

Canadian Missionary Link.

CANADA.

In the Interests of the Baptist Foreign Mission Societies of Canada.

INDIA.

VOL. VI., No. II. "The Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising."—Is. lx. 2. [JULY, 1884.]

The Love of God.

Oh ! never, never canst thou know
 What then for thee the Saviour bore,
 The pangs of that mysterious woe
 That wring His frame at every pore,
 The weight that pressed upon His brow,
 The fever of His bosom's core !
 Yes ! man for man perchance may brave
 The horrors of the yawning grave ;
 And friend for friend, or child for sire,
 Undaunted and unmoved expire
 From love—or piety—or pride ;
 But who can die as Jesus died ?

A sweet but solitary beam,
 An emanation from above,
 Glimmers o'er life's uncertain dream ;
 We hail that beam, and call it love !
 But fainter than the star's pale ray
 Before the noontide blaze of day,
 And lighter than the viewless sand
 Beneath the wave that sweeps the strand,
 Is all of love that man can know,—
 All that in angel breasts can glow,—
 Compared, O Lord of Hosts ! with Thine,
 Eternal—fathomless—divine !

That love, whose praise with quenchless fire,
 Inflames the blest seraphic choir ;
 Where perfect rapture reigns above,
 And love is all—for Thou art Love !

No Link for August.

As in the two former years there will be no issue of the LINK next month.—

Will our subscribers and those friends who so kindly aid in promoting its circulation, remember that the number for September will commence a new volume, and that many of the renewed subscriptions then become due ?

As hitherto, and for so long a period as it remains under its present management, the LINK will continue to be carried on as a labour of love, the editors, who are also the owners, not retaining one cent of the profits for their own remuneration.

The publication of the LINK was undertaken six years ago, not by the Board—lest in case it proved a financial failure the money, sent by the circles for work in India, might be risked—but as a private enterprise. The blessing of the MASTER has rested upon this work done in His name and for His sake, and the managers have the joy of knowing that so far their labour has not been in vain.

India of To-day.

(An extract from the report of the English Baptist Missionary Society).

"Change, change, change," writes one of the most eminent of India's statesmen, "is laying its innovating hand on most of the venerated institutions, as well as the habits and usages connected with the outer and inner life of the peoples of India. In a word, the former state of things is fast crumbling away, and a new order springing up on every hand."

And this judgment is more or less confirmed by all the missionaries on the field ; one of the most experienced of whom writes :—

"India is undergoing an intellectual, moral, and religious revolution ; the magic past is slowly losing its bewitching influence over the public mind.

"Christianity is now a power in India—felt and acknowledged—which men of all castes and ranks, including Hindoos of the strictest sects, respect and fear.

"What is the great prominent question at this moment agitating no small portion of the millions of India ?

"Not the increased social happiness and prosperity of the people, nor the augmentation of commerce and trade, nor the vast improvements in the country—visible on every hand, wonderful as they all are—but this : *What is Truth ?* What constitutes religion ? What is the destiny of idolatry, and what that of Christianity, in the coming ages ? The people are thinking, comparing, arguing, not knowing exactly what to do.

"India to-day is much in the condition of Rome previously to the baptism of the Emperor Constantine. Idolatry here, as there, now, as then, is falling into disgrace.

"Truth in its clearness and power is gradually entering their minds, and changing their habits and lives."

But little more than eighty years ago William Carey wrote from Bengal :—

"The people here hate the very name of Christ, and will not listen when His name is mentioned."

To-day, the Rev. W. R. James, of Serampore, writes to the Rev. G. H. Rouse, at Calcutta :—

"By all means see to it that the name of CHRIST is plainly printed on the title-page of every book or tract that we print. We have now arrived at that point of time in the history of Christian Missions in Bengal when the name of CHRIST is more of a recommendation to a book than otherwise. Very often have I heard natives ask for a life of JESUS CHRIST in preference to any other book."

Many, and very striking, are the evidences of a great change of feeling passing over the people in reference to Christianity. One brother writes, in connection with a recent journey to a very large mela :—

"The whole time, our tent door was crowded from sunrise to sunset for days together. Hundreds of women came to hear the Gospel, and many hearts were touched by God's Spirit. Several months afterwards two women walked to our house and asked for baptism."