

The Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist Missions in India are being confronted with a most difficult problem. It grows out of the marvellous hold which Christian truth is taking upon the depressed classes throughout India, and the question is, what is to be done with these vast thousands? How shall they be taught and elevated? Of course, they cannot be supported by the missions, and in their deep poverty it is difficult to see how they can help themselves. It looks as though the industrial side of missions must come to the front in India in the near future.

Mission work in the islands of the Pacific has always been full of interest. Practically, the islands are apportioned in different fields among Protestant missionary societies, and there is little overlapping. Of course, Roman Catholicism comes in as a dividing element whenever it can. The Hawaiian Islands were evangelized by the American Board; Fiji, the Friendly Islands, Samoa (in part), New Britain, New Ireland, Duke of York's Group, and New Guinea, by the Wesleyans. The London Missionary Society have done good work in the Society Islands, Samoa, the Loyalty and Harvey Groups and New Guinea. The Presbyterians have charge of the New Hebrides, while the Episcopalians have for a special field the Banks, Santa Cruz and Solomon Islands.

A vernacular Bible and a vernacular ministry are the two indispensable agencies in evangelizing a people. Without the first, there is no standard of appeal. Among barbarous races, long ages of ignorance, cruelty and vice have so blunted the conscience that it has to be created anew, and this can be done only by bringing men face to face with the perfect law. Without the second, the people cannot hear in their own tongue, wherein they were born, the wonderful works of God; for, no matter how diligently the foreigner may apply himself to the study of the language of a people, there is always much that distinguishes it from the "mother tongue." The late Bishop Patteson used to say that "no Church can take root without a native clergy."

When King George, of the Friendly Islands, held the Jubilee of Missions, he said: "A heathen nation has become Christian. Churches and schools are in all the islands. If the leaves of the trees and the stones of Tonga had mouths, they would shout forth their thanks to God for what He has done for Tonga. To His Holy Word Tonga owes all that it is and all that it has." The late King Thakombau, of Fiji, when he could free himself for an hour from his business affairs, would say to his blind chaplain, "Let us retire that we may hear what the Lord will speak." When he came to a passage difficult of explanation, the king would say: "We can believe what God speaks, for His Word is truth, even if we cannot fully understand it."

It is not by change of circumstance, but by fitting our spirits to the circumstances in which God has placed us, that we can be reconciled to life and duty.—*F. W. Robertson.*

How We Built a Church at Bordeau Free of Debt.

BORDEAU is a secluded settlement surrounded by dense bush, and was until twelve months ago undisturbed except by the elements of Nature. To-day a neat church stands on elevated land with its tower and belfry, and deeded to the Methodist Connexion free from debt.

Our Mission here commenced in a forsaken frame dwelling house, ill-suited for the needs of the settlement, and inadequate and inconvenient for a place of worship.

The need of a church was greatly felt, but the difficulty which presented itself was, how to proceed without funds, on a new Mission which needed all it could raise to meet its present obligations in helping to support its Missionary. The Quarterly Meeting considered the case, felt the need and saw the difficulties, and they passed a resolution to build and committed it to my care; in fact my orders were *carte blanche*.

I at once proceeded and called the "settlement" together, stated the case and the possibilities of erecting the church *free of debt*. The entire sympathy of the settlement was with me, and although they could not give cash to aid the enterprise they were willing to give labor.

My next step was to secure an excellent site; beautiful for situation, elevated and midway in the settlement. This site was generously given and duly deeded to the Conference, and then immediately registered; thus making a sure foundation to begin with.

I next interviewed and arranged with the men of the settlement to give their time and labor for specified work and at specified times. The timber we secured from the owners of different farms, taken from the bush to the mill, and cut and hauled over bad roads in bad weather, there and back; but this was cheerfully done. I then secured an experienced framer, who also gave his time and labor cheerfully to the work, and so under his guidance we soon had up the frame-work of the four sides of the church with the ready help of the settlers. This brought us as far as they could render practical service. The roofing, sheeting, shingling, the laying of a double floor, the erection of porch, doors, four windows and tower next confronted us. To overcome this I secured at a little distance an experienced carpenter who, for a consideration of \$45, undertook the whole of this work, and finished it satisfactorily, after a long and trying northern winter and taking advantage of every mid-day sunshine. We completed the building by March, 1894, except the outside casing, for which I made provision.

The next thing to be done before we could open it for Divine worship, was to secure a good stove and fittings. This we obtained at a reduced rate. Then the *bell* was considered, which was a necessity; but this need also was met on presenting our case, through the generosity of Rev. W. F. Wilson, of Toronto. Its weight is over 200 pounds, its tone is rich and its sound can be heard through the bush five miles distant. At the first service they heard the call for prayer from all points of our settlement, and few can understand the joy that filled our hearts at its sound, which called us from far to come up and worship in this new church in the woods. The church is neat in appearance, with an air of comfort and convenience to worshippers.

To the generous, willing workers, male and female, and donors of cash and kind, we tender in the Name of our Divine Master our heartfelt thanks. One thought, as the new bell rang out its peal for the first time, that it said: "*Free from debt, come! Free from debt, come! All are welcome; we invite you; free from debt, come!*"

But none are more grateful that we were to be enabled, by the generous co-operation of the settlement who wrought with us, to build and open our first church in Bordeau settlement *free of debt*, with a CASH expenditure of only *sixty-five dollars*, with a seating capacity for one hundred persons, than yours faithfully,

SAMUEL DUNN DINNICK.

ICELAND is one of the few countries that has a smaller population now than it had twenty years ago.