

At Canton a chapel has lately been built in the city itself, capable of holding 300, indicating some progress there, although I cannot ascertain the numbers who attend. At Pok-Lo, near Canton, a native Christian named Chea sealed his testimony for Christ with his blood, and since his death, although no European missionary is allowed to approach the place, it is believed there are more than 100 converts remaining firm. At Chong-lok, in the province of Canton, I read of a native catechist having gone there some years ago. Nothing was heard of him till lately, when a letter reached the missionaries to say that nearly 200 Chinese in that village were anxious inquirers. A missionary was sent to the place, and after a few weeks' instruction he was enabled to baptize 100 of them. At a village in Fa-une, near Canton, a chairbearer, who had been at the Eye Dispensary of Canton, returned home converted to Christianity. Soon after he died. Inquiries were made about him, and it was found that before his death he had spoken most earnestly about the religion of Jesus, and the result was that ten or twelve were ready for baptism, including the chairbearer's own father.

At Swatow and at Amoy, and in the country surrounding these places, there are native Protestant Christians numbering about 700, forming little churches in more than a dozen different places. The sacrifices and persecutions many of them have endured are unknown to the outside world, but are well known to those who read the missionary records from time to time. The last case that has occurred is at a village called Ke Boey, near Amoy. A Chinese was cured of a disease at the Amoy Dispensary. He went home to Ke Boey a converted man. Nothing more was heard of him for some time. It was at length rumoured that a number of the villagers had become Christians, and on inquiry it was found to be the case. Not only so, they have been bitterly persecuted by their heathen countrymen. One was savagely heathen, and told he must give up his new religion. He replied, "You may beat me until you kill me, but I cannot give up worshipping the living and true God."

At Ningpo the mission has been scattered by the rebel army, but the converts are, I believe, over 100, and generally faithful to the truth. At Shanghai I read that the Bishop of Victoria has lately ordained a native pastor, and there were present at the ordination thirty-four native Christians, who partook of the Lord's Supper. The numbers of the native Christians in and around Shanghai must be considerable.

After these facts, is it fair of one in such a position as Sir Frederick Bruce to write to the Foreign Office, that "experience had clearly proved the failure of Protestant missionary enterprise, as at present conducted," and holding up the Roman Catholic Church as entitled to privileges in China which Protestant missionaries, who merely go "to proselytize," do not deserve?

MISSIONS OF FREE CHURCH.

INDIA. — FINAL SEVERANCE OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FROM INDIAN IDOLATRY. — The September number of the Home and Foreign Record, contains a communication from Dr. Duff, giving the pleasing information that now there is a final severance of the British Government from Indian Idolatry and superstition. For a long time it was mixed up with the idol temples and mosques, and made itself responsible for many things connected with the superstitions and idolatries of that vast land. Even until the last two or three months, there were regulations in force, which imposed certain duties on the Boards of Revenue in the Presidencies of Bengal and Madras, relative to the support of mosques, temples, &c. But recently an act was introduced, for the purpose of enabling the government to divest itself of the management of religious endowments. The real object of the act was the repeal of the obnoxious regulations referred to. This act after going through the usual forms, received the assent of the Viceroy and Governor General of India. Dr. Duff says that the principles and rules laid down in the new act are unexceptionable, and looks on this as a new cause of thankfulness to God, and a fresh ground of encouragement and hope to those who are engaged in fighting the battle of humanity and of truth.