

that Hinduism is breaking up. We are apt to look chiefly at the results of missionary work, but I am persuaded that every year more may be expected from the patronage of a Christian government, as it is able to act on a scale that no private society can parallel, and appeal to persons over whom the missionary can have no influence. For example, it has been long felt that one of the best means of elevating the whole people of India would be to educate the women, but the difficulties in the way are so very great that little has been done by any missionary agency. Orphan girls are educated in orphanages—chiefly through the aid of European and American Sabbath Schools, but the number so reached may be counted by hundreds; and what are they among so many? But, from one of the letters of the *Times* Calcutta correspondent, we get a specimen of what was accomplished simply through the advice of a wise and Christian official, the Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab. The correspondent writes as follows:—

"The efforts of some of the best friends the natives have had, have long been directed to the education of their wives and daughters. The lot of a woman in India is pretty much that which falls to her sex throughout the East. She is to the poor a slave, and to the rich a toy, crushed with hardships in the one case, brutalised and discarded in the other, and equally degraded in both. The majority of the wealthy natives will take a long time to find out that a woman really is capable of being instructed. Their belief in her mental inferiority is perfectly sincere and honest. Her mind is a blank upon which nothing can ever be written. Circumstances have driven her into a state which almost justifies such a belief. Utterly ignorant of all things, she sits with her vacant companions, without a thought above the level of brutal life, and learns to appraise herself at her lord and master's own valuation. Of late years, a slow, thin stream of water has found its way into this rock, and promises to split it in twain. It is curious to consider what will be the effects of the educational efforts now being made all over the country. Here, in Bengal, many excellent English ladies are engaged in visiting Zenanas, and teaching the inhabitants, but as a rule the natives do not help with their money. They are content to remain passive spectators. The rich Bengallee, unlike the Parsee, is satisfied when he has buried his money in a tank, or built a ghat. He will help on no good work if he can avoid it. It is different in the Punjab, and I have before me a Minute by the Lieutenant-Governor, which supplies as curious and as interesting an illustration of what can be done among the Sikhs, as one can well meet with. In February last year, Sir Robert Montgomery invited the Sirdars to meet him in an educational Durbar, and there pointed out to them the importance of educating their women. Among his auditors was the most reverend Gooroo in all the Punjab, Baba Khem Singh, a lineal descendant of the great Baba Nanuk. That man has since been the means of establishing 75 female schools in the Rawul Pindoe, Jhelum and Gujerat districts—so earnestly did he take up the work. His influence over the Sikhs is immense in these districts, and the way he prevailed on them to forsake their prejudices was quite English in its character. He called a meeting at Lahore, and talked them out of their

own views into adopting his own. They could not resist the great Gooroo. His speech is in itself remarkable. He told them that Gooroo Nanuk enjoined upon the righteous the necessity of acquiring knowledge, and this could only be done by an acquaintance with letters. 'And since,' said he,—

"It is for this reason most essential for all men to learn to read, it is desirable that they should do so in their childhood; and hence it is incumbent on all parents, so far as they are able, to have their children educated. Now it is obvious that parents love their daughters as dearly as they do their sons, and therefore it follows that they ought to teach them also."

"Sir Robert Montgomery's plan he likened to a 'ship laden with virtues,' and whoever helps it on its way or gives it his aid, him Gooroo Nanuk will bless in this world and the next, and grant forgiveness of his sins." The old Sikh concluded in these words:—

"I am well assured that you also will, with ready zeal, turn your thoughts to this matter, and then the wise Gooroo will bestow on you blessings in this world and the next. If there were any harm in this, be assured that I would not advise it. With all my heart I wish the good of you and your descendants. Consider that in former days and in your own families this custom prevailed."

"Sir Robert Montgomery is now able to state that there are about 9,000 girls under instruction. Before he made this attempt to extend the work, there were only about 1,500. It can scarcely be said that the Government of this country is not doing its duty in striving to raise the poorer classes of the people from the quagmires of ignorance and misery in which for generations they have been sunk."

### Spain.

If there is any one country in particular of which the general Protestant mind is willing to believe anything that is intolerant, retrograde, and hopelessly bad, that country is Spain. All the patent facts of its modern history have conspired to produce this state of feeling. From the expulsion of the Moors to the expulsion of Matamoras, it seems to have gone steadily on in a way not good. McCrie's History of the Reformation in Spain aggravated this feeling by showing what a hold the teaching of Luther and the other Reformers of the 16th century had taken on the noblest and most intelligent Spaniards, and that Spain had thus been within an ace of becoming Protestant. Even although we fought for her all through the Peninsular campaigns, no real alliance ever took place. We fought, not because we loved Spain, but because we hated France. And since 1812, no part of her history that is generally known has entitled her to our sympathy or respect. Civil convulsions, continually recurring spasmodic political changes, repudiation of debt, general torpor of intellect, religious intolerance, and vain attempts to obtain recognition as a Great Power, are the only ideas connected with Spain in the minds of most men in Britain and America.

In making such an estimate, we do Spain great injustice. It is true that she has had