

About the beginning of this century Mr. Haldane, a wealthy Scottish gentleman, sold his beautiful estate, and was just about to sail for India, hoping to be permitted to labour as a missionary, when the Directors, hearing of it, refused him a passage in any of their ships, and absolutely forbade his going at all. In 1805 the Rev. Henry Martyn, a most devoted young man, full of missionary zeal, in the hope of being able to do something for the heathen, applied for, and obtained, an appointment as one of the Company's chaplains, and though he died before the restrictions on preaching to natives were annulled, he found many opportunities of teaching the way of salvation, and did much good service in assisting Dr. Carey in the work of translating the Scriptures into Hindi and Persian ; and his short but useful life was so Christ-like that his memory is still cherished in the hearts of those who share his faith and zeal.

In 1812 Dr. and Mrs. Judson, well-known American missionaries, landed in India, intending to settle there, but were subjected to the harshest treatment and ordered to leave the country at once. This cruel usage led, in the providence of God, to two important results. First, the Judsons, with much difficulty, succeeded in securing a passage in a little vessel sailing across the Bay of Bengal to Burmah, where they established and long carried on a most successful mission ; and, second, the treatment they and others had received roused such a feeling of indignation among Christians in England that no fewer than 900 petitions, very largely signed, were sent to Parliament, and the mission cause was defended with such success by Mr. Wilberforce, a noble Christian statesman, that the Company's charter was changed, and the introduction of the Gospel legally sanctioned by the British Government. From that time missionaries were tolerated by the Company, but still everything was done to hinder rather than to help them, while at the same time heathen rites were encouraged and helped from public funds.

It was not till the great Indian Mutiny of 1857, and the abolition of the East India Company in the following year, that all this was changed and full civil and religious liberty secured both to the missionaries and their converts. More recently still, the great debt which India owes to the early missionaries who laboured so hard and faithfully, as well as to those—more than 500—now engaged in the work, has been acknowledged by the