

this spring. He presided at the meeting of the London Missionary Society, and spoke most hopefully of the prospects of Christianity in India. Some great development, he said, appeared to be impending. At the Church Missionary Society's meeting he spoke of education as overthrowing the faith of the Hindoos. He was inclined to think that Christianity would not wear just the same doctrinal forms in India as in Western Europe. Some very simple form was the likeliest to prevail in India.—These are words calculated to stimulate our efforts on behalf of mission work in India.

This Year and Last Year.

The British and Foreign Bible Society reported receipts last year at £222,320, and this year £206,978, a decrease of some £16,000. The total issues of the Society now amount to more than seventy-nine millions of copies. The Church Missionary Society had an income last year of £195,000; this year it is £190,000. The Wesleyan Missionary Society shows a decrease in receipts of about £13,000,—the returns of this year being £146,000. On the other hand the Society for the propagation of the Gospel reports an increase of £11,000, its total being over £136,000. The London Missionary Society's income was £109,700, a decrease of £5,000 as compared with last year. The Baptist Missionary Society came down in the same period from £44,000 to £39,000, and the Moravian Missions from £21,000 to £15,000. It is all the more gratifying in the presence of so much decrease that the English Presbyterian Church reports an increase of £2,000. The Religious Tract Society also shows an increase of about £6,000. Taking an aggregate of fifty-six Societies the increased receipts for last year were £1,634,233, and for the present year £1,636,236. The increase is very slight; but it is gratifying that there is increase at all. Times have been hard, and it must have required some self sacrifice to raise so much in so dull a year. Our Church need not be discouraged. We think it creditable to our people that all our schemes have been fairly supported during the past year. It will probably require still greater sacrifice to come up to the right tide-mark this year; but God in whose work we are engaged will grant us both the will and the power to make whatever sacrifices may be required.

Can it be?

There is a well known calculation which is at least worth bearing in mind when we

are asked to contribute to Missionary funds. Fifty thousand men in ten years could carry the Gospel to every corner of the globe. The cost would be say fifteen millions of pounds a year, or a total of £150,000,000. Great Britain alone would easily send forth an army of 50,000 men, and expend in one or two campaigns £150,000,000. What is thus done some times under a sadly mistaken idea of duty, by one nation, might surely be done by all Christendom under the highest stimulus of duty and privilege. Theoretically the thing might be done; yet looking at it practically, and with our eye upon the experience of eighteen hundred years, the conclusion is inevitable that it cannot and will not be done. Slowly, painfully, faithfully, the toilers must toil on,—often very lowly and desolate, often confronting perils of many kinds, and death itself. Still, since God is on our side it cannot be but victory shall crown our efforts sooner or later. Hasten, O Lord, the coming of Thy Kingdom!

Our own Church.

NOW that another ecclesiastical year has fairly begun it is of great importance that no time be lost in thorough organisation for contributions to the Schemes of the Church. The Assembly has repeatedly recommended the formation of Missionary Societies in all the Congregations of the Church, believing this to be the best method of systematic contribution for church work. We trust that where this has not been hitherto done, steps will be taken without delay to carry out the recommendation of the Supreme Court. Where, however, from any cause this is at present deemed impracticable, attention should be given to taking up collections for the several schemes on the appointed Sabbaths, and this not only in settled charges, but in all vacant congregations and mission stations. The formation of Juvenile Missionary Societies in connection with the Sabbath Schools of the Church has not received that consideration which its importance demands. Were such societies established in all our Schools, and were Sessions to see that contributions were made in their respective congregations for all the schemes regularly each year, we are convinced that there would be abundance of funds forthcoming not only to carry on efficiently the work already undertaken, but also greatly to increase our staff of Missionaries in the Home French and Foreign fields. Let there