

following are the principal : Chagrined to find that their fathers have been deluded by a superstition, they are exceedingly distrustful of all supernaturalism ; absorbed in the acquisition of sufficient learning to secure a degree, which is an indispensable passport into the service of the government, they frankly confess that they have not the time to thoroughly investigate Christianity ; they are not readily disposed toward the religion of their conquerors ; they are inclined to look with contempt upon the religion of a people who were barbarians long after the people of India had attained a considerable degree of civilization and culture ; the godless example of foreigners is very demoralizing ; they are still held by the iron grip of caste, to break which means disinheritor and banishment from home ; the incoming tide of scepticism from the West threatens to submerge the vast majority of the educated class. The condition of Indian students is critical in the extreme ; they will not wait upon the slow pace at which we are at present approaching them with the true religion ; they will make an irrevocable decision soon. It appears to be now or never for the educated young men of India.

III. *The Call of the Missionaries.*—For several years previous to 1888 the missionaries of Madras, a city of 400,000, with a student population approximating 4000, had been considering the feasibility of securing a missionary to the student class. They were undecided as to the auspices under which such a man should come ; they feared that if he was commissioned by any one of the Church missionary boards which had representatives in Madras, he might not be wholly acceptable to students in colleges affiliated with other denominations. It was finally suggested by the Rev. Dr. Jacob Chamberlain that a representative of the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations would be equally acceptable to the missionaries and colleges of all denominations. His suggestion was warmly approved, and the Madras Conference, consisting of sixty-five missionaries, unanimously endorsed the call for an American Association secretary. Similar calls have been extended to the American Committee by the missionaries of Calcutta, Allahabad, and Ceylon.

IV. *The Work of American Representatives in India.*—First in order of time was the work accomplished by Dr. F. K. Sanders, now a professor in Yale, who spent four years teaching in Jaffna College, Ceylon. Under his inspiring leadership associations were formed in five educational institutions, and a number of villages in the province of Jaffna. These organizations were united in a provincial union which has held conventions for several years. The Jaffna work overflowed into India, and associations were formed in colleges connected with the American Board missions.

The service performed by the writer was limited to two tours of investigation and inquiry at a number of the leading educational centres of India and Ceylon. Only one organization was formed and two conventions attended. Over one hundred public meetings were addressed, attended by about six thousand different students.