

missionary and become more approachable, and I am inclined to think that the Christian influence makes itself noticeable in their general appearance. At first they are often greatly disinclined to learn the Christian lessons, but it seldom occurs that they utterly refuse to give their interest to the Christian instruction. On the contrary, the heathen children often shamo the Christians by their animated answers. And how touching it is, when these children, with their hands laid over their eyes, join in the school prayer, and with their Christian fellow-pupils repeat 'Our Father who art in heaven'. It is certain, that here many a seedcorn is sown, and even though these children, forced to it by their parents, continue to bedaub their foreheads with the ashes, marking them as votaries of Vishnu or Siva, at least Christianity is no longer a strange thing to them, and the folly of heathenism no longer unknown; and while in general it is the women who cling most tenaciously to heathenism, even when the men are careless of it, it cannot but be that such heathen girls, brought up in Christian schools, will in later life be much more cordially affected towards Christianity."

Herr Gehring brings a serious charge against the Roman Catholic missionaries of South India, which ought to be looked into, for it is either a grievous calumny or a crushing accusation, "In the surrounding Roman Catholic congregations it is customary for girls, before their marriage, to grow up without any manner of instruction. They know about as much of Christianity as a newborn child. When marriage seems to be impending, they are sent a few weeks to the catechism class, and there learn by rote the so-called *mantrams*, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ave Maria."

Referring to the accompanying table, which shows that in forty-five years the number of Tamil Christians connected with the Lutheran mission has risen from 1,400 to 14,000, the *Missions-Blatt* exclaims: "What are our 14,000 Christians compared with the 14,000,000 Tamils who are yet heathen? How dark is still the night of heathenism in those millions of heathen souls!" Yet the rate of increase—tenfold in forty-five years—is most gratifying. Of these rates of increase, the vital factor in the question, Canon Taylor, in his article, "The Great Missionary Failure," seems to take no account whatever. He computes how many thousand years, at the present absolute annual increase, it would require to overtake even one year's addition to the population. But he entirely passes over the fact, shown by Sir William Hunter, to whom he refers again and again, that from 1872 to 1891 the population increased 11 per cent., and the native Christians 64 per cent. At that rate it will not take a geological æon to do something effectual for India. An eminent Semitic scholar has remarked to me that accuracy is a quality which Canon Taylor never came near. That may explain his saying that Sir William Hunter allows half a million Hindus as eligible material for present missionary effort, whereas he allows *fifty millions*!

The *Missions-Blatt* gives one of the oldest missionary prayers known. It was found written on the first page of the first church book of Tranquebar, of 1707, written by one of the earliest missionaries. It is as follows:

"O thou exalted and majestic Saviour, Lord Jesus Christ! Thou Redeemer of the whole human race! Thou who through thy holy apostles hast everywhere, throughout the whole world, gathered a holy congregation out of all peoples for thy possession, and hast defended and maintained the same even until now against all the might of hell, and moreover assurest thy servants that thou wilt uphold them even to the end of the world, and in the very last times wilt multiply them by calling many of the heathen to the faith! For such goodness may thy name be eternally praised, especially also because thou, through thy unworthy servants in this place, dost communicate to thy holy word among the heathen thy blessing, and hast begun to deliver some souls out of destructive blindness, and to incorporate them with the communion of thy holy Church. Behold, it is thy word; do thou support it with Divine power, so that by thy power many thousand souls may be born to thee in these mission stations, which bear the names of Jerusalem and Bethlehem, souls which afterwards may be admitted out of this earthly Jerusalem into thy heavenly Jerusalem with everlasting and exultant joy. Do this, O Jesus, for the sake of thy gracious promise and thy holy merit. Amen."

The *Journal des Missions Évangéliques*, in remarking upon the greater