



THE BISHOP OF HONDURAS.

teen and fifteen, who hardly know the reason why they are so cruelly deprived of everything they like, are often seen wearing sad countenances, their eyes swollen from shedding tears. They are glad to find a dark corner where they may hide their faces. The widow must wear a single coarse garment. She must eat only one meal during the twenty-four hours of a day. She must never take part in family feasts. A man or woman thinks it unlucky to behold a widow's face before seeing any other object in the morning. The relations and neighbors of the young widow's husband are always ready to call her bad names. There is scarcely a day of her life on which she is not cursed by these people as the cause of their beloved friend's death. In addition to all this, the young widow is always looked upon with suspicion, for fear she may some time bring disgrace upon the family by committing some improper act. She is closely confined to the house, forbidden even to associate with her female friends. Her life, then, destitute, as it is, of the least literary knowledge, void of all hope, empty of every pleasure and social advantage, becomes intolerable, a curse to herself and society at large."

Need we wonder that these young widows try to escape from their prison home? But what can they do? The only alternative before them is either to commit suicide, or, worse still, accept a life of infamy.

This is, indeed, the sad end of many a woman's life in India. After the few years of a joyous infancy follows the sudden darkness of child-widowhood, of a woman's despair or disgrace.

Can nothing be done to alleviate the miserable lot of those poor child-widows under nine years of age? If they are outcasts in their own families, if many of them are almost inevitably driven to a life of infamy, could not an experiment be made to found a home and a school for these waifs and strays of womankind, where a chance might be given them of preparing themselves for a happy and a useful life?

It is to the task above suggested that Ramabai is devoting herself, and, in May last, the Christian people of Toronto were privileged to hear her plead for her work, and many hearts were deeply stirred by the pathetic and powerful appeal then made. With the view of enabling all so desiring to share in this great work, there was subsequently organized a "Toronto Ramabai Circle for the Elevation of Woman in India," and the following officers were elected: Mrs. Stephen Heward, 38 Peter street, President; Miss Carty, 221 Jarvis street, Secretary; Mrs. S. R. Hart, 25 Wilcox street, Treasurer.

The "Circle" consists of persons who contribute, in one payment, \$10, or, annually for ten years, \$1 to the fund, which is being raised to defray the annual cost of maintaining and carrying on the school for high caste child-widows about to be established by Ramabai in or about Poona, in Southern India. Contributors of \$1 per annum must also, in order to become members of the "Circle," pledge themselves to continue their subscriptions for ten years. Information in regard to the progress of the work will, from time to time, be disseminated among the members of the "Circle," chiefly by means of printed statements, as it is not felt necessary or desirable to have stated meetings of the members. The "Circle" is in connection with the central organization, known as the "Ramabai Association," organized in Boston, Mass., December 13th, 1887. The work is to be carried on under the direction of an influential committee of the Association, assisted by an Advisory Board in India. The expenditure of the funds contributed will be entirely under the control of this committee, and the treasurers of local "Circles" will remit to the treasurer of the Association at Boston all moneys received by them.

Contributions of any amount from those not desiring to become members of the "Circle," or from others, will be gladly received.

THE BISHOP OF HONDURAS.



HE recently appointed Bishop of Honduras is the eldest surviving son of the late Right Honorable Justice Ormsby, of the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice in Ireland. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he took high honors in the Hebrew,