

MISSION FIELD.

CALCUTTA.

The Anniversary of the Oxford Mission in Calcutta was kept on the Festival of the Epiphany. There was a service in the Chapel at nine a.m., and a breakfast afterwards. The Bishop was celebrant, assisted by his Chaplain the Rev. H. O. Moore. The choir, a very efficient one was formed entirely of Bengal's boys, and the music was Gregorian. Before the Nicene Creed the Rev. C. W. Townsend was admitted to the office of Superior of the Brotherhood, until the will of God shall be declared concerning the late Superior, the Rev. E. F. Willis. The Bishop himself asked the solemn questions, and then formally admitted him. After the creed the Bishop gave an address. He referred to the admission five years ago of the first members and their Superior to their respective offices. These five years had been an eventful time to the Church in India. The Oxford Mission had introduced a new and vigorous force into the work in Calcutta, and there had been real results, though without much outward show. Of the first members one, Mr. Argles, had been called to his rest. Mr. Willis had been so far laid aside that as far as we can judge his work here is forever over. One was vigorous and earnest, full of fire and zeal, the other delicate and retiring, but exercising a wonderful personal influence over all those with whom he was brought in contact. And these two men were bound up in each other. They learnt the one on the other, they derived strength from mutual contact. The one who has been spared to us may yet return, though this is more than we can venture to hope, but as it is his brother's daily prayer that he should return, we have left the door open for him to do so. Some are inclined to be disappointed with the work. But we cannot doubt that God is with us, and He often works in ways which differ greatly from our anticipations. There is much which must be disintegrated in India before the seed can take root in such a soil. But the rock of superstition is yielding and prejudice is giving way. Our work is preparation, and the preparing of ourselves to do his will. Nine years residence in this country has convinced us that God is really working here, and with great rapidity. At the breakfast an excellent address was given by Mr. Townsend, in which he said: "We represent the Missionary aspect of a great university. We must combine the intellectual side of the work with missionary zeal for we have to speak of the Logos, the Word of God, as that before which man must lay all his reason. There are many hopeful signs. Hinduism is giving way, and its place will not be taken by Brahmanism or any other new religion, for no such religion can stand against Christianity.

The annual bathing in the Ganges took place on the 22nd, at Bilnoor, near Cawnpore. Men, women and children, mendicants, Hindu asce-

tics, and merchants with miscellaneous goods came from distant parts of the country, to bathe on either side of the river. Mr. Biswas says: I also was there, not to feast my eyes, but to speak a word or two regarding the life of Christ. Some were come for the religious ceremony, some to buy or sell, or to combine pleasure with business. The crowd was increased on this occasion by the opening of the new railway. During the Meta there were frequent trains to and fro. Mr. Biswas spoke to several persons (villagers) about Christ's sayings and doings, pointing to Him as the true Avatar or Incarnation of God. He spread his blanket under a mango tree, and sat on it cross legged in Hindu style, and many passers by came to hear what he had to say. He spoke on the decalogue and on Christian doctrine. The Fourth Commandment was the only one which they could not appreciate. They confessed that the religion of their ancestors could not satisfy their spiritual wants, but were not yet prepared to confess the truth of Christianity. He did not give away portions of the Scriptures, on the ground that mere distribution does no good, as he had read in one of Dr. Pusey's sermons.

THE Rev. J. P. Smitheman in a letter to the *Indian Churchman* says: Ganhati has the oldest Church in Assam; Christ Church was built in 1847; Tezpur Church was erected in 1848, and two years later Debrooghur; Bengbari in 1875. These are the only churches in the Assam Valley. Three of the districts of the 'sleepy hollow of Assam' are without consecrated churches. The American Baptists have had a mission at Gamhati for over thirty years, with about 700 converts. The Welsh Calvinists are active in the Khasia Hills, where they have baptized over 2,000 and have over 3,000 adherents. This is the most successful mission in the province; the people are free from the trammels of caste, and the field has been well supplied with missionaries since its commencement thirty years ago. At the present time there is a staff of seven European missionaries. It is possible among the Khasias to have mixed schools, as well as among other hill tribes, which is impracticable among Hindus and Mahomedans. In 1863 the Rev. W. Ayerst, chaplain of Ganhati, wrote a pamphlet advocating a mission to the Garos, but the Church lost the opportunity, and the American Baptists took up work there, and have now 900 members with six native pastors. The men of the Garo tribe picked up a tract at Ganhati. They read it and sought further instruction and became firm believers. They left their police employment and went and made known to their own people the glad tidings of salvation through Jesus Christ. These two men are now native pastors in the mission. After thirty-five years work the missions of the Church of England in Assam have not a single native pastor. This is partly owing to the paucity of its staff, as there are only two missionaries for

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