

among them to demonstrate the power of Christ; that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is adapted to reach the heart and the conscience and the will of all the inhabitants of that land, the high as well as the low.

"Let me give you a bird's-eye view of the results of the work of missions for the last hundred years. The missionaries in India during the last hundred years have accomplished more for Christ than the first Christians under the leadership of the apostles accomplished in all Western Asia and Europe during the first century of Christianity. This demonstrates that the cry for apostolic days and apostolic power is based upon a misconception of facts. If you should go to India for a year, you would see that it is a time of apostolic men and apostolic power now. The power of the Holy Ghost is being felt in that land to-day as mightily as in the days of the apostles in Western Asia and Europe.

"It has been said that the great mass of converts in India are low-caste men. This is certainly true, and it is well that it is so. There are the three great castes, the Brahmin, or priest caste, the soldier and the farmer castes, supposed to have sprung respectively from the head, the arms and the legs of Brahma; but there are innumerable other castes that have grown out of these. The Brahmins are the first caste. A Brahmin considers himself a god and exacts worship from the low-caste men. It is among the low caste men that the greatest number of converts have been made to Jesus Christ, and this is sometimes spoken of as an illustration of the lack of power of the Gospel to subdue India. But can you call to mind any country where the great bulk of its converts have not been among the low-caste people? In America, for instance, how many of the noble, how many of the rich, are included in the living body of Jesus Christ? Let us admit that the great bulk of Christians are from the common people. Would we have it otherwise? We lay foundations not in the top soil, but in the sub-soil. When they laid the piers of Brooklyn Bridge, they did not plant them in the top soil, but dug deep down. Christianity has always rooted itself in the low castes. Read the story of the Corinthian and the Roman churches, and you will see that the great mass of these churches were made up of low-caste men; the driftwood of the nations, in Corinth, and slaves and freedmen in Rome. Why, friends, if I wanted to take a city by pulling down its walls, do you suppose that I would rig a derrick to take hold of the coping stones and pull them off? No, I would set my sappers and miners to dig out the stones at the bottom of the wall and then the whole would fall. Practically that is what is going on in India. Indian society and Hinduism rests on its castes. The top caste flourishes on the support which it gets from the lower and the lowest castes. If we pull out the lower castes, the top caste must come down in fragments. The bitter cry of the Brahmins to-day is that Christianity is alienating the low castes. Some time ago a high caste man, the head master of the Maharaja of Daypoor's College, complained to me because, as he said, we are lifting up the low caste men and withdrawing their respect forever from the Brahmins and making

them equals, and this is so. Whereas a few years ago, if a low-caste man met a Brahmin on the street, he would prostrate himself and allow the proud Brahmin to walk over him; now he merely makes a salaam to him, and contends with him for the best places in the gift of the government, and, withdrawing his offering, he compels the Brahmin to labor for his bread as though he were a man and not a god.

"Is it possible to elevate the low-caste man? The Hindu worship caste." Here Dr. Pontecost gave an illustration of the daughter of a sweeper who has graduated from the University of Calcutta and taken the degree of B. A., also of a lady, the daughter of a low-caste man, who is teaching the children of the *elite* in a private school in Poona; and several other illustrations of the same order.

"In the Punjab forty years ago there was not a known Christian; then Messrs. Newton and Forman, of the American Presbyterian Church, went into the country and built their missionary bungalow there. To-day the baptized communicants are numbered by tens of thousands. We sometimes pray that God would open doors for us, that He would pour out His Spirit upon the land. It is not a question of that, it is only a question of our going through the doors that are opened and gathering up the ripe fruit that is lying there. Dr. Forman said to me some time ago that he could not baptize a tenth of the converts, who are waiting to be baptized, because they had not the teachers to take care of them. Only recently returning from a missionary tour of the village, out of two hundred converts he had selected twenty for baptism. The rest he had to leave till his working force should be enlarged. That practically is the problem of India to-day, not to get converts but to take care of those they have, and the thousands who are knocking for entrance into the Christian Church. The rate of progress among the Christians during the last ten years has been 23 per cent. While that of the population is only about 17 per cent. So great and rapid is the increase that some of the English secular papers have been compelled to confess that in the last ten years they have been utterly blind to the great strides of the Gospel.

"We are told that the high-caste men are not being converted. I have been in about a hundred cities and villages, and in none where there are Christian missionaries do you find less than five or ten high-caste Christian men. There are enough of these high-caste Christians to stand as monuments of the power of God.

"In every government office in the land, among the men who are holding high and honorable positions are high-caste Christians. In the colleges the men who are taking high stand as scholars are the native Christians. There is something in the power of the Gospel that sets the minds of these men at liberty, and sends them over the dead point of intellectual power.

"These are some of the encouraging features. But is this all? Why, my friends, we count our Christians at three millions. There is not a city or a town or a village where a Christian missionary lives and has preached the Gospel, but there are besides