

Sen, was evidently one who was "not far from the Kingdom of God." This religio-philosophic system, the Brahmo Somaj, teaches, according to Rev. Joseph Cook, in his "Advanced Thought in India," that caste is wrong. It rejects beliefs of Hinduism as to the transmigration of souls, and the infallibility of the Vedas. It is in deadly hostility to child marriages, the burning of widows, exposure of the aged and other such abuses. It supports education, temperance, and all philanthropic reform. It opposes all materialism, atheism, and agnosticism, and every form of mere deism. It asserts an ethical monotheism, the fact of a supernatural Providence, and the duty and blessedness of prayer, and of total self-surrender to God. It adopts from Christianity what it can reconcile with its theoretic principles, and regards the Scriptures as the most important of the sacred books in use among men.

But it does not possess any trustworthy doctrine of the new birth or atonement. It cannot bring men to a regenerate state. Such is the Brahmo Somaj, in one way a help, in one way a hindrance. Its author, it may be said, was a warm friend to all missionaries.

The great stumbling-block in the way yet—the stumbling-block that has ever been in the way of the evangelization of India—is caste. The question has been asked: "Could not this be allowed to remain, and thus a great barrier would be taken out of the way of many who would become Christians. Christlieb thinks that it cannot exist beside Christian-

ity. He names it as the permanent cause of the greatest portion of the social misery in India, and while the cause exists there will be the effect. The Christians, too, will be all the stronger because they have endured the reproach. Their courage has been severely tested. The first generation of converts was tested severely by the mutiny of 1857. The church, going into the crucible true, came out dissolved but not destroyed, only made more useful and able to carry on the work. These Indian Christians have shown themselves not less thorough and faithful, and often more full of life than those who are all their lives surrounded by good influences. They have endured, and are victorious Christians. But a great many things show the gradual decay of caste. All things tend to it. The railway, enlightened social ideas, knowledge of the English manners and the English home, the increasing acquaintance with the English language, and the increase of the press all have a tendency towards its fall.

Truly we have reason to rejoice and thank God that the axe is being laid to the foot of this great tree, and that its shadow will soon no longer exist. The darkness is being dispersed and the greatest minds are beginning to see the light. We close with a few words from one of these master minds. He says, "Our hearts are touched, conquered, overcome by a Higher Power, and this Power is Christ. Christ, not the British Government, rules India. No one but Christ has deserved the precious diadem of the Indian crown, and He shall have it."

---

Should Christians dance? Well, I think if a person has got plenty of Christian work to do he will neither have the time nor the desire for danc-

ing. Christ does not call upon us to give up this or that amusement. He gives us something far better, and these other things go of themselves.