

rich blessing, though terribly disguised. It destroyed the influence of caste. It broke the Moslem power. 2000 native converts endured prosecution;—some of them unto death. To crown all, the reign of the East India Company was brought to a close, and Sir John Lawrence, one of the ablest and best of the Christian men in India, was placed on the vice regal throne.

Missions in India now have the protection of the English Government. No less than twenty-five different missionary organizations, American and European, are now at work in India, Burmah, and Ceylon. The whole country is open to effort, and intelligent natives do not hesitate to express the belief that Christianity will become the religion of the country.

Especially is this great field open to the efforts of Christian women, in behalf of their down-trodden sex. Twenty years ago no zenana could be entered by even a female missionary. Now their presence and efforts are desired and sought for.

There is now an actual native church membership in India and Burmah of 70,857.

#### Missions in Syria.

Dr. Jessup, a veteran Presbyterian Missionary at Beirut, Syria, writes that on a recent Sabbath thirteen new members were admitted to the church, from five of the different sects of the land. Twelve more are applying for admission. One prominent Maronite of that bigoted Papal sect who had never known a missionary, but had had a Bible in his house for years, had a dream for three successive nights, calling upon him to ask forgiveness of the Protestant missionaries, and labor for the erection of a Protestant church in his own quarter of the city. He has since that time been a regular attendant on Protestant worship, and seems to be fully in earnest and determined to endure persecution faithfully to the end. As far as we can see, he is a thorough-going Protestant, and as well grounded in the faith as some who have been Protestants for years. Three of those recently admitted to the church are baptized children of Protestant parents, and are thus the second generation of Syrian Protestants. Several of the College students are applying for church membership, and the state of feeling among the young men is unusually hopeful.

The neighborhood prayer-meetings still continue interesting, and are the means of bringing the truth into contact with men and women of all sects. We are now preparing to begin an enterprise long talked of—that is, the opening of a new place of worship in that quarter of the city east of the Damascus road. There are already

ten Protestant families there, and not a few of the Greeks and Greek Catholics in the vicinity are very urgent for the establishment of evangelical worship there. I am almost amazed at the extent to which evangelical light pervades the nominally Christian communities here. The Greek Church in Beirut will go over *en masse* some day to Protestantism, if the light continues to spread in the future as it has in the past ten years. A prominent Greek said a few days ago "You Protestants need not trouble yourselves about converting Syria. Our children are all going to be Protestants, whether you will or not. The Bible is doing the work."

Another Greek was visited recently by a priest who came to receive the confession of the family previous to the Mass. The priest said: "My son, I have come to hear you confess." "All right, your reverence. I have a big score to confess to-day." "Go on, my son." "Well, I do not believe in the worship of pictures." (This is a cardinal point in the Greek Church). "No matter about that, as long as you are an Orthodox Greek." But I do not believe in the Invocation of the Virgin and the Saints." Ah! you do not? Well that is a small matter. Go on." "Nor do I believe in Transubstantiation." No matter about that, it is a question for the theologians." "Nor do I believe in priestly absolution." "Very well, between you and me there is room for objection to that, so no matter as long as you confess." "But I do not believe in confession to a priest." Here the priest became somewhat confused, but finally smoothed the matter over, and said, "No matter about that." The man then replied, "What business have I then in the Greek Church? Good morning, your reverence; I have done with the traditions of men."

The growing enlightenment of the people is greatly alarming the priesthood of all sects, and they are setting themselves and taking counsel together how to check the growth of Protestantism. Every species of arrogance and private petty persecution is resorted to, but where the truth has taken root, nothing will avail to check it.

Were there entire liberty of conscience here, and were the power of persecution and oppression taken out of the hands of the clergy, there would be an astonishing movement towards Protestant Christianity.

Two young men of good families in Beirut, and both of the Greek sect, have been turned out of their homes within a fortnight by their own parents, for attending our church and prayer meetings, but they both stood firm, and have now been asked to return home again. One of them brought his father to church last Sunday, and his sister to Sabbath school.