

dopting the same plan with increasing success, and that with the entire concurrence of the Metropolitan; who, to encourage the practice, has done some of the Catanars the honour of performing the marriage ceremony himself.— Many other vices prevail among the Catanars, as well as the people; but, with all their faults, they confess their conduct to be sinful, and acknowledge the broad distinction between good and evil. This is quite an anomaly in this idolatrous land, and may well encourage the best hopes of the friends of the Syrian Church in Malabar. We desired to see the Wives of the married Catanars, for the purpose of showing our approbation of the step, which they had taken: some of them came to the Church, and others waited at home to receive us. And here, again, was observable, a striking difference between the Syrians and their Heathen Neighbours: the houses of the Syrians being neat and clean; while those of the Heathen are always dirty, and to all appearance comfortless.

The Missionaries are establishing Schools wherever they can: but every thing is, as yet, in its infancy. The Syrians themselves will lend scarcely any pecuniary aid, even to this laudable and beneficial object: they are willing, however, to assist in any other way; and appear to be thankful for the instructions offered them.

Upon the whole, then, low as the Syrians are sunk in ignorance and vice—and the fact cannot be denied, and ought not to be concealed—they, nevertheless, present a more promising field for Missionary Labour than any other caste of Indians: for, in their sense of right and wrong, their confession of ignorance and avowed desire for instruction, their reverence for the Word of God and implicit acquiescence in its authority, the Missionary finds a soil to work upon, which perhaps in this country is no where else to be had.

It is happy for the present Syrians,

that they have three such men as Messrs. Bailey, Fenn, and Baker, among them; and not a few seem capable of appreciating the blessing. They appear to have won the confidence and love of the Metropolitan, Malpan, and all about them; and I venture to say, from what I saw and heard, that the Committee may place entire confidence in their wisdom and discretion, to use with advantage the influence which they possess.

After a pleasant, and, I trust, a profitable week, spent at Cotym and its vicinity, I set out, in company with Mr. Fenn, for Cochin.

But I cannot take leave of the Metropolitan without noticing his parting request. Pressing my hand with paternal affection, he desired, with apparent emotion, that I would remember him in my prayers. And on mentioning this to one of the Missionaries, he informed me, that the Metropolitan often spoke with them on the importance and necessity of prayer, with tears in his eyes. This fact needs no comment from me.

#### *Mission at Cochin.*

At Cochin, there is much to interest the devout and benevolent mind, and the place would furnish full employment for one or even two active Missionaries. The Missionaries at Cotym come over alternately every week; but it may be questioned whether the little which they are enabled to do during their short stay, compensates for the interruption which their visit hither occasions to their important labours among the Syrians.— The Jews alone would occupy much of a Minister's time and attention; while the Dutch inhabitants, many of whom understand English, and the five or six English gentlemen resident there, would compose a respectable congregation: about fifty were at church the Sunday I was at Cochin. But the more appropriate sphere of action for a Missionary would be, the native and country-born Portuguese population, both of which