

MISSION FIELD.

INDIA.

The Lahore Church Gazette regrets "the singular view taken by the present Viceroy of his relation to Mission schools. When asked to distribute the prizes at such a school in this diocese, he declined on the ground that he had made it a rule to obtain from any public action which might seem in any way to lend support to religious propagandism. Now, many of his predecessors, e.g., Lords Canning, Northbrook and Ripon, judged it in no way inconsistent with their position to preside at such ceremonies."

The new cathedral at Rangoon has been commenced. In the same diocese a new church is building at Moulmein. Steps are already being taken for resuming Mission work at Mandalay, from whence Dr. Marks was driven by the tyrant Thebaw, now happily deposed; three English clergymen are required.

Beluchistan has been hitherto regarded as wholly devoid of Christianity, but this has already ceased to be the fact. A correspondent of the Lahore Church Gazette writes: "Quetta, now about to be taken up as a station by the C.M.S., has been represented as unbroken ground; but the Missionaries will, upon arrival, find, as St. Paul did at Rome, that Christianity has preceded them. A small congregation has been discovered already existing there, consisting of a native officer, a doctor, a hospital assistant, a tailor, with their families, and a babu; this little community met regularly every Sunday afternoon. Moreover, a Bombay regiment had been stationed at Quetta, which contained no less than ten Christian sepoys; these joined every Sunday in each other's tents for morning and evening service, and raised voluntary offerings for transmission to their church in Bombay. At Kach, in the Hornai valley, six native Christians were discovered in a Bombay Pioneer regiment. They also had continued to observe the Sunday by regular services; they appointed one of their number to read the prayers, another the lessons."

The Indian Churchman says:—"Discussion has been excited by the question how far a minister of religion is justified in exercising discipline among his congregation. At Ahmednagar a native brought an action against the native pastor who had excluded him. The magistrate who tried the case condemned the pastor with a fine. This decision was appealed against, and the High Court at Bombay ordered a refund of the fine. A second case has occurred in the north-west provinces, this time the aggrieved being an Englishman, or Eurasian. The State, by its judges, while upholding the Church's right to exclude members who have violated its already enacted rules, condemned exclusion in accord-

ance with new rules made with retrospective effect to meet special cases."

Good progress has been made towards establishing the endowment of the Colombo Bishopric. The Church Organization Committee has agreed on its report. This Committee contained representatives of all sections of Churchmen, and its sittings had been protracted over four years. The agreement attained among its members encourages the expectation that their recommendations will be generally accepted by the Church in Ceylon.

The Rev. H. Williams, C.M.S. Missionary at Krishnagar, complains that the C. M. S. *Intelligencer* condemns as a "fatal error the attempting to amalgamate English Christians with native Christians in one common Church." He objects to the formation of a separate native Church, and asks "How far would the C. M. S. bind it down to the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England?" also how far the Society would extend support to the proposed Church, seeing that the C.M.S., by a fundamental law, binds its Missionaries to establish among their converts the Gospel according to the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England? He points out, moreover, that in Ceylon the C.M.S. Missionaries are so far from advocating such a separate Church that they have just joined with the rest of the Diocesan Synod of Colombo in a declaration of resolve to maintain unchanged the doctrine, discipline and formularies of the Church of England. Mr. Williams thinks, however, that this declaration was too stringent, and that liberty would be lost if the Church of India binds itself with the same fetters as the Church in Ceylon. Yet he might be comforted by reflecting that, as the Bishop of Colombo is canonically subject to the Metropolitan at Calcutta, so the Diocesan Synod is subordinate to the Provincial, and that therefore the declaration alleged is still liable to review.

The most valuable of the Vedas, the *Rig-Veda*, is being translated into Bengali by Romesh Chunder Dutt. But the *Indian Witness* says that other champions of Hinduism have expressed a "fear that the unveiling of the secrets of this mysterious book will destroy the veneration in which, as unknown, it is enshrouded."

SOUTH AFRICA.

A letter from the eastern part of Cape Colony states:—"Although the political horizon is clearer, Church work here is still in many respects sorely tried. Drought, famine, scarcity of employment, increased taxation, outbreaks of small-pox and cattle disease, all combine to render this a critical time as regards both the outward well-being of the people and the success of Missions."

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