

MISSION FIELD.

VICTORIA—AUSTRALIA.

The Melbourne 'Church Messenger' for September gave some startling facts on the religious condition of that metropolis. Each year is adding some 20,000 to its population. What provision is the Church making for these immigrants? The comparison of Melbourne with some of the large towns of England must give cause for sad reflection. Wolverhampton has provided for 56 per cent. of her increase; Preston for 43 per cent, but Melbourne for only 3 per cent. The church people of Bristol have built 21 permanent Mission halls in addition to churches; but Melbourne possesses only one. Yet the saddest part of the story is that the scant accommodation already provided is amply sufficient. And yet the people who neglect worship are not actively opposed to religion. They admit its utility to others. They have some respect for Christian ministers. They bring their children to be baptized, and accompany their young people on the occasion of weddings, and wish a minister to visit them when sick and dying; but for some reason it is the habit of their lives to go without any recognition of God Almighty in public worship.

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BOMBAY.

With reference to the Canarese Christians at Hubli, the Rev. C. E. Gardner writes;

There was a little haste in taking them over so easily. The ground of the proceeding was that the German missionary were unwilling to come to any definite agreement, and refused to allow an enquiry. In a few days it is expected that the first fruits, about sixty or so, will be confirmed. Narayan Rao is keeping up the discipline as well as he can, but it must be very difficult for him. There is no present hope of a Missionary to take up the work. The new chaplain may strengthen Narayan Rao's hands by his sympathy and support, but that is all that can be done. Perhaps, however, it will be well for the new Mission to be tested by seeing how well they can hold together by themselves for some time. Their condition is such as to need repression at first rather than bolstering up. There are some really good people among them, and the generality are well meaning, and, I hope, free from the vices frequently observed among native Christians; so I trust a sound and good Church will be built up there.

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LAHORE.

The Rev. T. Williams has printed a pamphlet, exposing the dishonesty of the Argas, and their late leader Dayaranda Sarasvan is falsifying the Rig Veda, and making it assert a grossly immoral doctrine of which it is wholly innocent. In conclusion he says;

I would remind my readers that the man whose literary dishonesty is here exposed, died only a few

years ago and was the founder of the Arya Samaj. This society is loud in its professions of endeavouring to improve the morals of the Hindus, and to draw them from idolatry. It was to effect this by restoring veneration for the Veda, and by conforming to its dictates as to religious rites. My letters show that the whole thing is a sham. For how can they teach morality, who themselves propound a practice so grossly immoral as to be sternly denounced by all people having any pretensions to civilization? How can they teach people to venerate the Veda, when they themselves, lest they should add their authority to this immoral doctrine roll that very Veda in the dirt, by ascribing to its oldest book that pernicious teaching, even at the cost of falsifying the Veda itself? How can they teach their countrymen to abstain from idolatry, when the Rig Veda to which they appeal is itself replete with idolatry of the very simplest kind? The measure of their falsification of the Rig Veda may be judged from this, that while I say the Rig Veda when truly translated is seen to be replete with genuine idolatry, or the 'worship of other than God,' all this they deliberately mistranslate, so that the falsification of the Rig Veda extends to the whole of it. The prayer of the unfortunate Hindu should be, Deliver me from the Brahmar and especially from Dayananda and his followers. Mr. Williams's letter has been translated into Hindi and Urdu by other missions. It has already broken up some Samajes.



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