

"The only station that now remains to be mentioned in India is

"VI. NAGPORE.

"Since the return of Mr. Hislop to this station from his temporary labours at Madras, he and his coadjutor, Mr. Hunter, have been prosecuting with vigour their work of faith at Nagpore and Sitabdi.—At the last examination, Major Durand, the acting Resident, presided. The number of pupils was considerably greater than on former occasions of the same kind. The entire number at Nagpore is 294, including 21 girls; and at Sitabdi, 17 boys and 5 girls—making a total of 316. But, along with these educational appliances, your devoted missionaries embrace every opportunity for preaching the gospel to the natives, for circulating tracts, and employing other Christianising influences.

"But, before leaving India, there are two or three topics on which the Committee must advert.

"I. In various parts of this Report reference has been made to the influence of the educational institutions maintained by Government in India. It is well known that from the religion is systematically excluded. Everything the most trifling, the most false, the most corrupting, may there be studied by the youth of India; but the truth of God is systematically withheld from them. In the spirit of some educationists in this land, men are to be trained without religion. Nay, a judge in one of the highest courts in India, as this Report has already intimated, has openly announced the conviction that the system which ignores religion is 'not only the most expedient system in India, but that that system alone accords with that judge's sense of what is just and right.—Missionary after missionary sends home the intelligence that infidel youth are annually passing forth from their colleges to scoff at Hinduism, but, at the same time, to scoff at all that is good, and true, and sacred. Some of our own missionaries tell your Committee that one of the most painful positions of their conflict is that which brings them into collision with the infidelity thus fostered, and so widely spreading over India, under the high sanction and at the expense of the British Government there. Though some, at least one of the Professors at one of these institutions has abandoned the system as not merely defective, but godless, all have not succeeded in even modifying the Government system. At last, however, the public mind begins to be moved. The attention of this House will be drawn to a memorial from India on the subject of its educational system; and your Committee feel assured that here, at least, the claims of the whole truth will be advocated. The system of education now referred to, and the continued connexion of the British Government with Indian idolatry at many points, are the great blots upon us in regard to India.

They impede the progress of truth. They prolong the darkness and the bondage of that land; and all the friends of righteousness and truth should rise up and protest against them. The cry of Christians in India has long been heard on the subject; and surely it cannot be much longer heard in vain. The Committee deem it unnecessary to employ a single argument on the subject. They have no doubt that every competent measure will be adopted to remedy the evil referred to, and to aid the advocates of truth in India in this struggle against error.

"II. The Assembly of 1851 instructed the Committee on Foreign Missions to use what means they could, in conjunction with other Christian bodies, for permanently securing and extending the rights of religion and liberty of conscience for India, in the prospect of renewing the East India Company's charter. That duty they have not overlooked: but understanding that certain members of the Committee, deeply interested in the highest interests of India, are keeping the matter in view, the Committee have not yet formally moved in the matter. They now beg leave to suggest, that a special committee might be appointed by the Assembly to watch over this most important matter, and that, in the meantime, a memorial from the Assembly might be presented in the proper quarter.

"III. The Assembly of 1851 further instructed the Committee to turn its attention to the subject of salaries for the native agents, whether ministers, preachers, or catechists, in India, and to report to the present Assembly. On that important subject, the Committee have corresponded with the brethren in India, and used other means for arriving at a definite result. They have not yet, however, been able to do so, and can only ask permission from the Assembly to continue their inquiries.

"And now only one subject remains to be named. When the General Assembly resolved, some time ago, to wind up the mission at the Cape, they instructed their Foreign Missions Committee to take measures for doing so as expeditiously as possible, and at the same time to open a negotiation with the Colonial Committee, with a view to the formation of a Free Church congregation in Cape Town. The Committee proceeded without delay to act upon these instructions, but numerous obstacles have hitherto prevented the measure from being carried into full effect. At last, however, there is a prospect of an adjustment, for the premises at Cape Town have been advertised for sale by parties there, and the Committee have no doubt that, when that matter has been arranged, it will not be difficult for the Colonial Committee to collect a congregation of Free Churchmen there, if a judicious pastor can be found for the station.