

PRAYER CARD LEAFLET.

REFORM OF SOCIAL EVIL IN INDIA.

SUBJECT FOR PRAYER.

AUGUST.

That the reform of social evil in India may be faithfully carried out; that all efforts to liberate and elevate the women of that country may secure the Divine approval.

About two years ago public sentiment was shocked by the fact being brought into notice that there existed in India a system of State licensed vice, than which nothing more revolting has been discussed in the public prints in this century of startling disclosures. It was stated that at the several military establishments where British soldiers were stationed, "Regimental Bazaars" of licensed women are a recognized institution, receiving not only the sanction but the financial support of the Government.

To quote from the *Christian* of April 27th, 1888, "Respectable girls are forced into lives of prostitution by the Government system of licensed sin. The poor people are afraid to refuse or resist, their daughters are delivered up and thus virtuous girls are consigned to lives of iniquity—drawn unto death" (Prov. xiv. 11).

As a result of this exposure of the hidden things of darkness being perpetrated in India under the protection of the State, meetings were convened both in England and Scotland to present petitions to Parliament for the repeal of the law rendering such a state of things possible.

The English Wesleyan Conference has forwarded to Lord Cross, Secretary of State for India, resolutions adopted by 3,437 churches protesting against the inaction of the Indian authorities in giving effect to the resolution of the House of Commons forbidding the continuance of licensed prostitution in connection with the military establishments. Government official replies intimate that the Indian Government have been instructed to enforce the regulation.