

## Mission Field.

### INDIA.

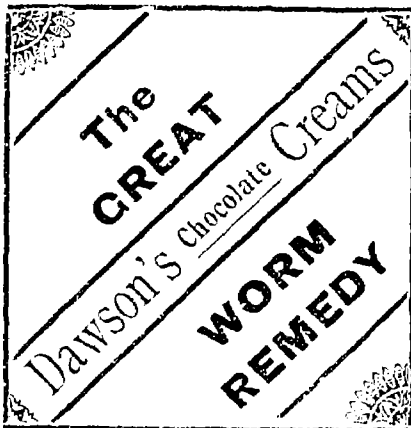
A SERMON PREACHED IN ST. MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH, ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA, BY THE REV. ROBERT H. WALKER, M. A.

CONTINUED.

And into the midst of this vast throng of human life and these firmly seated religions, Anglican Christianity has, in recent days, intervened with its higher faith, its purer morality, its loving message from God to man. Christianity itself cannot be called a new religion; in the second century there were Christian settlements on the Indian coast. It appears that Christianity was introduced by the preaching of St. Thomas in the north, and St. Bartholomew, or some other Apostolic Missionary, on the Malabar coast. The downfall of this Church was due not to the Hindus, or to Islam, or to Buddhism, which existed alongside of it, but to Portuguese settlers and Roman Christians from 1500 to 1599, at which latter date the Malabar Christians were supposed to have been incorporated into the Roman Church. But while we blame these efforts to constrain men's consciences by fire and sword, while we condemn the wanton destruction of the valuable books and ornaments of the Malabar Church, and the attempt to convert India by military power, we may remember that the conscience of England remained long unstirred, that the Lutheran Church of Germany was in the field before us, that our own recently made diocese of Chota Nagpore owes its conversion to the courage and love of Lutheran Missionaries, and that our own countrymen were, in earlier days, actually prohibited from preaching the Gospel of Christ. What was the spiritual position of churchmen and statesmen who lost to their Fatherland the United States, through the refusal to give Bishops, and compelled the earliest missionaries in India to shelter themselves under the Danish flag? But now, at least, the grain of mustard is sown, the leaven is introduced into the lump, and it rests with us by our prayers, by our intercession in union with the eternal intercession of Christ, by our labours and our alms, to set forward the work. And it does grow year by year; not only do Christians increase numerically, and in weight and influence, but in the Missionary Schools and Colleges there are thousands of pupils from whom there will be formed—is being formed—a highly educated native Ministry. Even now the Indian clergy are numbered by hundreds, and among their number are men who, in learning, in zeal and character, are in no wise inferior to their Western brethren. It is sad to reflect that two of the greatest hindrances to the spread of our holy religion spring from ourselves. Christianity in itself appeals most powerfully to the people; it offers not only a pure, holy, reasonable faith, but it provides for the education and the moral and spiritual supervision of its adherents. But we confuse their minds by our

unhappy divisions; were we but one in the spirit of Our Lord's Prayer, the victory would soon be ours. Again there exists a serious hindrance in the apathy, the wordliness, and too often, alas, the discreditable lives of English residents and English officials. In a country like India every Englishman is as a beacon upon a hill; he is watched, and his character, good or bad, is the public property of thousands of natives. Let us pray God day by day for unity, unity of faith, moral and spiritual unity.

TO BE CONTINUED.



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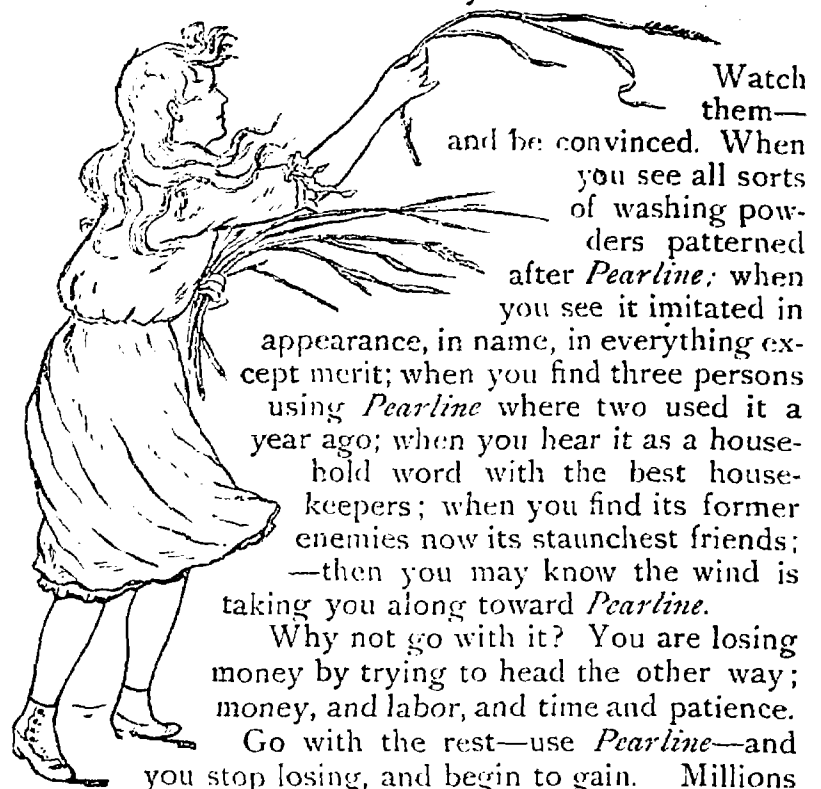
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