

of death in the performance of its duty. It is out of date, however, to write now about that deed of daring.

There is another six hundred that comes not (were all things weighed and considered) behind the Crimean six hundred. It requires courage to ride into the jaws of death with cannon in front roaring and thundering ; but does it require less courage to walk, or creep by inches into the jaws of death in a dangerous calling in the absence of the stimulus that numbers and war-like excitement give the soldier ?

The six hundred of which we wish now to write are soldiers of the cross, having for their battle field the deadly climate of India, and for their foes the oldest and most elaborate form of idolatry the world has ever seen.

India, in round numbers, we may describe as 1,800 miles from north to south, and 1,500 miles at its greatest breadth from east to west, with an area of a million and a quarter square miles. This vast country is about the size of Europe with Russia left out. "Were you to travel," says one who well knew the country, "over Portugal, Spain and France ; were you then to traverse Turkey in Europe, and further to travel northward through Austria and Prussia, finishing your tour by visiting Denmark, Belgium, Holland and all the German States, you would have performed no more than a circuit of India ; or to present it in another light, were you to travel over the length and breadth of England and Wales twenty times, you would accomplish a journey of less extent than even one tour in India."

But the superficial extent of a country is a small matter in comparison with its population. Our own Dominion is more than twice the size of India, but our population is four millions, while the population of India is sixty times that number, or 240 millions.

This immense multitude, the fifth of the population of the whole earth, is divided into nearly 30 nations, speaking as many different languages. It is in fact, like Europe, a continent of nations, Bengalis, Hindostanis, Maharatras, Gujurates, etc.

In virtue of the will of that God who shapes our ends rough-hew them how we will, this teeming continent, full of men, and rich in material resources, has passed under the Dominion of our Queen. "Kingdom after kingdom," says Sir Bartle Frere, "has fallen to the British crown, some by conquest after war, some in default of heirs who could enforce the claim, some by way of punishment for misdeeds of rulers ; *but all, as it were, in spite of ourselves.* Even defeats and misfortunes helped somewhat to extend our empire." This was God's doings.

The reason why God gave to Britain such a heritage as India is now becoming plain. God gave us India that we might give India to Christ. It was long before British Statesmen understood their destiny, and the duty to which God had called them. For many years it was forbidden to send