

transformation begins, especially in the most degraded communities, is the first step toward godliness.

Dr. Lindley used to say to me, that among the Zulus, in South Africa, the *first sign of improvement* would be found in a native Zulu coming to the mission premises to barter some ivory, or fur, or peacock plume, for a cheap calico shirt to cover his naked form. Perhaps a few days later, he would return to buy a pair of duck pants; a few days later he would return for a little three legged stool, for how could he *soil his new pants by sitting on the ground?* And, said Dr. Lindley, "when that poor pagan got on his calico shirt and duck pants, and was mounted on his stool, ten inches above the earth, he was about *ten thousand miles above all his pagan fellows in moral elevation.*"

And this is what we mean by the *indirect influence* of Christianity, of which we so seldom take practically any account.—*Gospel in all lands.*

Mussulmans on Zenana Missions.

("LAHORE CHURCH GAZETTE.")

We have received a translation of a proclamation that has been issued to the Mussulman population of *Lahore*. We believe it is not confined to *Lahore*, but has also made a stir in *Amritsar* and *Sialkot*. It bears remarkable testimony to the efficacy of the work done in Zenana Schools. It runs as follows:—

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF ISLAM.

Education of Women.

"In the name of God the merciful and gracious"

"Oh Believers, save yourselves and your families from the fires of hell."

Oh Readers, a thing is taking place which deserves your attention, and which you will not find it difficult to check. Females need such education as is necessary to save them from the fires of hell. The Quran and the traditions teach this necessity, and two great philosophers say, "Home is the best school," but to make it so women must be taught. We are doing nothing, but are trying to destroy our children. Although we are able to teach our own girls, yet wherever you go you find Zenana Mission Schools filled with our daughters. There is no alley or house where the effect of these Schools is not felt. There are few of our women who did not in their childhood learn and sing in the presence of their teachers such such hymns as "*He tu Isa, Isa bol*" ("Take the name of Jesus") and few of our girls who have not read the Gospels. They know Christianity and the objections to Islam, and whose faith has not been shaken? The freedom which Christian women possess is influencing all our women. They, being ignorant of the excellencies of their own religion, and being taught that those things in Islam which are really good, are not really good, will never esteem their own religion.

Umar, one of Muhammad's four bosom friends, was fond of reading the books of Moses and the Gospels, but Muhammad forbade him saying, "These may lead you in the wrong way." How much more danger, then, is there in our little daughters reading them?

There are multitudes of Missionaries in the land whose object is to destroy your religion. They see that the condition of a country depends on the condition of the women, and therefore they send women to teach boys to work and read, and at the same time to sow the seeds of hatred to Islam.

Christian women teach Muhammadan women that they should have the liberty which they possess, and the

Muhammedan teachers in these schools, who are only nominal Muhammedans, by pretending to teach the Quran, draw our daughters into these schools, and then teach them the Gospel and Hymns. For a little while they may teach the Quran, but when the Missionary lady comes in they hide it under a mat, or throw it into some unclean place, into which if a man had thrown it, he might have been sent to prison. And as long as the lady is present they teach Christianity and expose Muhammedanism. Can we be pleased with such instruction as this? O Believers, why not teach your children Christianity instead of your own religion?

How far has this religion influenced our women? So far has the love of liberty extended among our daughters and daughters-in-law, that they get into carriages with these teachers, go to the *Shulamar* garden, bathe in the tank, sit at table and eat, and then make a quantity of tea disappear.

At *Ludhiana*, *Amritsar*, *Lahore*, *Sialkot*, and other places, how many converts have the missionaries made in the surrounding country! At *Ludhiana* two Afghan princesses have become Christians, and been sent to *Mustoorie*. Sometimes we hear that the daughter of a *lambardar* has become a Christian, and then that a Muhammedan woman has married a black *Kirani*. We certainly hear such things, but they produce no effect on us. Oh Believers, if you have any love for your religion, any respect for your ancestors, think how this thing may be stopped.

Give your money, establish your own schools, where your daughters can be taught what is necessary for them to know

An Envelope Party.

A special effort is sometimes made in our Circles to raise money for the cause of missions. We know of no better way for any benevolent object than an envelope party. It is at least free from objections.

The invitation may be given from the pulpit with other notices, or a written card may be sent from the president to each member of the circle, inviting her to come at a certain time to a certain place, and bring in a sealed envelope such a gift as her heart may dictate. The gifts may be with or without name as may be thought best, or as each individual may choose. Each envelope should contain, besides money, some selection from Scripture, stanza of a hymn, brief quotations, or short letter expressive of interest in the cause, thanksgiving for mercies received, or new purpose of consecration,—anything which the heart may prompt.

The anticipated meeting should be talked over by those interested, and any person that cannot come should be invited to send their envelopes.

On the appointed evening, the opening of the envelopes, reading the contents, counting the money, with prayers, remarks, and singing interspersed, will make a very pleasant occasion. And the amount received, we venture to say, will in most cases exceed what would be netted from a fair or other entertainment. For this party there will be no previous outlay of time and strength, and no consequent exhaustion and weariness. No money will be wasted on side issues, and there will be the pleasure arising from having made a direct offering to the Lord.

We know of such a party recently held for the purpose of furnishing a church. The gifts amounted to about \$800; and the fitting quotations and bright original letters contained in the envelopes, together with a little music, made it one of the most enjoyable gatherings ever held by that society.