

millan to the office and functions of the Christian ministry, or give him the spiritual charge of a congregation, that it could make him King of the British Isles." And it is frankly intimated that, in case the Court should resolve (following the precedent adopted before the disruption) to command the Free Church to reinstate their contumacious minister, such an order must be met now, as then, with an absolute refusal.

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WESLEYANISM AND INDEPENDENCY.—In a speech at the recent Conference, the Rev. Wm. Arthur said:—"I am indebted to my friend Mr. Osborn for statistics of a startling character. In our ten Conference towns, we added about thirty per cent. to the number of our ministers—we had 90 at the former period, from the year 1834 to 1857,—about 124 now. What is the result? We have there 12,000 less Methodists now than we had then; 33 more ministers; 12,000 fewer members! I know the effects of divisions. ('Hear, hear,' and sensation.) I make allowance for that. But mark the progress of the Independent denomination in London alone. Between 1840 and 1857, a period less by six years than the one included above, their chapels increased from 88 to 171, or about doubled. I need not mention the growth of the Established Church in large towns, for we all know that it has been beyond all proportion to our own.

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RELIGIOUS EFFECT OF THE INDIAN MUTINIES.—Dr. Butler, the superintendent of the American Methodist Episcopal Church at Lucknow, sends to the *Watchman* some interesting particulars of the progress of the work of God in India. He says that speaking for the portion of India with which he is associated, he thinks "it is clear that the mutinies have produced in the minds of Englishman resident in this country a more determined resolution to sustain Christian missions than has been felt before." As regards the natives, he asserts, "that during the twelve months, there has been a larger number of the native soldiers converted to Christianity than in all the preceding thirty year." "You have doubtless heard ere now," he writes, of the movements in the 24th Regiment of Punjab Infantry. I think this is the regiment which some time ago sent the deputation to Lord Clyde, stating they wished to be baptized and become Christians. The rough old chief is reported to have turned them off, informing them 'he had not time to baptize them then; that they must do the fighting first.' In the Moradabad and Bijnour districts there cannot be less than 800 souls who have openly expressed a desire to be baptized, and have placed themselves under the instruction and pastoral care of the missionaries.

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DEATH OF THE REV. A. F. LACROIX.—The *Patriot* announces, with the deepest regret, the death of this eminent missionary, who after an illness of two months duration, finished his earthly course at Calcutta, on the 8th of July, in the sixtieth year of his age. He was the oldest missionary in Northern India, having gone out there in connexion with the Netherlands Missionary Society, in 1821; and seven years afterwards, when that Society determined on confining their operations to the islands of the Eastern Archipelago, and abandoned their station at Chinsurah, Mr. Lacroix—having made himself master of Bengali—expressed a wish to remain, and joined the London Missionary Society, with the entire approval of the Dutch Committee. His labours were exclusively in the vernacular. His personal religious character was of the highest order, and acquired universal respect. His large-hearted catholicity led him to seek friendship and Christian communion with believers, especially missionaries, of various denominations; and both by example and precept he did much to increase and maintain the practical union existing between the agents and members of the several missionary societies in India. His dying interviews with old friends—as Dr. Duff, Mr. Wenger, Mr. Wylie, and others—were affecting in the extreme, and strong men left his room weeping like children, "sorrowing most for the words that he spoke, that they should see his face no more." His funeral was the largest which the city of Calcutta has seen for many years; Christians of all