend building no more native chapels, and paying no more native pastors. Our whole paid staff of labourers shall be evangelists.

The school is prospering, and some apparatus is much wanted. We have broken through the caste system that prevails, not only in the Government College, but in the College of the S. P. G. Brahmans, Mussulmans, Chumars, Bunyas, and Christians sit on the same forms, and very well the boys appear to be progressing. We teach both Vernaculars and English, making proficiency in the former a condition of entering the classes of the latter.

I hope we may be able to get a girls' school at work under a native Christian woman, but it will be a difficult task without a lady superintendent.

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