

by Him. We do feel our own weakness, our unworthiness, and long to be more Christ-like in order that we may be used of our God and that God may be glorified in the salvation of precious souls.

MISSION STUDIES.

Missionary Work in India.

By Miss Ferrier, Caledonia.

(FIRST PAPER.)

INDIA, or Hindustan, is a very large country situated about the middle of the southern part of Asia, and is now an Empire under the government of Great Britain. It has an immense population of about 250,000,000. The last census gives 268,000,000, but this includes British Burmah. Holding hands, these people would reach three times round the earth at the equator, or walking at the rate of ten miles a day, they would take forty years to pass a given point—your front door for example. They are called Hindus, and in form and features are very like ourselves, but their skins are dark, and their hair and eyes black. We are accustomed to speak of them as being all of one nation, but in reality there are a number of different races or nations in India, and at least twenty-five different languages are spoken. The Hindus have been civilized for ages, and many of them are clever tradesmen, making beautiful articles with very few and simple tools; many of the upper classes also are well educated, but the great mass of the people are very ignorant, not more than five or six in a hundred being able to read or write.

There are many large and beautiful cities in India, with fine public buildings, palaces and temples, but the streets are usually narrow, with no sidewalks. The shops are very small, the whole front being open to the street, while, on the other hand, the private houses are built in the form of a square, with an open court in the centre, into which all the doors and windows open, so that their appearance from the street is rather dreary. Though the majority of the people are engaged in agricultural