

beginning to feel their social bondage, and in most places are more or less releasing themselves therefrom. In Calcutta, and in many other cities and towns in Bengal, the most advanced among the educated classes have entirely thrown off caste, and associate freely with one another, and even with Europeans. Moreover, ominous signs of dissatisfaction are manifest among members of some of the inferior castes who have hitherto been held in subjection by the higher. If they are equal in intellect and in all other respects to men of an assumed superior order, they will not be contented long to occupy a degraded status in native society. A struggle of the castes is imminent, unless the Brahmans and other high castes will drop their pride, and consent to fraternize with those of humbler rank.

“The most marked sign of progress among Hindus as a class is their growth in intelligence. The stolid, senseless look which many once bore on their countenances is now chiefly visible among the most degraded castes. The spread of knowledge has been followed by an expansion of the intellect, and a general quickening of all the faculties. But this is not the whole result which has been achieved among the Hindus, for not only has their understanding received a new impulse, but their moral and religious sense likewise, so long dormant, has acquired fresh vigour. So that there is more honesty, more truth, more virtue, and more right religious feeling in India than there ever was. Not that the change in all these respects is very distinctly manifest, inasmuch as deceit and vice of many forms are still distressingly prevalent. Nevertheless, a change for the better is everywhere perceptible, especially when we compare the present condition of Hindus with what it was a quarter of a century ago. India under British rule, under the civilizing process at work throughout the length and breadth of the land, and, above all, under the stimulating and purifying influences of Christianity which are powerfully stirring the very heart of the people, has made a fresh start and has entered on a new career. The periodical literature of India is increasing rapidly, both in quantity and value. About 200 newspapers are now published in the various Indian vernaculars. Many of these are dailies. Many magazines, too, are being published, and some of these are edited and conducted with much ability. A large number of educational works are also published.”



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