

## MISSIONARY LABOURS AT TRAVANCORE.

Let me ask you to accompany me to one or two spots in Travancore,—that beautiful but unhappy country where the tread of the wild beast and the coil of the serpent have so long remained undisturbed. There is a deeply interesting spot among the mountains, mentioned in the report—Mundakyam. Some hill tribes, called the Araans, are connected with this place. I know not why they are so called. In the Travancore country it is said they are the hill kings; but in the Malabar country it is said they are descended from the loins of a great chief, and are of the highest caste. A few years ago my friend, Mr. Baker, was applied to by some of them, who went down to him for the purpose, for aid and assistance in preaching to them the Gospel of Jesus, of which they had heard something, but of which they were ignorant. He was not satisfied with their motives, and bade them wait, feeling sure that, if the current of their heart was really set towards Christianity, time would increase its flow, rather than lessen it. At last he visited Mundakyam, which is the first settlement near which some Araan villages are situated. The village, which is called Combukuthi, stands on the verge of a precipice, down the face of which forests of brushwood and creepers cling and climb. When he went there, 300 or 400 of those unhappy and benighted people met him. It was night, and they made up a glowing fire of logs as a protection against the beasts of prey, and that they might have light enough to see the missionary, and that he might see them. When he began to speak to them of the love of God in Christ—in His sending His own dear Son to die for their sins that they might be saved, you would have been astonished at the deep interest which was created in their minds; it was as though a ray of light had suddenly penetrated into their rude hearts, and bid their sympathies lament and love; and, as Mr. Baker went on explaining to them God's Word, he would be ever and anon interrupted. They wished him to tell them that part over again—that part again, one or other did not understand, and wished him to explain it; and, when he dwelt upon the love of God in giving His only Son for them, they seemed to feel that that there was a hope even for them that they might not go down to the grave without joy in the future. And now what has been the result of the work thus carried on by Mr. Baker among the hill tribes of Travancore? More than 100 adults have been baptized; and at Mundakyam, where there was not a house in 1850, there is now a settlement, a Christian settlement of 250 people, partly from the low country and partly from the