

Work for God at Home and Abroad.

WHAT THEY WANT IN ASSAM.

WE have a letter from Assam lying before us to-day. What makes the name of Assam sound familiar to us? It is probably connected in our minds with tea. At one time all our tea came from China, but of late years we have discovered that the tea plant will flourish in India too.

Thirty-five years ago Government allowed a Mr. Bruce a free grant of 3,000 acres of waste land, which he turned into tea plantations. A good man and a prosperous one he became, he and his wife spending as well as making in the country of their adoption.

Mrs. Bruce gladly welcomed the first missionary to Assam. Our letter is dated from Tezpur, that is the name of the station which was chosen for him. It is thirty years since that day, but still our Church can only supply two missionaries for all the five million people in Assam.

One missionary writes to us deeply lamenting this fact:—if only good men and women could find it in their hearts to offer themselves as mission helpers here! Women missionaries especially are longed for.

Man must have some form of worship, and the Assamese take up any poor substitute for Church doctrine and rule which comes in their way.

Pictures always interest the ignorant and the young, and the Assamese seize eagerly on any they can get. This suggests a method by which those who cannot go out to teach them true religion might do them good.

Could not we send them out some coloured Scripture pictures to hang on their church and schoolroom walls? Our letter tells us that pictures they will have of some sort. In one village a bamboo shed has been erected by coolies as a place of worship, the walls of which are decorated by pictures torn out of an old scrap-book.

It is a common sight, too, to see native houses ornamented with cuttings of fashion plates from the *Queen*, or American magazines. If an Assamese Christian can get hold of the print of an English church from the *Illustrated*

News or *Graphic* he is proud. One man got possession of a print of Canterbury Cathedral:—‘Shall we soon have a church like that in Assam?’ he asked longingly.

These Assam people are very fond of learning English. They can read the ‘*BANNER OF FAITH*,’ and are interested in it. If only they could have a few bright pictures sent them, or some easy instruction books with pictures, Bible stories, and such like, it would be a great help to the missionaries. These things would preach for them when they could not go to a place of worship.

Assam is very little known to the world in general, but we have some Christian brethren there already, and we long to have more.

One good way to gain souls is to show them that we love and care for them. The missionary who writes to us asks specially for three things—pictures, a medicine chest, and a magic lantern, the last to be exhibited in twenty-five native schools.

Scripture pictures on the slides would be an easy and pleasant way of teaching the people.

Any one desirous of sending one or more of these things direct to the country may address a parcel to—

S. P. G., Assam Mission,
Tezpur,
Assam.

THE CHURCH EXTENSION ASSOCIATION.

THE CONVALESCENT HOME, S. MARY'S, BROADSTAIRS.

It is some time since we brought the great needs of this Home before our readers. This is not because those needs have ceased to exist, as we will go on to show. Spring is here, and a great effort on the part of all our kind helpers and co-workers will be necessary if we are this year to finish the Home so needed by hundreds of little convalescents who require sea air, sea baths, and careful nursing.

Our outer walls are built, but the boys' wing