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"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem! let my right hand forget its cunning."—Psalm 137. v. 5.

Extracts from Address on Christian Missions to India by Norman McLeod, D. D.

WHAT HAVE MISSIONS ACCOMPLISHED?

What, then, it may be asked, have missions done generally for India? What measure of success have they had, or are they likely to have? Or such questions may be summed up in the more general and inclusive one, What is the state and what are the prospects of Christianity in India?

In attempting, in the most general manner, to deal with questions which demand volumes instead of a speech, however long, to reply to them, I shall assume for the moment that I am addressing here, or through the reporters, those only who have not thought or inquired much on the subject.

I am sorry to be compelled, accordingly, to adduce more preliminary matter, but I cannot help doing so in order to give just impressions of what missions have done and are likely to do.

DIFFICULTIES.

Recollect, then, that we are speaking of a country of enormous extent, with a population of at least 180,000,000, the Bengal Presidency alone numbering more than the whole empire of Austria—that this great country is occupied by various races from the most savage to the most cultivated, having various religious beliefs, and speaking languages which differ from each other as much as Gaelic does from Italian, most of them broken up by dialects so numerous as practi-

cally to form probably twenty separate languages. Remember that the vast majority of this people have inherited a religion and a civilisation, of which I shall have to speak afterwards, from a vast antiquity. Recollect, further, that the attempt to impart the truth and life of Christianity to this great mass has been systematically begun by the Protestant Church in British India within the memory of living men; so that the age of our Scottish missions is represented by Dr. Duff, who commenced them, and still lives to aid them in connection with the Free Church. Realise, if you can, the difficulties which the missionaries engaged in such a tremendous enterprise have had to overcome in the ignorance and indifference, even the opposition, of professing Christians at home, and of timid European officials abroad; their want, for a time, of the very tools and instruments with which to conduct their operations; their ignorance of the language, of the religious systems, of the mental habits and national idiosyncrasies of the people; their want of a Bible which could be used, and of an educated people who could read it, and of any Christian native able and willing to interpret it to their countrymen.

THE WEAKNESS OF MISSION AGENCIES.

Remember, finally, the agencies which are at present labouring in India before asking the question as to results. There are in India, say, a round numbers, five hundred European and American missionaries.

You will notice that the members of this General Assembly, with those of the Assembly of the Free Church meeting in our neigh-