

asking for instruction with a view to baptism. This work has been energetically carried on by Mr. Paterson, and now by Mr. McLean assisted by Mr. Goodwin. There is great need for native agents to be placed amongst the people.

There are promising openings for evangelistic work in the valley of the Nerbudda and Rewah. On the 21st March the Rev. E. P. Herbert, of Mandla, in the Central Provinces, baptized at Titrahi five persons, viz., two women, a bright boy, an infant, and a young man married (Gond fashion) to a Christian girl. These were relatives of a convert of 1896, a weaver. On the following Sunday, in a stream near Singpur, Mr. Herbert baptized fifteen persons, relatives mostly of Pachlu, the solitary Christian there since April, 1895. This man is *kotwal*, or village constable, and he had taught these converts well. They are not really Gonds, but basket makers and drummers, apparently industrious and prosperous, and eager to learn. "We ought to have a school," Mr. Herbert says, "and resident catechist. We want another clerical missionary to pastor these people, who only get scraps of the Marpha man's time."

The sad news was received by telegram on May 22nd that the Rev. C. S. Thompson has died from cholera. Letters have been received from Mr. Thompson dated April 9th and 26th. On the 9th he wrote from Kherwara: "We have so far opened twelve relief centres at our widely separated out-stations. Over 3,000 sufferers are being daily fed. More than 2,000 of these are children, who, besides being fed, are learning some hymns, the Lord's Prayer, and something about our Heavenly Father and Saviour in our schools. The famine is becoming more and more acute. The dead are left unburied, just where they breathe their last, whether it be by the wayside or in the field and jungles. We are passing through a frightful experience. I am spending all my time in visiting the relief kitchen in the districts. Wherever one goes, the starving, dying people, with an intense craving for food, are pleading hard for it with tears. Oh, this is a bitter time."

On the 26th April, Mr. Thompson wrote from camp, Kotra:—"The famine among the Bhils is becoming more and more acute. We are passing through a very bitter experience. The people have been carried off in such large numbers that one can go for miles through the jungles without meeting a single soul. Corpses and skeletons are lying about in all directions. The mortality has been very great among the little children and the old people. The Bhils have suffered so much that the starving crowds who come to our relief centres seem to have lost every bit of feeling, except the intense craving for food. We are now feeding about 4,000

hunger-bitten persons daily. I opened a new kitchen twenty miles to the west of Kherwara on the 8th. In two days we had 411 to feed. Oh, how we are longing for the rains."

SOUTH CHINA.—A hopeful movement is in progress at Fuh-ning, in the northeast corner of Fuh-Kien, in the district which is manned by members of the Dublin University Fuh-Kien Mission. The Rev. L. H. F. Star wrote in February that the city church had of late been packed with 250 people, all being definite inquirers, catechumens, or baptized members, and more girls and women have applied for admission to the school than can be accommodated and a number of names given in for the boys' boarding school. On Sunday, February 18th, two notable men were admitted into the visible Church by baptism. One, a native named Uong, a man of influence and large practice in the city, who had been a catechumen for some five years, publicly confessing his Saviour before a large congregation. The other, Mr. Ding, has been a missionaries' teacher for over ten years. He knows part of the New Testament by heart, and for years has been a secret believer. "No one in England," Mr. Star says, "could realize what it has probably meant for him. His baptism will perhaps mean being despised and rejected. All the city knows about the step he has taken, and we look upon him as perhaps the most important baptism in the whole history of the Fuh-ning Mission. The Nazarene has conquered."

NORTHWEST CANADA, MOOSONEE.—Letters have reached us from Fort York, which place Bishop Newnham reached on January 22nd, after walking 200 miles in seven days. The weather had been intensely cold, varying from 25° to 72° of frost. Sometimes there was a bitter wind to drive the cold home, and no possibility of taking a day of rest on the journey. Food camps were very trying from the impossibility of keeping warm during the time of eating, and even the food would freeze on the heated plates a few minutes after being taken from the fire. Badly frozen face and fingers and blistered feet were part of the Bishop's troubles, but when he wrote he was well and in some ways much comforted concerning the work.

When last heard from Archdeacon Lofthouse had reached *Lac La Biche*, five days' journey northwest of Edmonton. By April 1st he expected to reach Fort Resolution, on the southern shore of the Great Slave Lake, when he and his party would leave behind them the last Hudson Bay post, and strike into the barren lands eastward to explore this unknown region. The Archdeacon hopes to find there are many Eskimo who have never heard the Gospel story.