

WHAT CHRISTIANS CAN DO.

Writing from a town in Northern India, a private correspondent says: "I had before me to-day a wonderful instance of the power of Christianity to regenerate Indian womanhood. I was calling on the old native pastor here. His wife, dressed in quite native style, came into the little drawing-room, and sat down and talked with us as if she were a motherly old English lady, as simply and freely, and with perfectly well-bred propriety. It was marvellous to me that Christianity could, in a single life, without inherited traditions, have so raised an Indian woman from the poor shrinking thing she once was, ashamed to look at her husband even, let alone strangers, and thinking she would be guilty of grievous indecorum if she spoke a word to them, or to him in their presence. I could not but think, if a native heathen wife ever came to see her, how the sight would dwell in her memory and awaken longing in her breast, shocking as the conduct of her Christian sister would seem to her.—*Christian Leader.*

NATIVE CHRISTIAN BIBLE WOMEN.

Seven Bible-women are now employed in Cuttack, of whom five are supported by private contributions, and two by the *British and Foreign Bible Society*. Six have worked regularly from the beginning of the year 1885, and one was taken on in September. *Katie*, an elderly experienced woman, generally goes alone, and chiefly visits from house to house in the bazaars. The other six go by two and two into the bazaars and outlying villages.

The account of one day's experience may perhaps suffice to give an idea of the way in which they work. They went to a village where they had been before, and had met with a very warm reception, the women spreading mats for them to sit on, crowding round to listen, and at the end, entreating them to come again soon. On this occasion, instead of being kindly received, as former experience had led them to expect, the women all seemed afraid to come near, and scarcely took any notice of them. On their asking the reason of this, one or two had the courage to explain that the Brahmins were very angry with them for listening to the teaching of the Christians, who they said had only come to the village to make them bad, and that if they listened any more they should be punished.

After a little talk, several children, and one or two women, ventured near. One of the Bible-women asked, "Shall we sing?" "Oh, no, no," they said in alarm, "the Brahmins will hear and abuse us." Some pictures were displayed, and soon curiosity overcame their fear, as they crouched round, asking so many questions, and making so many remarks, that at first an explanation was impossible; but presently quieting down, they listened with great interest to the story of the Prodigal Son. Others coming up wanted to see and hear, and those who had heard the story repeated it to the new comers in their own way. While others came and went, three or four women stayed all the time, seeming much interested, and assenting heartily to what was said, though at a little distance a carter, with as much noise as possible, was loading his cart, and shouting to them not to listen, for it was all false and would do them harm. After this a hymn was again suggested, and this time they said, "Yes, yes," and at the close remarked, "That is very nice; but now you had better go, we want to cook."—*Gen. Baptist Magazine.*

PERILS OF BIBLE COLPORTAGE IN CHINA.

At the Monthly Meeting of Directors of the National Bible Society of Scotland, in Glasgow, in September last, it was reported that Mr. Burnet, of Ching Kiung, had accomplished a journey of 566 miles through Nganwhui. At Hwui Lung ki, where he and his party were pelted with wet clay from the river bank till some of them looked like brickmakers, he obtained information which seems to throw light on the disappearance of Mr. Johnson of the British and Foreign Bible Society, who in 1869 set out on a journey in this province from which he never returned.

In the talk excited by the attack on Mr. Burnet, an old inhabitant of Hwui Luug ki informed one of his boatmen that "twenty years ago there was another foreigner here selling books. During the day a fire broke out and burned a large part of the place. The foreigner was blamed for this; and at the dead of night a number of men boarded his boat, and killed him and all on board, afterwards destroying the boat." Mr. Burnet, having escaped from this community, was prostrated by small-pox when 400 miles from home.—*Sel.*