

A WELCOME FROM THE JEWS.

"You may know that the Jews here were some years ago made Mussulmans by violence. A Mussulman mob, at the instigation of the Moollahs of the Shrine of Imann Reza, killed thirty-six Jews, and destroyed their houses and property. The rest were allowed the alternative of becoming Mussulmans. Since then they have been *nominally* adherents of Islam. But there is a party among them who yet observe the rites of the Synagogue in *secret*. They are greatly rejoiced to see their own Scriptures, which they have been deprived of and dare not openly read or have about them. They have been forbidden to read the Hebrew or to have schools for their children; they have been ordered to send their children to the mosques; so that very few can read Hebrew, though many read the Persian, and there is therefore a demand with them for the Old Testament in Persian. This circumstance, and the use of the Persian as their own language, while it tends to the destruction of their old faith—the aim of the Mussulmans—is rather favourable for our work among them.

"But Meshed is considered a very dangerous place for Jew or Christian. The Moollahs and Pilgrims are dominant, and every man stands in fear of them, as they are said to acknowledge no obedience to the Persian authorities."

From a letter we learn that Mr. Bassett had returned in safety to Teheran, having sold at Meshed all his Scriptures at ordinary prices *plus* the cost of transport. The books were opened in the custom house, and duty paid in Bibles and Testaments instead of money. Orders have been given for three more boxes of Scriptures to be sent; a convert was to be sent to labour there as missionary; and Mr. Bassett adds: "I look with great interest and expectation for the new small Persian Bible, and hope its arrival may be the dawn of a new Bible work in Persia."

 INDIA.

Extracts from the Annual Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

How many feelings of hope and fear, of joy and sorrow, are associated in the minds of British Christians with our Indian Empire! And these not merely of a personal character connected with the ties of kindred and friendship, but of a national character, linked with a desire to see the nation to which we belong rise to the level of its true destiny, and become the herald of mercy, and the harbinger of peace to the various races that own its sway. It is a wonderful thought that so many millions of human beings should bow before the sceptre of our gracious Queen, and yield allegiance to a power numerically so inferior as that by which they are governed. Surely God does not permit this without some wise purpose. If our arms have been victorious, and subsequent events have compelled us to enlarge the bounds of our dominions, it was not that our nation should be exalted, but that Christianity might shed its benignant light on the darkness of heathen superstition. To what extent Christianity has been fairly represented, and how far it has commended itself to the native mind, it is not our present purpose to inquire. We would rather encourage the working on in faith and love, resting on God's promises, and rejoicing in the hope of Christ's speedy advent. It may be that the hindrances we now meet with are intended to quicken zeal, and call forth more earnest prayer, and enhance the gladness of eventual success.

CALCUTTA.—Missionary itinerancy has been resorted to as usual, and the sales effected through this instrumentality have amounted to 4,305 copies. The following account of a tour made by the Rev. G. D. Moitra gives a fair idea of the nature and utility of such work:—