



BISHOP HEBER.

in India?" "Well," said he, "we have 60,000 British troops here, and 200,000 native troops officered by British officers. We have all these magnificent buildings—the Government House and others—hostages to fortune and to the future." "Well, but, my Lord, it has been said that if every Hindu should reach down to the ground and lift a handful of earth with one accord, they could bury all the Englishmen in India six feet deep—and yet you hold India. You hold India with your 60,000 British troops, and with your contingent of 200,000 natives, against all possibility of internal rebellion, and, as I trust and believe, against all possibility of external invasion. But," I said, "we have an army in India; it is not 60,000 strong. In one sense we have under our 1,000 missionaries—i.e. British and American missionaries—in India, between 5,000 and 10,000 native assistants and helpers, and we have a contingent of a little more than 500,000 out-and-out Protestant Christians in India. With 1000 consecrated Anglo-Saxon missionaries—the God-chosen race for the colonization and evangelization of this world—with 10,000 native helpers, and 500,000 native converts, not to speak of 2,000,000 nominal Christians in and out of the Roman Catholic communion, all on the ground, there is nothing on earth or in hell that can expel Christianity from India. It is possible, in the mutation of human events, that the British Empire may be overthrown in India, which God forbid. But it is not possible in human events that the Kingdom of Jesus Christ can ever be overthrown in India. There is behind the Gospel a Power that all the combined world powers cannot overcome. 'Why do the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His

anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away the cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.'" That is the Power that holds in subjection the world-powers all combined. No matter whether empires remain, whether they rise or fall, whether monarchy succeeds republic, or republic succeeds monarchy, the power of the Gospel holds the people, absolutely irrespective of any political power. Now, as a matter of fact, whilst giving all credit, and being profoundly grateful, under God, for the providential intervention, on many accounts, of the political power now governing in India, let us remember that Christianity has not grown and established itself in India either on account of the protection or the patronage of the political power. And whilst, from the human point of view, there are many things to lament in the attitude of the Indian Government towards the missionary enterprise, yet, when I think what God has wrought, in spite of the lack of certain things that we might have expected from a Christian Government, then I thank God it shall never be said that the Kingdom of God has been made strong by the arm of flesh; and since we have been planted and established there by the power of God, and without the aid of a human Government, we shall remain there by the power of God, despite all human Governments. When William the Conqueror—if you will allow the simile again—began his career of conquest in England, it is said that wherever he fought a battle he built a castle; he went on from his first victory fighting battles and winning victories and building castles, and by these castles he held England. Every missionary post, every missionary school and every missionary bungalow is a castle built and a castle held for the Kingdom of God on earth. From north to south, from east to west, India is held by more than 1,000 castles, and manned by 5,000 Christian soldiers, who hold the land against all comers. Let us, then, remember that India is already taken for Christ.

Having taken the land, we have now to subdue it. Like the promised land, when Joshua took it, India lies before us conquered, but it is yet to be subdued. It is one thing to possess the land, to put the standard upon it, and to hold it against all comers. It is another thing to subdue the land and its people to the cross of Christ. We have possessed the land, the standard is uplifted, the cross is planted. Our business now is to subdue its people to the cross, and bring them in subjection to Jesus Christ, and what have we done and what are we doing in this direction? In the first place, I am amazed when I think of the evidences that were brought before me as I travelled over India for fifteen months preaching the Gospel through summer's heat and winter's cool (not cold). I was amazed at the marvellous progress which