

India.

Dr. Wilson, Bombay, reports the baptism of a well instructed young man from Abyssinia, who had been placed under his charge by Lord Napier. He reports other striking cases. There evidently is an increasing spirit of prayer in India, and a gladsome expectation of blessing. The *Bombay Guardian*, a periodical that sets up a scripturally high standard of faith and practice, writes thus:—

"There is, we believe, a rapidly extending desire among Christians in India, of various denominations, whether European or Native, to reach a higher consecration and a worthier faith. Our own spirit is much cheered by the tokens of this."

A Christian Conference of ministers and laymen was to be held in Calcutta on November 30. It was hoped that Mr. Somerville would be present, and all the details which he could give regarding the work of God in Scotland were expected with the deepest interest.

"Calcutta," says the *Lucknow Witness*, "seems to be putting on new strength, and preparing to do a great work for the Master." And many other places, we think, are not behind the capital in zeal.

DIVISION AMONG INDIAN ROMANISTS.

Those Vatican Decrees that are now creating such an excitement among ourselves, are likely to be attended with serious consequences in India. An Eastern patriarch, the head of the so-called Chaldean Christians in Mesopotamia, did not accept the Decrees. One of his agents has gone to India. Regarding his movements, the *Bombay Catholic Examiner* thus speaks:—"On Monday the chaldean bishop, Mgr. Mellus, left this by railway on his satanic mission of raising the standard of schism in Verapoly. Our bishop charitably made every endeavour to save the wretched man from the ruin into which he was about to plunge himself and probably many others; but that charity was disregarded."

PROGRESS OF CHRISTIANITY IN INDIA.

The last number of the *Indian Evangelical Review* carefully sums up the figures supplied by the reports of the various missionary societies labouring in India, and finds that the converts to Christianity from heathenism during 1873 were fully five thousand, or when Burmah and Ceylon are taken along with India proper, considerably above six thousand. Year by year the number of baptisms increases. The additions to the Church in 1873 were twice as numerous as the average of the preceding ten years, and five times more than the annual average from 1851 to 1861.

The progress of the kingdom of Christ in

India has also been great among classes to which the figures now given have no reference—the Europeans and Eurasians. A higher tone of Christian life among these will act most powerfully on missionary work among the heathen.

In connection with this we quote the opinion which the *Pioneer*, an able secular paper published at Allahabad, pronounces on the position of Brahmanism in India. The *Pioneer* seldom looks at Indian questions from a missionary point of view, but we quite concur in the following judgment:

"The power and influence of the Brahmans is visibly declining; the extravagances of the system—self-immolation, self-torture, naked and repulsive asceticism—have disappeared or are disappearing; pilgrimages are yearly less frequent; endowments are rarer; caste rules are relaxed; people are less prepared to make sacrifices of any kind for their belief. The Hindu is beginning to forget his religion; he has never formally deposed it, but it is shunted out of sight by the whole routine of the life which we have introduced."

REV. C. C. STEWART.—Speaking of ministerial deaths during the past year in the Canada Presbyterian Church, the *Record* says:—We have had to note the death and mourn over the loss of at least two other loved brethren, Rev. C. C. Stewart, M. A., of Owen Sound, and Rev. John Baird, of Port Stanley. The former was cut down in the very morning of life, although he had not lived or laboured in vain. He was a native of Nova Scotia and a distinguished graduate of McGill College, Montreal, and alumnus of the Presbyterian College there. He was a young man of good mind, accurate scholarship, extensive reading, and thorough devotedness to the work of his Master. Much might have been expected from the labours of a young minister of his talents and piety. But in the providence of God he had an early call to his rest and reward.

HEATHEN LIBERALITY.—The heathen distance us in the way they contribute toward the support of their religion. We consider a house of worship which costs £50,000 an extravagant thing; and a £100,000 church is set down as being positively fearful in its cost. But what shall we say of the way the Asiatics spend money on their temples and their idols? The temple of Seringham has an image of "Siva," formed entirely of gold in six pieces, which is fifteen feet high. The platform on which it stands is also of gold, and the precious stones which adorn it are of untold value. To maintain the worship of a single pagoda in Travancore, £90,000 is expended each year. A mission-