

of our Institutions, and valuable suggestions offered as to the establishment of new stations and the special training which missionaries require. The advantage of obtaining access to educated young men—the training of efficient teachers—the great and beneficial influence exerted by the converts gained through means of the Institution, limited although their number may be;—these and other considerations were brought under the notice of the Committee. It was urged that, by teaching the adults and preaching in English to the educated, and in the vernacular to all, much good might be effected. The opinion seemed to be generally entertained that, in the new stations, preaching should hold the principal place, while education was not neglected. It was recommended that these stations ought to be at moderate distances from each other. Important advantages, it was said, might be thus obtained.

*Preparation of Tracts and other Publications.*—The preparation of tracts and other publications for the use of the natives appears to the Committee a valuable instrument in carrying on the work of the Mission.

*Results of the Mission as to the Number Converted to the Christian Faith.*—The Committee regret that the result of the labors of the missionaries has not appeared in the great extent to which the natives have been led to make open profession of faith in Christ. There are inquirers and attentive listeners, but the recent accounts received from India afford slight evidence, in connexion with your Mission, of that open and decided attachment to the truth, the professions of which was frequently shown by the baptisms at Bombay, under the missionary labors of Mr. Sheriff before his health broke down. In endeavoring to ascertain the causes to which this discouraging result may be ascribed, the Committee are convinced that it cannot be traced to any deficiency of zeal and ability on the part of your missionaries. Nor do they see a reason for departing from the general principles on which the Mission, since its existence, has been conducted. They are satisfied that this want of manifest proof is a sorrow to those who are actually engaged in the work, and that for the conversion of the heathen they labor and pray. The Committee are led to believe that the number convinced at Christianity is true greatly exceeds those who make open profession of faith in the Gospel. Such a profession cannot be made by a young man—especially if occupying a good social position—without submitting to many sacrifices, and entering on a conflict which demands the greatest fortitude. Facts are sometimes stated as to the eminent success of other missionaries in different districts of India, calculated to convey very erroneous impressions of the work actually accomplished. In certain cases success has been undoubtedly considerable; but it is sometimes forgotten that the conversions referred to have frequently occurred among natives of India who

cannot be regarded as Hindoos. "The Karens of Burmah, the Shanars of Tinevelly, and the Coles of Nagpoor, are totally different races." This consideration has already been fully illustrated by a member of the Committee, in a paper which appeared in the *Missionary Record* for August: and it is also noticed in a communication from the Rev. William Grant, one of your missionaries, who labored long in Madras. He says, "If the Committee wish their Mission to acquire a name more speedily for great success in gaining over converts in Southern India, and thus secure, perhaps, more liberal support, they might do well to follow the example set by the *Church of England Mission*, and the *London Missionary Society*; the chief efforts of both which have been directed in Southern India to the conversion, not of Brahminical Hindoos, but of the *Shanars*, who do not worship the Hindoo gods, and who, in consequence, have far fewer obstacles to encounter on their adopting the Christian faith. Of the native Christian population, now under the care of the former of these missions, about 36,000 are of the Shanar tribes, while of that under the care of the latter, about 17,800 are of the same class. Their converts from among the real Hindoos are comparatively few."

*Additional Missionaries.*—It is with much satisfaction that the Committee refer to the prospect of securing the services of six additional missionaries. Their first introduction to the Committee, and some of the steps that have been taken with a view to their appointment, have already been stated in the *Missionary Record*; and the Committee have now further to state, that they have had repeated interviews with the four of these students who have completed their third session at Divinity Hall;—that they have received from the Professor of Theology, in the University of Glasgow, under whom they had studied, most favorable attestations of their character, talents, and attainments;—that they have personally examined them for the purpose of ascertaining their qualifications;—and that they are thoroughly satisfied as to their fitness for missionary labor. The names of the four students referred to, are Mr. Alexander Clark, Mr. Robert Paterson, Mr. John Taylor, and Mr. John Wells. They have delivered all their prescribed discourses, and the Committee are now desirous to receive from the General Assembly authority to have these students taken on trials by their respective Presbyteries, with a view to receiving licence and ordination; their attendance during the partial session, and the circular letters to the other Presbyteries within the bounds of their Synods, not being required. The other two students having attended only during two sessions, no such request is, in the meantime, made respecting them.

It is true that the number is small who have yet been led openly to renounce their foul superstitions. Millions are yet enslaved by the evil spirit of Hindooism and Mohammed-