

A NATIVE HELPER IN SOUTH INDIA.—

An English Missionary thus describes the interesting course of one of his helpers, a Hindo convert, in the province of Tinnevely :

He is a man who can neither read nor write, having grown up to manhood in heathenism. Understanding and feeling the force of the gospel himself, he is desirous of doing good to others; and for this purpose he often carries about with him a tract or two. It might puzzle you to think how a man, unable to read, could use these tracts with advantage; but he finds a way. When he is waiting about the Cutcherry (a court of justice) upon business, he will sometimes take out of his girdle one of these tracts, and ask some respectable person, perhaps a Brahmin, to read it for him. The Brahmin deigns, perhaps, to take it, not from his hand, for that would defile him; but the man having placed the tract on the ground, and retired backward, the haughty Brahmin advances, takes it, and reads it to himself. This, however, does not satisfy our friend, who says, "please to read it aloud, sir, that I may have the benefit of hearing what it says." The Brahmin complies; but soon complains that he cannot understand such strange words as "Repentance, Pardon, Justification, &c.," of which he knows nothing. "Oh, sir!" says the convert, "though I cannot read, I think I can tell you the meaning of these words;" and then he begins to explain them to him, making the Brahmin, as it

were, read the text upon which he preaches. Others, too, drawn by curiosity, gather round, and become an attentive little congregation.

Permit me to mention what occurred one day between this man and a Brahmin, with whom he had been holding a discussion of this kind. The Brahmin, somewhat irritated, said to him, "Why, what presumption is this! A low caste man like you, who can neither read nor write, daring to tell me, a learned Brahmin, that your religion is true and that mine is false! How can you know that my religion is false, and that yours is true?" "I beg your pardon, sir," he said, politely; all the natives of India are polite, even the lowest classes; "I beg pardon if I have offended you; but, if you will permit me, I will answer your question by another." "Well, what is it?" said the Brahmin. "Why, sir, suppose that, when you sat down to dinner, two dishes of curry were placed before you; how would you know which of them was best?" "That is a foolish question enough: of course there is but one way of knowing that; I must taste them both." "True, sir," was the reply: "and permit me to say, that is the way by which I know that my religion is true and yours is false. I was a heathen once, and have tasted that religion; now I am a Christian, and have tasted that; and if you sir will only taste them both, as I have done, I am sure you will be of the same opinion with myself."

Finance, &c.

The Annual Meeting of the Poplar Grove Church Association, in aid of the Synod's Institution at the West River, was held in the basement room of the Church, on Wednesday evening, the 5th March, which was attended by a number of ladies and gentlemen belonging to the congregation.

After a few preliminary observations by

the President, and the reading of the minutes of last meeting,

It was moved by George A. Blanchard, Esq., and seconded by Rev. P. G. McGregor, and resolved unanimously—

That this Society, having learned, with much satisfaction, that our Seminary has been in useful operation during the past year, and has excited general interest