

present proportions, equals nearly nine times the size of England and Wales. Among these Indians there are several tribes exhibiting different characteristics and speaking, in some cases, distinct languages. There are the Slaves and Chippewyans, (whose languages are somewhat akin),—Yellow Knives and Dogribs. A few Cree families which have migrated from the South, and whose language is very rich and perfectly distinct. Mountain Indians and Tukudths from the Youcon River, with their very rich and melodious language, into which the whole of the Book of Psalms and the New Testament has been rendered by Ven. Archdeacon Macdonald. The greater part of our Northern tribes profess Christianity. It is a fact that the number of heathen Indians is far greater in the Saskatchewan Diocese than in Mackenzie River. Among the Blackfeet and Iroquois, and still more, perhaps, the Sioux, there are still many, not only ignorant of Christianity, but sadly opposed to it. And the heathen Indians, untainted, unsubdued by the powers of the Gospel, but too soon able to appreciate the white luxuries and too easily addicted to the white man's vices, will soon evince those turbulent spirits which, three years ago, created such disturbances on the Saskatchewan. Among our Northern tribes there is a longing and incessant demand for teachers to be sent out to them; a drinking in of the holy truths, imparted with absolute avidity; a thirst for yet fuller light, which was touchingly expressed by a Tukudth Indian to the bishop on one occasion: "You have kindled a fire among us and now you go away and leave us to smoulder."

(To be Continued.)

NOTES FROM THE MISSION FIELD.

INDIA.

THE following account of the Lascar Mission in the district of Victoria Docks has appeared in the annual report of St. Andrew's Waterside Mission:

The Lascars are native Indian sailors, recruited principally from Bengal and Bombay, and they form the crews of the magnificent vessels of the Peninsula and Oriental, the British India Navigation, the Ducal Line, and other shipping companies, and there are large numbers of them to be always found in the dock. They are mostly Mohammedans, and their attachment to their faith is carried to the point of fanaticism. During their stay in the docks, which seldom exceeds a few weeks, they conduct themselves in an orderly manner and live on board. Many of them have made several voyages to London, but have seen but little of our great metropolis, and the little they do see is such as to give them an unfavorable impression of our country from the degraded characters they meet in the streets. The Rev. G. B. Bhose, of Bishop's College, Calcutta, formerly employed in the British Guiana Coolie Mission, is now engaged as a missionary curate to

visit the Lascars and speak to them about Christianity. "Although very fond of arguing, and apt sometimes to lose their tempers, they have never shown towards us any hostile feeling. On the contrary our visits are welcomed by many, and our addresses listened to frequently with great attention. Their greatest objection to Christianity is that it teaches the doctrine of the Trinity, or rather the divinity of Our Lord, of whom they speak with the respect due to a great prophet only; and when we refer them to the New Testament which they hold to be inspired, they say that Christians have tampered with it in order to bring it into agreement with their view. Some pretend that our translation of the Gospels is utterly untrustworthy, and insist on hearing the words of Christ in the original Greek, although they no not understand a word of it. We are constantly reproached with breaking Christ's command to His disciples that they should not eat pork nor drink wine; and when challenged to point to any passage in the Gospel to that effect, they repeat the charge that we have substituted a spurious in the place of the genuine Gospel. On one occasion a young man brought out a copy of the Hindustani Testament, and read aloud the parable of the laborers in the vineyard. When he had finished it, he explained that by laborers going to work at different hours were meant Moses, Christ and Mahomet. They say that the Koran has superseded the Gospel, as the latter has superseded the Mosaic dispensation."

CALCUTTA.

The annual report of the Oxford Mission to Calcutta contains a photograph of the Mission House, 99 Mukhtaram Babu Street. With reference to the situation and its surroundings the Bishop says: The site is not the most healthy that could have been chosen; but this is unavoidable, if the house is to be in the midst of the work. As in East London, the work can only be done upon the spot; it cannot be delayed until the sanitary condition of the whole native quarter has been improved. Adjoining the Mission House is a piece of ground covered at present with noisome huts, the smoke and smell of which rise up into the windows of the house. It is most advisable to buy this ground. Not only would the removal of these huts improve the sanitary conditions, but also a new wing might be built more suitable for English residents than the present native house. If this could be done, the present house would probably be used as a hostel for native students at the Calcutta University. About £2,500 is needed for the purchase of this site. It is one of the greatest needs of the Mission at this moment. The Mission hopes, when its numbers will permit, to open a new center of work among the students at the Dacca College, about 250 miles from Calcutta. The appeal from Dacca was thus described by the Bishop of Calcutta in his speech at the annual meeting: "Last year a great effort was