

## Work Abroad.

### MISSIONS TO THE TELUGUS.

YELLAMANCHILI, INDIA, Sep. 26, 1892.

India is a great country; so vast indeed that the Imperial Postal Guide without trenching on truth terms it the "continent of India." With 180 different dialects, 8 great provincial divisions, 460 feudatory and semi-dependent states, an area of over 1,500,000 square miles and a population of 278,000,000 it well deserves the name.

In magnificent mountain ranges, noble rivers, wealth of undeveloped resources, density of population and ancient civilization, India compares with the superlative nations of the earth. An inviting length of coastline, rapidly extending railway, telegraph and telephone systems, newly planted manufacturing interests, recently opened wheat areas, the discovery of coal fields and kerosene oil deposits, the re-opening of gold and diamond mines worked under the latest scientific methods and an unlimited supply of cheap labor give promise of a marvellous expansion in commercial activity.

The general occupation of the country by the British, one hundred and twenty-five years ago, has been promotive of the regeneration of India, in exerting a unifying influence on the many diverse races by pacific measures and a fair, just and wise rule, in extending national enterprises such as railways and telegraphs, in promoting commerce with the outside world, by the opening of safe harbours, in encouraging agriculture by a network of irrigating canals and tanks, in quickening the intellectual life of the people by a system of state aided general and higher education and in making possible through a long period of uninterrupted peace the effort of the missionary forces of the Christian churches, that most potent of all the civilizing and vivifying factors now tending to the regeneration of India. To-day there is a new spirit and a new life springing up from amongst the effete civilizations of the past. All the nationalities of India have entered on what seems like a competition for first place in the new India that is to be.

Among these competing races none are more expansive, intelligent and enterprising than the Telugus. Their shrewdness has earned for them in the marts the sobriquet "The Yankees of India." They are reputed to be the handsomest race of Southern India. Their language, a sub-division of the old Dravidian branch is called the "Italian of the East," an appellation not more due to the mellifluousness of its sounds than to the fine airs and manners of those who speak it. They number about 18,000,000, their country stretches along 600 miles of the Coromandel Coast of the Madras Presidency. They have resisted the inroads of that most fearful of all scourges, the Asiatic Cholera, have overcome the decimating pestilences of famine times, and have survived in turn the drouth, the flood and the destroying Mussulman invader by sheer propagating power. They have extended their area of population far up into the centre of India where they mingle with the tribes of the Deccan at Hyderabad 300 miles from the Bay of Bengal, far to the south where they meet their Dravidian kinsmen of the great Tamil speaking race in the busy streets of metropolitan Madras and far north to within sight of the far famed temple towers of Puri, the abode of the image god Jagannath and there draw borders with the followers of the old Urigan kings, one of the most ancient of all the hoary dynasties of India.

From time immemorial the triangular area of the country of the Telugus, occupying the historic divisions of the northern Circars and portions of the Carnatic and Deccan had been the scene of petty strife between warlike chiefs, bloody conflicts with encroaching and powerful neighbors, and of conquests by successive "hordes from foreign lands." Within the last few centuries the French, the Dutch and the English have striven for its control, and finally about 1765 with all other parts of India, the land of the Telugus became British soil. In 1768 the arrangements by which the whole Telugu country became British were ratified by Nizam Ali of Hyderabad and for the northern Circars extending from Nellore to Ganjam over which he claimed sovereignty and including 17,000 square miles of the best land in India he received £50,000. That was not a fair equivalent but an unpleasant necessity had compelled Nizam Ali to rid himself of this troublesome section of his domains. And as a mark of appreciation for having presented them to the British, the latter handed him £50,000. To-day the gross revenue of the Godaviri District including only 7345 square miles amounts to more than £641,744 a year. And a single Zemindar in the district of Vizagapatam out of an income of £180,000 pays an annual government tax of £50,000.

In the year 1805, forty years after the conquest of the land by the English two missionaries settled at Vizagapatam, the chief town of the northern Circars, these were the first messengers of Christ to the Telugus and the second representatives in India of the ancient, honorable and catholic London Missionary Society. In 1835 a Canadian named Day the first missionary of the American Baptists to Teluguland, landed at Vizagapatam where he spent eleven months, subsequently removed to Madras and finally opened work at Nellore afterward so well known as the Lone Star Station. In 1836 two Christian business men from Bristol England commenced preaching in the Godaviri Delta some 50 miles south of Cocanada and in six years immersed their first convert. The Church Missionary Society established a mission at the then important and flourishing sea-port town of Masulipatam in 1841 and subsequently extended operations inland. In 1845 the German Lutherans opened work at Rajamandry on the Godaviri some 40 miles from Cocanada. In 1874 Mr. McLaurin landed at Cocanada, a rising trade centre and the largest shipping port between Calcutta and Madras on the west coast of the Bay of Bengal. Here he established the pioneer station of the Baptists of central Canada. Following him came four missionary families of the Maritime Baptists of Canada with two single ladies who fixed on Bimlipatam a flourishing seaport 17 miles North East of Vizagapatam as their central station. Still later on the evangelical Lutherans of Germany opened stations in the western border of the Vizagapatam district hoping from them as a basis of supply to evangelize the feverish plateau of the Jeypore Zemindary with a present population of about 700,000 souls.

There are 14 different Missionary Societies with a European staff of 90 or 100 male missionaries and native assistants to the number of 743 now laboring for the salvation of the 17,000,000 of Telugus.

As a result of about 90 years of effort there are 53,000 communicant church members. Of the 100 missionaries 45 are Baptist as are 40,000 of the communicants. 53,000 converts do not make a very sensible decrease in a mass of 17,000,000 idolaters. But figures do not always convey a true estimate of the work done. Amongst the 14 societies now at work in Telugu land