



INDIA'S WOMEN.

up with the names of such godly and heroic men as Zeigenbalg, his comrade Plutcho and their immediate successor in the mission field, Schwartz. The very names of those good men will suggest that England was not the first to offer her sons for the conversion of the heathen in India.

Long before England had gained commercial relations or political power in India other European countries had possessions there, namely, Holland, Portugal, France and Denmark, but only two of those countries named showed any practical interest in the spiritual welfare of the inhabitants of their possessions. These two were Den-

mark and Holland, unless I add Portugal, from which went out to India and Japan in the year 1542, the celebrated Roman Catholic missionary, Francis Xavier, the sad ending of whose mission work there closed the doors to the Gospel for over two hundred years.

The mission work of our own Church to the benighted souls of India dates from 1728, when the members of the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge heard through one of the Danish Chaplains to the Royal Family of the great work being carried on at Tranquebar by Zeigenbalg. This noble society, only then ten years old, sent immediate assistance to their brethren in the foreign field. Later on when Zeigenbalg came back to Denmark he also visited England and spoke before the assembled members of the Society. He was not only accorded a warm reception on that occasion, but he was presented with a sum of money to aid in his work on his return to Tranquebar. The Society employed

Schwartz in 1760, and also assisted in what was then a work of the greatest importance, the translation of the Holy Scriptures. Would time only permit me to dwell on the history and work of this great man Zeigenbalg and his many difficulties in those early days in India, I could write a paper comprehensive enough to occupy the time allowed for this purpose at many meetings.

The work which was begun by those three men named, has gone on steadily to the present hour. A little reflection will make it apparent that although the English society had given material help expressive of its interest and sympathy, it had