

THE CANADIAN Missionary Link.

CANADA

In the interest of the Baptist Foreign Mission Societies of Canada.

INDIA

VOL. II., No. 2.]

"The Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising."—Is. lx. 3.

[Oct., 1879.

The Canadian Missionary Link.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT TORONTO.

Communications to be sent to Mrs. M. Freedland, Box 8, Yorkville, Ont. Orders and remittances to be sent to Miss J. Buchan, Box 8, Yorkville, Ont.

Subscription 25c. per annum, strictly in advance.

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For the LINK.

INDIA.

A cry from a far away country
Is thrilling my soul with pain,
And can ye not hear it, my sisters?
O must it entreat in vain?

It comes from the region of darkness,
From souls that are lost in sin;
And closer and closer is spreading
The mighty Death Angel's wing.

His shadow is dark as the midnight,
Encircling the young and old;
The poisonous breath of his pinion
Is fanning their heart's blood cold.

O hasten, ye ransomed, to carry
To India's darkened shore,
The blood of the crucified Saviour
And sprinkle it o'er each door.

The Angel shall see and pass over,
His shadow shall leave their land,
And souls from that far-away country
Will meet us at God's right hand.

The Bangalore Conference.

There will probably be some notice of the Bangalore Conference in all the other papers of our denomination in Canada, and therefore I need not go into many details in this letter. A General Missionary Conference was held at Allahabad some six or seven years ago; but twenty-one years had elapsed since the last South India Missionary Conference, which was held at Ootacamund. Bangalore was chosen on account of its pleasant climate I suppose. It is more than 3000 feet above sea level, and though rather warm in April and May, becomes delightfully cool after the first rains in June. During the meeting of the Conference there, the weather was all that could be desired.

The Conference opened on Wednesday the 11th June at 10 a.m. with Bishop Sargent of the Church Mission Society in the chair. Papers and discussions on the various methods of evangelistic work among the people, and on the recent large accessions to the Christian church in India occupied the whole of that day. On the next day, Thursday, the subject of "Educated Hindus," their attitude towards their own religion and towards Christianity, and the best means of reaching them, was discussed. "Higher Education as a Christianizing agency" was the question that occupied the latter half of Thursday. On Friday some points in regard to "Middle and Lower Class Education" were pre-

sented in two papers, after which there was a discussion on the subject.

The programme for Friday afternoon would have awakened the most interest among the members of the Circles, if any of them had been present. The subject was "Female Education" and this was divided into two parts; (1) "Day Schools for different classes: Their progress and present condition," and (2) "Zenana Teaching: Its extent and value; how best conducted. Is local agency sufficiently utilized?" Two papers were read on each of these sub-divisions, those on "Day Schools" being written and read by a native preacher in the Free Church Mission at Madras and a missionary of the C. M. S. in Tinnevely who has been engaged along with his wife in this work of Female Education for some years. The native brother gave some account of the progress of the work in Madras in connection with the Free Church Mission. He stated that last year there were 1071 pupils, paying Rs. 2175 in fees. Mr. Lash, the C. M. S. missionary mentioned above, gave a very interesting account of his own efforts, chiefly in connection I believe with a Training Institution which exists in Tinnevely. He spoke of the great usefulness of the girls when educated, and sent out to the villages as teachers. During the course of the training if they find any girl who gives no promise of usefulness they send her home. Some one asked who took care of the girls when they went to villages to teach. Mr. Lash replied that as a rule their own husbands took care of them. In some few cases an old grandmother or some other aged female relative was sent along. He considered the girls' schools conducted by these young women one of the best means for bringing the Gospel before the caste people of the villages. He related one instance where great opposition had to be encountered at first. It so happened that an idol procession passed along the street where the house he had hired was situated, and the caste people were so annoyed at the idea of a Christian school being started in the place, that the house was burnt down. After considerable difficulty he succeeded in renting a mere shed, which he promised to rebuild in case it should be burnt down like the house. There the teacher was left, and in a short time by her kindness, and the spirit of love she manifested, she soon succeeded in inducing many of the caste people to send their girls to the school.

The papers on "Zenana Teaching," were from the pens of lady missionaries, but were read by gentlemen. One was by Miss Blandford of Trevandrum in Travencore. In giving a general account of Zenana work in that state, she spoke particularly of the interest that some of the ladies of the royal family of Travancore take in the work and in the Bible itself.

On Saturday some papers were read on "Sunday Schools and Bible Classes," and an interesting discussion followed. Some of the chief questions that occupied the remaining days of the Conference were in regard to the native churches and native ministers. The meeting was considered a great success.

Cocanada, 4th July, 1879.

JOHN CRAIG.

"India asks, 'Who is Christ?'"

NOTES OF LECTURE OR ADDRESS BY BABOO KESHUB CHUNDER SEN, DELIVERED AT CALCUTTA.

(Extracted from FRIEND OF INDIA, dated April 25th, 1879.)

I am not a Christian; none of the numerous sects into which the Church of Christ is divided would allow my creed to be identified with its own. I have not been nurtured on a Christian lap, nor have I been brought up under Christian teachers. The country in which I dwell is not a Christian home. I am deficient in Biblical knowledge, nor am I skilled in exegesis. Yet must I speak of Christ. My love of Christ constrains me to speak of Him. If any other apology were needed, I would invite your attention to India's earnest and impassioned solicitations. Most eagerly and most earnestly she asks—"Who is Christ?"

For is not a new and aggressive civilisation; winning its way day after day, and year after year, into the very heart and soul of the people? Are not Christian ideas and institutions taking their root on all sides in the soil of India? Has not a Christian Government taken possession of its cities, its provinces, its villages: with its hills and plains, its rivers and seas, its homes and hearths, its teeming millions of men and women and children? Yes! the advancing surges of a mighty revolution are encompassing the land, and, in the name of Christ, strange innovations and reforms are penetrating the very core of India's heart. Well may our fatherland sincerely, earnestly ask, "Who is this Christ?"

Who rules India? What power is that that sways the destinies of India at the present moment? You are mistaken if you think that it is Lord Lytton in the cabinet, or the military genius of Sir Frederick Haines in the field, that rules India. It is not politics, it is not diplomacy, that has laid a firm hold of the Indian heart. It is not the glittering bayonet, nor the fiery cannon, that influences us. . . . Armies never conquered the heart of the nation. No! If you wish to secure the attachment and allegiance of India, it must be by exercising spiritual and moral influence. And such, indeed, has been the case in India. You cannot deny that our hearts have been touched, conquered, and subjugated by a superior power. That power is Christ! Christ rules British India, and not the British Government. England has sent us a tremendous moral force in the life and character of that mighty prophet to conquer and hold this vast empire. None but Jesus, none but Jesus, none but Jesus ever deserved this bright, this precious diadem—India; and Christ shall have it.

India is unconsciously imbibing this new civilisation, succumbing to its irresistible influence. It is not the British army, I say again, that deserves honour for holding India. If to any army appertains that honour, that army is the army of Christian missionaries, headed by their invincible Captain, Jesus Christ. Their devotion, their self-abnegation, their philanthropy, their love of God, their attachment and allegiance to the truth, all these have found, and will continue to find, a deep place in the gratitude of our countrymen. It is