

agencies; that for this holy service we appeal to you for more men and more means; and that we ask the church to aid us by more repeated and more fervent prayers! The grounds of our appeal are numerous, the force of our claims is unanswerable. We believe that every kind of plea which can be fairly urged on behalf of other idolatrous lands, can be presented with greater force on behalf of India. Do menaces of the true way of salvation and manifest religious errors constitute a claim? Where can be found more real ignorance of it than here! where can we meet with men who have fallen into such gross, delusive, and destructive errors, as the people among whom we dwell? Do MINISTRARS to the gospel call for more strenuous exertion to advance it? Nowhere are such powerful obstacles presented as those which spring from the caste, the priesthood, the shastras and the philosophy of India. Does the EXTENT of error constitute an argument for the speedy proclamation of the gospel? In India there are 330 millions of gods; the modes of salvation trusted in are numerous, ancient, and influential. Many of the rites are cruel; all tend to the ruin of immortal souls. Is it desirable to Christianize nations that possess INFLUENCE over others? Few idolatrous nations can exercise upon their neighbours so powerful and sustained an influence as the tribes of India have exerted and still exert over them. Do NUMBERS create a claim? No country is more thickly peopled than India. Is ACCESSIBILITY an argument? India is far more accessible than any other heathen country in the whole world. Each of these motives of itself carries weight; what can the church say, where each appears in the strongest form, and where they are all combined!

We do not dwell upon these arguments: they are well known to you; we need not add a word to enforce them, for by their soundness you are already convinced. It is not conviction that we aim at, but impression. As for ourselves, so for you; we desire that you should deeply feel how vast is the field untouched by the gospel, yet perfectly open to its influence; and that, in consequence, you should be stirred up to more earnest efforts to supply an agency commensurate with the work to be performed. For this end, we will endeavour to lay before you a few facts concerning two of the arguments alluded to: the *claims of population*, and their *accessibility* to the gospel.

The vast extent to which India is spread out can scarcely be felt by those who dwell in the small island of Great Britain. It is not a country, but a continent full of countries; it is not inhabited by one people, but is possessed by different nations; it does not contain one language, but in its territories many languages are spoken, as radically different from each other as English is from Hungarian. Indeed it is half the size of all the territories of European Russia, is inhabited by more than twice the number of its entire population, and its annual revenue reaches a higher amount. Yet Russia is the third empire in Europe, and is maintaining a powerful resistance to England and France combined. It may, therefore, easily be shown that the four hundred missionaries labouring in India, though apparently many, are in reality few; that they only just touch the country, but find it impossible to go deep beneath the surface of society.

The extent of the population may be shown, by exhibiting in detail the numbers contained in the various Presidencies and states; in the districts into which they are divided, and the towns and villages spread over them in all directions.

The following is the latest return of the population of the various presidencies and states:—

Presidency of Bengal	45,100,000	103	Mis.
" Agra	30,250,000	6	"
" Bombay	10,000,000	33	"
" Madras	27,250,000	122	"

The Punjab	5,000,000	5	"
Scinde	1,500,000	1	"
Nagpore	4,550,000	2	"
Hyderabad	10,667,000	0	"
Oude	2,970,000	0	"
Other States	22,500,000	0	"

This vast population is distributed into various provinces and districts, many of which contain from one to two millions each. The following are simply a specimen:—

Rajamundry	887,000	has 3	Mission
Cuddapah	1,228,000	" 2	"
Salem	946,000	" 1	"
Assam	1,500,000	" 8	"
Bardwan	1,673,000	" 0	"
Madnapore	1,360,000	" 0	"
Purnea	1,961,000	" 0	"

These instances may be greatly multiplied, for there are more than a hundred such districts in the whole of Hindustan. But a list of towns would be more appalling still. Numerous cities and towns in India resemble the more important in Europe and America, and contain from 500,000 to 100,000 inhabitants each. A still larger number contain a population of 50, or 40, or 30,000 each. And in the list of towns and large villages, containing from 10,000 down to 2000, would cover pages and pages of this appeal.

What then, dear brethren, is to be done for these perishing souls? We ask for nothing unreasonable, nothing impossible. We well know that it is far beyond your power to supply even India alone with an adequate number of qualified missionaries. We know your sympathy for the heathen world, the numerous claims presented to you from your many missions, and the difficulty, in the present position of the churches, of raising sufficient funds. But we do press upon you the greatness of the claims of India; and that, because of its vast population, and of its entire accessibility to the gospel, these claims surpass those of all others. Believing these claims to be undeniable, we urge you to try and do something special for India. We would suggest that every society should endeavour to send a few more men in proportion to its strength, and so to place them as to render them a real and powerful addition to the present agency. We remember with thankfulness that such additions during the last five and twenty years have been very large, and that the strength of Indian missions has been nearly trebled. We are aware also that the Church Missionary Society has during the last few years considerably increased the number of its missionaries, both in Southern and Northern India. With pleasure we acknowledge that the Baptist Missionary Society recently resolved to send twenty new men, some of whom are to occupy well chosen stations in desolate districts of our own province, and that some of these brethren have arrived. We know, too, that the American Board, on recently reviewing the Madura mission, and marking new stations that were desirable, resolved to send three missionaries to occupy them. Such a plan is, we think, practicable for each society; and such a plan, acted on from time to time, will, under God's blessing, secure the most solid advance of the kingdom of Christ. If out of the twenty societies engaged in Indian missions, the larger send ten men, and others less, so as to secure an average addition of five men each, during the next five years, there will be found no less than five hundred missionaries in India, of whom a hundred will have been entirely added during that brief period. We pray you to regard our appeal for the land in which we labour. We plead for the multitudes we see, whose ignorance we know, whose passage into another world in such vast numbers, unsaved, fills us with mourning and sadness. We ask your efforts. We ask your prayers. May the Lord of the church himself prepare the harvest, and send forth more labourers to reap it for his praise.

## PROSPECTS IN CHINA.

The intense interest which agitated the Christian public, in reference to the revolution in China, seems to have subsided. It is either taken for granted that the whole movement is a failure, or that at any rate Christianity has but little to expect from any change which will probably occur. We do not doubt, as we have often taken occasion to say, that, in a year or two, will have been attained. We are glad to find these views confirmed by a report in one of the London journals, of the statements made at a late meeting of the Christian Knowledge Society, by the English Bishop of Hong Kong, just returned from this field.

"While unwilling to commit himself to any over-sanguine expectations from the revolutionary movement, he nevertheless expressed his view, that after the necessary deductions to be made on account of the fanaticism, the errors, and the more recently perceptible deterioration of the insurgent leaders in the central rebellion now agitating the interior provinces of the Chinese empire, there remained much that was calculated to awaken the interest and excite the hopes of the Church. He alluded to the disadvantages under which the T'ao ping-wang leaders were placed in the absence of foreign missionary instructors, and the fragmentary character of the Protestant missionary publications, which many years ago had come into their possession, and formed the first circumstance in leading their minds to the profession of a spurious kind of Christianity, and the engrafting of some of the more sublime truths of the Old and New Testaments upon the Confucian monotheism of the Chinese national religion.

"His lordship expressed his opinion that whatever might be the eventual issue of the struggle (and the accounts by the last mail furnished important evidence that the insurgents were rapidly regaining strength and presage), the independent publication and distribution in the interior provinces, by the Chinese themselves, of a Protestant version of the Holy Scriptures, and the existence of a vast number of the rising generation of Chinese youth accustomed to memorize and reverence the Bible, presented some grounds for hope, and furnished materials out of which something might be raised hereafter better than any thing which had been hitherto seen in China. Under these circumstances, the mind of every British Christian naturally turned with anxious interest to the course which European diplomatists might pursue at this juncture in Chinese history; and he strongly deprecated any measures of foreign intervention on behalf of the cruel and corrupt Manchow Tartar dynasty and imperialist government of China, which might have for its object the purchase of commercial privileges for foreigners at the price of the extermination of the present revolutionary movement."—*Presbyterian*.

## A MISSIONARY'S LABOURS AMONG THE SARDINIANS IN THE CRIMEA.

The following are extracts from a letter, relative to Crimean matters, published in the *Morning Advertiser*, from the pen of Mr. Duncan Matheson, an eminent and devoted missionary. The letter is addressed to Major Gibb, and is dated Constantinople, July 16, 1856:—

"Immediately after reaching this I went to Yenikoi, on the Bosphorus, where the large Sardinian hospital has been for the last eighteen months. On my arrival being known, many of the Sardinian officers and soldiers visited me, asked for Bibles, and each evincing a deeper interest than another who should be first served. Night after night the Locanda where I had my residence was crowded, and, as I had to return often for supplies, I had generally a crowd waiting the steamer's arrival. I cannot picture to you the many heart-thrilling scenes I witnessed.