

MISSION FIELD.

MADRAS JUBILEE RETROSPECTS.

THE S. P. G. IN TINNEVELLY.

The S. P. G. Mission in Tinnevelly may be said to date from 1780, when the Mission, already commenced by Swartz, the most memorable name in the history of the Protestant Mission in Southern India, took an organized shape by the formation of a small congregation, at Palamcotta, under Swartz's superintendence. He was followed by Jaenicke, Rosen, and Irion, German Missionaries, then by Cammerer, who had been educated at Bishop's College, Calcutta. He was a man of much energy, and has left his mark in Tinnevelly. There is a brief statement on record of the strength of the Tinnevelly Missions in 1837: baptised members of congregations 4,352, children in schools 269. The number of girls in the schools was only 6. That was a day of very small things indeed. There are at present, in connection with the same Mission, 566 congregations; members of congregations 39,577, of whom 29,656 are baptised, the rest being catechumens; communicants 7,699; children in school number 8,517, of whom 2,425 are girls. This includes Ramnad. In Mission colleges and Anglo-vernacular schools there are 1,392 boys; there are 416 girls in boarding schools.

Thus everything connected with the Mission has increased tenfold during the fifty years of Queen Victoria's reign. In the beginning of the years 1841, the Missions in Tinnevelly received a visit from Bishop Spencer, the first visit they had ever received from a Bishop. Towards the close of the same year the Rev. R. Caldwell, afterwards Bishop Caldwell, arrived in Tinnevelly. He commenced his labours at Idaiyangudi, which is still under his special care, but for some years past he has made Tuticorin his head-quarters. In 1843 an Institution was commenced at Sawyerpuram by Dr. G. U. Pope, a name which will always be remembered for the training up of Mission agents. This supplied a want which had long been felt. Most of the pupils, as soon as they left, were employed in the Mission as catechists and schoolmasters, whilst students of superior attainments were drafted to Madras to Sullivan's Gardens, where they enjoyed the advantage of being trained by the Rev. A. R. Symonds, one of the best educationists Southern India has seen. After Dr. Pope left, the Institution came under the care of various principals, the chief of whom were Mr. Huxtable, afterwards Bishop of Mauritius, and Mr. Brotherton, whose attainments and character were commemorated at Cambridge by the foundation of an Oriental scholarship bearing his name. During the Principalship of Mr. Sharrock, the present head of the College, the College Department was transferred to Tuticorin, a much more important place than Sawyerpuram, in accordance with a recommendation

of the present Bishop of Calcutta, who visited Tinnevelly as Metropolitan in 1881. It has since been raised to the rank of a college of the first grade, teaching up to the B. A. standard, and year by year it is growing in efficiency. It has now the advantage of having a wrangler, as Vice-Principal. It was through the efforts of Bishop Caldwell, after whom the College is named, that the large and commodious College buildings were purchased and presented to the S. P. G. A speciality of the College is the prominence given in it to Christian teaching. It may fairly be described as the most distinctly Christian College in the Presidency, and it will be found that almost every college and high school in the Presidency has received its Christian masters from Sayerpuram or Tuticorin.

(To be Continued.)

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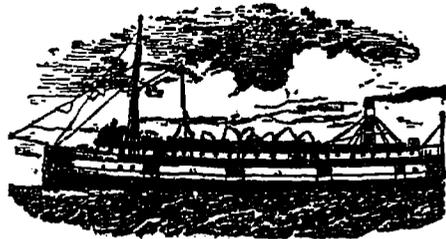
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