

## CHRISTIAN WORK IN INDIA.

Sir William Hunter, K. C. S. I., who is so often quoted as the highest authority on civil and political matters in India, has recently added to his testimony in reference to the work of missions in the Indian Empire. In an address before the British Baptist Missionary Society he speaks as a layman, whose work in India has been altogether of a secular sort, but he affirms that the missionary work is one of the greatest and best movements which at that present moment is going on in India. "It has been rich in results in the past, and it is fraught with incalculable blessings in the future." In enlarging upon this statement Sir William dwells upon the fact that the Christian work in India has passed the stage when it was wholly dependent upon foreign missionaries. "The Indian native Protestant Christians have now grown up into an Indian native Protestant church. They have their own pastors, numbering 575, men ordained in one body or another of the ministry. They have also a body of 2,856 qualified lay preachers, natives born in the country, educated in the country, working in the country, for the welfare of their own countrymen. The native Protestant church in India has ceased to be an exotic, and if the English were driven out to-morrow they would leave a Protestant native church behind them. While the Protestant Christians in India numbered about half a million there were nearly 200,000 pupils in Protestant mission schools. This is an immensely significant fact; significant of missionary zeal in the present, but still more significant of Christian influence in the future."—*Missionary Herald*.

## LEARN TO FORGIVE.

Learn to forgive. Do not carry an unforgiving spirit with you through all your life. It will hurt you more than any one else. It will destroy the happiness of many around you, yet its chief feeding ground will be found in your own heart. You hate your neighbor. Yonder is his dwelling, one hundred and fifty yards away. You pass by a wood fire, you pluck a half consumed brand from it, flaming and gleaming, and thrusting it under your neighbor's dwelling to burn it. Who gets the worst of it? You find your garments on fire, and your own flesh burned before you can harm your neighbor. So is he who carries an unforgiving spirit in his bosom. It stings his own soul like an adder shut up there. I know of some who are calling themselves Christians, who are miserable because of their own revengeful-

ness. Forgive your enemies, and get down on your knees and pray for them, and salvation will come into your own soul like a flood. "Father, forgive them." Sweet prayer and a blessed example.—*Central Methodist*.

## A CHANCE WORD.

Who can estimate the value of a chance word, in the sense in which there is such a thing as chance? Upon the silence occasioned by the sudden stopping of a street car there fell these words:

"So long as you can contribute to the pleasure, happiness, or comfort of any human being, you are of importance in the world, and no longer."

Whatever may have been the object of these words, the thought reached the hearts of a dozen or more passengers, and it was interesting to note the changed expression on some listless faces. In utter unconsciousness of any effect of her words, the lady from whose lips they fell passed out into the street. Perhaps in the great day it may be her happiness to know that the Lord then used her tongue for a blessing to some heart which had as yet failed to comprehend the meaning of its life-struggle; for the truth she emphasized was a truth which all of us need to realize. Not our personal enjoyment, nor yet our seeming success in life, but our part in God's plan for others is the measure of our importance in the world.

## UNSPOKEN WORDS.

"It is impossible but that offences will come." Every day brings its provocations, its perplexities, its misunderstandings. Irritations arise; frictions make their appearance; hurts are received. How hard it is amid all these conditions to guard one's tongue, and leave unspoken what is best covered by silence!

A mosquito bite may, if properly cultivated, develop into an ulcer. Keep the skin thoroughly abraded, sprinkle on a little acid, touch it with minute articles of poison, and one may have a canker or a gangrene. The body will soon discharge its impurities into that sunken place, and help convert it into an open sewer. But let a mosquito bite alone, or apply a little sweet oil or ammonia, and it soon disappears, leaving no trace.

A little wound in the spirit may be cultivated until the whole nature is infected. "A soft answer turneth away wrath." "Gentle silence prevents untold trouble." "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.—*Christian Advance*.