

sent out by this society; and these, taking the whole of them together, were sadly disproportioned to the work. In that one kingdom there were about 33,000 towns and villages, and only about twenty ministers of the Gospel for the whole; or, in other words, not one minister for every thousand towns.

Bible-women and city missionaries are being introduced in Calcutta, Bombay, and Poona, to meet the European vagrancy, which we regret to hear is upon the increase. "In the Calcutta gaol two of these women wrought a wondrous change in English convicts condemned to imprisonment for long periods, by daily visitation, and reading and expounding the Scriptures: The system has succeeded so well, that it is about to be adopted elsewhere." The Secretary of the Indian Female Normal School and Instruction Society (himself a missionary), now in England, calls attention to the utter feebleness of our attempts to act upon the secluded female population, and to this fact he traces the delay in abundant missionary success in India. Yet there are some hopeful signs in this direction. The Secretary of the Church Missionary Society in Calcutta has recently written to the Parent Committee in London, stating that the application for teachers in the zenanas are more numerous than, through the paucity of the laborers, can be supplied. These applications come from heathen households; so that the fact indicates a marked change in native feeling with regard to Christianity. The same letter also conveys the important intelligence of the conversion in Calcutta, of three members of a highly influential family, with their wives; one of the ladies has for several years had an instructress for her children from the Calcutta Normal School.

The agents of the Church Missionary Society at Unrisur, in Northern India, report that there is a growing disposition among the people to inquire. Even the most ignorant are beginning to think, and amongst the rural population there is a great desire to learn English. "We shall all become Christians," was a remark made in the train a short time ago, "for we get so thirsty, that we are obliged to drink water, and so, receiving it at the hands of a stranger from a strange vessel, we lose caste, and are fit for nothing but to become Christians."

The chequered experience of missionary laborers generally in India is illustrated in a communication addressed to us by an American brother at Nellore (in the South), the principal portion of which we subjoin:—

I regret that I am unable to report the presence of the Holy Spirit in the conversion of souls. In the native Church, which consists at present, of twenty-four members, there are several who show a very commendable zeal in laboring for the conversion of their countrymen. The native pastor spends

much of his time in preaching the Gospel in the Bazaars, besides looking after his flock. The meetings of the Church for prayer are often of deep interest. Some months since we had a refreshing from the presence of the Lord. It was a good season to many of God's children. Also a few heathen seemed moved to think and pray over the interests of their souls. There are many evidences to the eye of faith of a general awakening and a spirit of inquiry among the people, prompting them to ask, "What shall we do to be saved?" There exists what may be termed a large amount of intellectual preparation for the reception of God's Word among the Teluguos. The great want is faithful native preachers, to go from town to town, from village to village, and hold up the Cross of Christ. But no mission can expect such men in any considerable numbers to arise until years of prayer and toil have been expended, crowned with God's rich blessing. As a mission, we have been, and are now, much tried, God's dealings with us at times seeming truly mysterious. God in His Providence has just removed the senior missionary from the scene of his toils to his native land by sickness. The civil war in America is keeping from us one, if not two, mission families. As for ourselves, we must stand alone, and attempt by faith to look through the dense darkness that covers our loved native land, now bleeding at every pore. God is dealing justly, and punishing the nation for the sin of slavery. But for the timely assistance of British Christians, resident in India, we must, long ere this, have closed our schools, dismissed our catechist, and shut ourselves up to the simple necessity of subsisting, with no means to make the least aggressive movement towards overthrowing the kingdom of darkness. How long we can survive under the "war basis" is becoming daily a more serious question. May I not ask through your columns the earnest prayers of Christendom for ourselves, our native land, for the sixteen millions of Teluguos, the majority of whom are this day ignorant of the true God, and of Jesus Christ, his Son?

The following, from a missionary of the London Society, at Bangalore, is more cheering, and is of special interest in reference to the Week of Prayer:—

We have had a weekly union prayer meeting at this station since the time of the meeting, and much good has been the result, in the promotion of Christian love and fellowship among believers of the various denominations residing here. Sinners also have been converted, and backsliders restored, in answer to special and united prayer on their behalf; and a very earnest desire is manifested to secure a larger outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all around us, whether nominal Christians or heathens, as well as for