



A KHOL WOMAN.

1850, however, they were cheered by a visit from four Kols, who sought an interview with them at their Mission-house at Ranchi.

From the time that these first Kol converts were brought to the knowledge of the truth, the good seed began to take root and bear fruit, so that in 1857 the number of converts amounted to 700.

The mutiny in 1857 broke up the Mission and scattered the native Christians. When, however, with the restoration of peace the officials and residents returned to Ranchi, the Missionaries came back also, and soon gathered together their scattered flock. The mutiny, far from impeding the work of conversion, appears to have given it an impulse. The native Christians who fled into remote villages took with them the good seed. At the close of 1860 there were 1,400 baptized converts, and in the following four years 4,600 were added to the number.

Yearly the number of converts increased, till, in the beginning of the year 1868, they had 10,000 baptized converts, and a large number of catechumens.

During these years the Rev. Frederick Batsch had the headship of the Mission, and the commissioner of Chôta Nagpore, Colonel Dalton, wrote that "humanly speaking, it is to his untiring zeal, devotion to the cause, his ability, noble character, and intimate knowledge of the language and ways of the natives that this success is mainly due. Mr. Batsch is known to almost every man in Chôta Nagpore, and by every man that I ever heard speak of him—Hindu, Mohammedan, Kol, or Christian—he is looked up to for piety, ability, amiability, and unaffected simplicity of character."

The Berlin Committee, however, under whose control the missionaries laboured, conceived the idea that the fact of Mr. F. Batsch and his fellow-labourers not being University men was opposed to their efficiency as Missionaries, and younger men who had been educated at a university, and some of whom were relatives of members of the Berlin Committee, were sent out to this Mission. The result was that the older missionaries declined to join the new organization of the Mission which the Berlin Committee decided to introduce. They were therefore informed that their connection with the Berlin Committee was dissolved, and they were thus forced to leave the church and Mission-compound which had for so many years been the centre of their labours.

The residents at Ranchi and the neighbouring station of Dorunda now came forward in a body, and, finding that the leading members of the bulk of the native Christian body adhered to Mr. F. Batsch, wrote to the Berlin Committee, earnestly urging them to do justice, and warning them of the pending disintegration of the native Christians.

No answer came, but the Berlin Committee informed Mr. Batsch that his and the elder Missionaries' connection with them had ceased forever. As soon as this became known among the Kol converts the greater part of them immediately presented a petition to the Bishop of Calcutta praying him to receive them and their pastors into the Church of England. The residents also, when Bishop Milman (the seventh Bishop of Calcutta) visited Ranchi in March 1869, presented an address to him. The prayer of the petitioners was in accordance with the wish of the founder of the Mission, Pastor Gossner, that his Mission should one day be associated with the Church of England. The result of the addresses to the Bishop was that he agreed to receive the Kol Christians who followed Mr. Batsch, in number about 7,000, into the Church of England, in connection with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and that he expressed his intention of returning to Ranchi for the purpose of ordaining Mr. F. Batsch and others of the elder missionaries.

The sight of the Bishop delivering his address to the native Christians was most impressive. He stood in a flower-girt verandah at Colonel Dalton's house, where most of the residents were assembled. Below were hundreds of native Christians, listening eagerly to every word as it fell from the Bishop's lips; beyond them was a fine teak avenue, sloping down to the Ranchi lake, which is studded with richly wooded islands, surrounded by trees, and backed by a high conical hill.

The Bishop, in answer to the petition of the native Christians, addressed them fluently in their own language. The anxiety of the hearers to know that they really were received into the