

Head of Church



VOL. XI. MONTREAL, APRIL, 1854. No. 4.

An English School in the City of Mysore.

THE MYSORE PETITION.

If I were to ask you, "Where is the Mysore country?" perhaps not many of you could tell me; and if I were to say that it is in India, you would not readily find it; for India is a large country, and contains many kingdoms. Look for Madras in the map. It is on the eastern coast of the continent of India. In a straight line westward, about a hundred and fifty miles inland, is the Mysore country. It is about as large as Ireland. It is under the dominion of the English, but governed in the name of the Rajah, or native Prince. This Rajah lives in great style. "He has a great palace; a state coach as tall as a tree, and as wide as a parlour, drawn by six elephants, before which the Lord Mayor with Gog and Magog would be dwarfed."

The Rajah is a Hindoo, and his subjects are Heathens and Mahommedans. There have been Christian Missionaries living in the country for many years, and some of the Heathen inhabitants have been converted to Christianity. A few only out of the many thousands have cared to listen to the

teachings of the Missionaries; but lately the people have seemed to be ashamed of their ignorance, and they want to have schools in which their children may be taught, that they may not grow up as ignorant as themselves.

Now, you must know, that there are in the Mysore country *six hundred and twenty-seven thousand and eighty-two boys, and five hundred and twenty-three thousand six hundred and sixty-two girls*. These children are ignorant Heathens; but they are waiting and willing to be taught.

About ten months ago, Mr. Hardy, a Wesleyan Missionary living among them, was about to visit England for a time. When the people in the city of Mysore heard he was leaving, they presented a petition to him, signed by three thousand four hundred people, begging him to ask the English people to let them have a school for their children. This is the petition:—

TO ALL THE SOCIETIES OF WISE GENTLEMEN IN ENGLAND.

THIS PETITION SHEWETH:—

In the city of Mysore, all the Hindus, Mussulmans, and all other people, in the greatest humility pray. To teach the fifty-three thousand people