

Our Young People

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THE C. E. TOPIC—June 26.

BY AMOS R. WELLS.

SIGNS THAT INDIA IS BECOMING CHRIST'S.

Psalm 22: 22-31.

Dr. Miller, the veteran missionary, the head of the Madras Christian College, has recently spoken with great confidence regarding the success of missions in India. He says: "Without fear of contradiction from anyone who knows the facts, I affirm that the influence of missions is felt to-day through the length and breadth of Southern India in every class from the highest to the lowest. I affirm, further, that there is a great and growing reverence for Christ, even among conservative and aristocratic Hindus."

Dr. Charles Cuthbert Hall was the last Huskell lecturer in India. On returning from that work, he was asked his opinion regarding missionary progress in the empire. He said he saw no sign that Hinduism was weakening its hold on the people. "Expensive temples are being built. Money is pouring into their treasuries. The throngs of worshippers at idol shrines continue. But," he went on to say, with emphasis, "while Hinduism as an organized system shows no weakening, the influence of Christianity grows from day to day. Its prestige in India steadily advances. The converts multiply in a ratio shown by no other religion."

Dr. Hall thinks that one of the greatest forces that will work toward the winning of India are the thousands of famine orphans whom the missionaries have rescued and are educating as Christians. The children are devoted to these noble friends, and when they grow up, they will be a mighty power for Christ in the land. This work for the orphans must be supported with all liberality by the churches.

The latest statistics of growth in India take account of the magnificent revival in the northwest provinces—a revival equal to the four or five other outpourings of the Spirit in great power that have blessed different portions of the land. The Protestant communities of India (church members and adherents) are now reckoned as numbering 1,100,804 in a population of 300,000,000. Ninety-three missionary societies are at work in India, with 3,836 missionaries and 23,000 native helpers. William Carey and his lonely little company, one hundred and ten years ago, what would they have thought if they could have seen this army of valiant soldiers that

was to come, winning India for Christ! India is the key to Asia. Those that study the history of the mighty empire know how near it came to falling under the permanent rule of Mohammedans. Later, it was in equal danger of yielding to the Roman Catholic rule of France. Only a succession of seemingly slight and certainly providential events turned first the commerce of the country and then its government into the strong Protestant hands of Great Britain. The British have been the saviors of India. Under their firm, wise rule cruel barbarities and degrading superstitions are gradually falling away, and the missionaries of the cross are given protection and encouragement.

Therefore the wonderful providences of the past, the opportunities and invitations of the present, and the good omens for the future, all combine to urge the Christian churches to pour into India unstinted money and men. For this is the critical time, and a dollar or a man is worth more now than a hundred dollars or a dozen men a decade hence.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

Again we publish the list of pledges given at our League last year. Those names which have an asterisk (*) opposite have paid their pledges in full. Those marked (?) only partially paid, and others have paid nothing.

We will shortly publish this list again, but hope to be able to mark * opposite every name.

*Fredericton Y.P.S.C.E.,	\$50 00
*Woodstock Y.P.S.C.E.,	50 00
*Marysville Y.P.S.C.E.,	50 00
St. John (West) Y.P.S.C.E.,	40 00
St. John (Waterloo St.) Y.P.S.C.E. ?	
Gibson Y.P.S.C.E.,	40 00
Salisbury Y.P.S.C.E.,	20 00
Beaver Harbor Y.P.S.C.E.,	15 00
Bear Island Y.P.S.C.E.,	10 00
St. John (E.) Mission Band,	10 00
Rev. L. A. Fenwick,	5 00
Rev. A. D. Paul,	5 00
Rev. F. A. Currier,	5 00
*Miss Lulu Vince,	5 00
*T. A. Lindsay,	5 00
Miss J. J. Robinson,	3 00
Miss Grace Keirstead,	2 00
*Miss Maud Slipp,	1 00
*Miss Grace Patterson,	1 00
Miss Jennie Allen,	1 00
*Miss Gertrude Hartley,	1 00
Miss Jessie Slipp,	1 00
Mrs. Estabrooks,	1 00
George Bolster,	1 00
W. O. Keirstead,	1 00
Mr. Dakin,	1 00
Mrs. McNichol,	1 00

T. A. LINDSAY,

Treasurer.

Woodstock, N. B., June 15, 1904.

CONCERNING MISSION WORK.

Protab Chandra Mozoomdar, the head of the Brahmo Somaj of India, has given up the attempt to found a universal religion. He claimed much for his eclectic religion. He sought to combine the best elements of the religions of India and Christianity.

This new religion "denied" the incarnation of the Deity; affirmed that divinity dwells in every man, more in some than in others, witness, Moses, Mahomet, Jesus Christ; that salvation came gradually by controlling the passions, repentance, by the study of nature, good books, by good company, and by solitary contemplation. Man was affirmed to be his own Saviour.

Mozoomdar has seen his vision perish, and just before he fled to the

Himalayan mounts, he said, "The society of man is full of vanity; the rich are so vain or selfish, the poor are so insolent or mean; the religious are so exclusive; the sceptical so self-sufficient, it is best to be away from all."

A missionary explained to a gathering how he came to enter the mission field. He said: "In coming home one night, driving across the vast prairie, I saw my little boy John hurrying to meet me. The grass was high on the prairie, and suddenly he dropped out of sight. I thought he was playing, and was simply hiding from me, but he didn't appear, as I expected he would. Then the thought flashed across my mind, 'There is an old well there, and he has fallen in.' I hurried up to him, reached down in the well, and lifted him out; and as he looked up in my face, what do you think he said? 'O papa! why didn't you hurry?' These words never left me. They kept ringing in my ears until God put a new and deeper meaning into them, and bade me think of others who were lost, of souls without God and without hope in this world; and the message came to me as the message from a Heavenly Father, 'Go and work in my name.' And then from that vast throng a pitiful, despairing pleading cry rolled into my soul as I accepted God's call, 'Oh! why don't you hurry?' That cry was always in Paul's ears."

Foreign missionary enterprise was never so aggressive nor so successful as it is at this moment. Of all the church boards that are operating abroad, it is difficult to say which one is doing the best and the most work. The Presbyterians alone are sending out sixty-five new missionaries this year, seven to go to Africa, fourteen to China, nine to India, five to Japan, six to Korea, nine to Persia, four to the Philippines, two to Siam, and several as yet unassigned. It is probable that other denominations are doing as well in proportion to their numbers and wealth. It is now, as always, noticeable that those churches which are doing most for the heathen are doing most for the non-Christian population at home. On the contrary, those people who cavil most at foreign missionary effort are apt to be those who do the least toward support of the gospel at their very door.

I do not ask you to pity the heathen. Pity is a weak thing that spends itself in tears and then forgets the object of it. But I do ask you with all the strength of my heart that you simply treat Jesus Christ right. Is it right? I submit to you that it is not right to receive eternal life at those scarred hands, and then give him the spare change we happen to have left after we have supplied our luxuries. I submit it is not right to receive heaven at the price he paid for it and then give him the odds and ends, the convenient service, the things that cost us nothing. My friends, the crumbs that fall from your laden table are not enough, and they will not do to meet the need of the world that gropes in its ignorance, in its blindness without God. You have no right to crucify the Lord Jesus Christ afresh upon the cross of your convenience.

To those who doubt whether Christianity is making any progress in India we commend the census of 1901, the figures of which are now being published. Travancore is the largest of all the Native States in the Madras Presidency. It is a little smaller than Massachusetts,

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and has a population of 2,952,157. Of these, 697,389 are of the Christian faith, or 236 out of every 1,000 of population. During the last decade the Hindus have decreased 327 in each 10,000, while the Mohammedans have gained 25 and the Christians 302. In ten years the Protestants have increased from 44,792 to 88,590, or 97.8 per cent; the Syrians from 186,782 to 226,619, or 21.3 per cent, and the Roman Catholics from 295,337 to 377,500, or 27.8 per cent.

When Bishop Thoburn went to India, thirty-eight years ago, a European gentleman pointed out to him a brick pillar, and said, "You might as well try to make a Christian out of that pillar as out of one of these people." To-day there are in India nearly three million native Christians, and among them are doctors, lawyers, judges, editors, teachers, and business men.

END OF HEATHENISM.—Bishop Thoburn relates the following: "Bishop Foster one visited a beautiful temple in India. He asked the attendant how long it would all last. 'Not long,' he said. 'Why?' asked the bishop. And the attendant, lifting his eyes to the southwest and scanning the whole horizon, uttered the one word, 'Jesus.' May God hasten the prophetic day!"

INDIA'S GREAT SACRED RIVER.—Of the great rivers of India none can compare in sanctity with the Ganges or "Mother Ganga," as she is affectionately called by devout Hindus. From her source in the Himalayas to her mouth in the Bay of Bengal, every foot of her course is holy ground, and many of the other sacred rivers of India borrow their sanctity from a supposed underground connection with her waters. Ganga herself is described as the daughter of the Himalayas, who is persuaded after infinite solicitation to shed her purifying stream upon the earth. At the present day, the six years' pilgrimage from the source of the mouth, and back again, is performed by many. To bathe in the Ganges, especially at great stated festivals, will wash away the stain of sin, and those who have thus purified themselves carry back bottles of the sacred water to their less favored relations.