

When visiting and preaching in the quarters inhabited by the blacksmiths and weavers, I had often urged them to send their children to the school, and had got numerous and repeated promises from the parents, but without results. The fact was, that however willing the parents might be, the boys themselves were in mortal terror, and could not satisfy their own minds, that if once they set foot within a Sahib's school, they would not, some fine morning, be roasted and served up as a savoury morsel on the Sahib's breakfast table. I felt sure, however, that if any active pundit would go among the people, and, collecting the boys in their own quarter, teach them there, they might thus be gradually broken in, their fears dispelled, and themselves prepared for being drafted into our higher school. I accordingly proposed to the pundit, that if he were really anxious to be usefully employed, I would make trial of him in this work; offering him only a very trifling remuneration. He at once closed with my offer, and set to work with so much zeal and vigor, that before a fortnight he had collected around him a school of boys and girls (!) to the number of upwards of thirty. Meanwhile he continued to read and inquire into the way of salvation through Christ Jesus, and joined himself to us so openly, that the Brahmins of the city first reproached and quarrelled with him, and finally cast him out of their brotherhood and society. When I left for my itineracy, he was making very hopeful advances in knowledge and attainments, and, eight days after, I was gratified by receiving the glad intelligence, that he had professed his determination of becoming a disciple of the Lord Jesus, and of making a public renunciation of Hinduism in the Nya Nuggur bazaar. In the evening, accompanied by Dr. Valentine, Mr. Gardon, and Chintu Ram, he accordingly took up his position in the most public place in the market, and surrounded by an astonished and dismayed crowd of upwards of 150 idolaters, made a public renunciation of Hinduism, and profession of his adhesion to Christianity. * * * Rejoice with me, then, my dear Dr. Somerville, in this the first fruits of the Lord's harvest here. It is a noble first-fruits, and, should the grace of God really dwell in his heart, he will prove to be a most valuable agent of our mission."

In the same communication Mr. Shoolbred mentions the baptism of four orphan girls and a little boy.

MISSIONS OF FREE CHURCH.

INDIA—THE WORK AT CALCUTTA.—The *Free Church Record* for March contains a comprehensive view of the work at Calcutta from the pen of Dr. Duff. On the rolls of the Institution, there are not fewer than 1530, of which 183 belong to the higher or college department. The daily attendance is from one-fifth to one-fourth less than this number, the rest being detained by sickness and other necessary causes. In all the classes, from the highest to the lowest, scriptural knowledge is imparted. When the boys are able to read, the Bible is put into their hands and daily taught by a christian teacher or catechist. In the higher classes, works on the evidences and on Systematic Theology are successively added. Such works as those of Horne, Melvaine, Thompson, Tulloch, Edwards, Chalmers, &c., have been studied with accompanying prelections.

Dr. Duff states that at all the country stations, as well as in Calcutta, the gospel is directly preached through the medium of the vernacular to the adult population. The gospel is preached in scores of villages, and listened to by thousands (in the aggregate) of villagers.

FEMALE EDUCATION IN INDIA.—At the various Presidences in India, it is calculated that there are now two thousand female pupils. At first it was necessary to hold out some substantial inducement for girls to attend. Some time ago this was discontinued; and now it is mentioned as a mark of decided progress that fees have been introduced, and that many are now willing to pay for what at first they could scarcely be induced to accept.

MISSIONS OF IRISH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

INDIA—THE DREDS.—The Rev. Dr. Glasgow, in a letter which is published in the *Missionary Herald* of March, gives some interesting information of the