

V.—GENERAL MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

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Extracts and Translations from Foreign Periodicals.

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INDIA.

—"I have often heard it said of the older missionary society that the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts is an anachronism; and I for one am at a loss to know what is really foreign to England's opportunity. May I ask leave to give you very briefly my impressions of what we are doing in this respect in our great and glorious Indian Empire? We have there more than 280,000,000 souls, over whom, directly or indirectly, we have influence. The capital cities there, as Bombay or Calcutta, are like great European towns in magnificence, and the cities generally are permeated everywhere with English ideas and influence. All this has been given to us, and our power and grasp, I believe, are increasing every day. The Indian problem is doubtless more complex than ever, and difficulties are rising up which our fathers never knew; but we have only to look the right and the truth in the face and go straight forward, and things the world calls impossibilities will be speedily solved by the power of the Church of God. Here we are with this great work before us—what have we done? As to our material gifts, there is no doubt of the enormous benefits conferred on India by British rule. Everywhere there are security and prosperity, which but for the wise English raj would never have been known. The *pax Britannica* extends over more millions of men than the *pax Romana* in days gone by ever did; communications are opened, and everything is done to draw up that vast population to a higher material condition, bringing all our science and power to bear on mate-

rial improvement; and for that we thank God, for, after all, the material is His as well as the spiritual, and we believe that through our commerce and political dominion England is a fellow-worker with Him for the blessing of all the earth.

"And what have we done with regard to intellectual life? We impart our Western knowledge and science and culture, and although, in spite of great advance, only a fraction of the great population can yet read and write, we are extending with marvellous rapidity our intellectual influence. I visited at Madras, Bombay, and Calcutta great educational institutions which might fairly take their rank with the greatest in the old country. I have observed in the villages—and let me tell you of one peculiar feature which a missionary should never forget, that 90 per cent of the people live in villages or towns of less than 20,000 people—I have seen schools in the villages, and everything is being done to spread this intellectual life. We have done well, for there is no doubt of the immense receptivity of the higher and cultured classes in India in regard to our teaching.

"But what is our highest duty to God in respect to India? It is to impart the moral and spiritual gifts which we owe, in the name of Christ, to the inhabitants of India. In earlier days English rulers in India seemed ashamed of the name of Christ, and the people of India believed that we had no religion at all. This shows what arrears we have to make up, and what a little we have done in this great work. But yet there has been poured forth a marvellous blessing. The population is increasing, but the Christian population is increasing, I think some sixfold beyond the general increase. We have much to do, but within the last twenty-