

MISSIONARY.

OUR MISSION FIELDS FROM THE INSIDE.

THE HINDUS OF MALWA, CENTRAL INDIA.

SUCH are the villages scattered in hundreds over Malwa. The towns and cities are much like them. They are only villages developed a stage further. The streets are a little straighter, but they are no cleaner. The houses are a little larger and a little more pretentious, but no more comfortable. The simplicity of the villager has given place to the pertness and smartness of the townsman. But the signs of idolatry are even more prominent in the towns than in the villages, and with the greater intelligence of the inhabitants is associated greater vice and depravity.

III.

But what about the inner life and the religious thought of the people? What do they think about the great problems of life, and what are their hopes and aspirations?

The mass of the people of India are not savages, nor are they half savages. They have an ancient civilization. They are equal to ourselves in general intelligence. They are surpassed by none in keenness of intellect or in subtilty of thought. They have their systems of philosophy and their theories of the universe. They have their defined and well recognized views of God, creation, human souls, duty and destiny. Let me try briefly to explain how they look upon the all important matters relating to God, sin, salvation, heaven and hell.

The first verse in the Bible, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," has made a vast difference between our thought of God and the thought of the Hindus. *God created.* Then God is a person, intelligent,