

## MISSION FIELD.

The following is an extract from a letter received from the Bishop of Madras to Montreal:

"We have a growing band of female Christian workers in India. The largest Agency of ours is the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society. Its income in 1886-87 was £23,637 stg. Last year they had 542 female agents, of whom 396 were native Bible women and teachers. In this Diocese last year there were seventeen lady missionaries; 11 European and Eurasian female assistants; 56 native Bible women. All these were connected with the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society. The Church Missionary Society has one hundred and sixty-nine female teachers. The S.P.G. Statistics are not at hand but their Ladies' Association supply many. Yet with all these workers we only reach a small fraction of the fifteen or sixteen millions of females in this presidency, and of the seven or eight millions more in the native States connected with this Diocese."

## INDIA.

The following account of the Lascar Mission in the Victoria Docks has appeared in the Annual Report of St. Andrew's Waterside Mission:

"The Lascars are native Indian sailors, recruited principally from Bengal and Bombay, and they form the crews of the magnificent vessels of the Peninsular and Oriental, the British India Navigation, the Ducal line, and other shipping companies, and there are large numbers of them to be always found in the Dock. They are mostly Mohammedans, and their attachment to their faith is carried to the point of fanaticism. During their stay in the Docks, which seldom exceeds a few weeks, they conduct themselves in an orderly manner, and live on board. Many of them have made several voyages to London but have seen nothing of our great Metropolis, and the little they see is such as to give them an unfavorable impression of our country from the degraded characters they meet in the streets. The Rev. G. B. Bhose, of Bishop's College, Calcutta, formerly employed in the British Guiana Coolie Mission, is now engaged as a Missionary curate to visit the Lascars and speak to them about Christianity. 'Although very fond of arguing, and apt sometimes to lose their tempers, they have never shown towards us any hostile feeling. On the contrary our visits are welcomed by many, and our addresses listened to frequently with great attention. Their greatest objection to Christianity is, that it teaches the doctrine of the Trinity, or rather, the Divinity of Our Lord, of whom they speak with the respect due to a great prophet only; and when we refer them to the New Testament, which they hold to be inspired, they say that Christians have tampered with it in order to bring it into agreement with their view. Some pretend that our

translation of the Gospels is utterly untrustworthy, and insist on hearing the words of Christ in the original Greek, although they do not understand a word of it. We are constantly reproached with breaking Christ's command to His disciples that they should not eat pork nor drink wine; and when challenged to point to any passage in the Gospel to that effect, they repeat the charge that we have substituted a spurious in the place of the genuine Gospel. On one occasion a young man brought out a copy of the Hindustani Testament, and read aloud the parable of the labourers in the vineyard. When he had finished it, he explained that by labourers going to work at different hours, were meant Moses, Christ, and Mahomet. They say that the Koran has superseded the Gospel, as the latter has superseded the Mosaic dispensation."

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