

Mission Field

From Missions Notes for June

"GREATER BRITAIN" is responsible for the following classification of the "human family," which now consists of about 1,450,000,000 individuals :-

"In Asia, where man was first planted, there are now about 800,000,000—on an average, 120 to the square mile. In Europe there are 320,000,000, averaging 100 to the square mile. In Africa there are 210,000,000. In America, North and South, there are 110,000,000, relatively thinly scattered and recent. In the islands, large and small, probably 10,000,000"

The extremes of white and black take up about half the race, and stand to each other in the proportion of five to three.

"The remaining 700,000,000 intermediate, brown and tawny. Of the race 500,000,000 are well clothed—that is, wear garments of some kind—and live in houses partly furnished with the appointments of civilisation; 700,000,000 are semi-clothed, living in huts and caves with no furnishing; 250,000,000 are practically naked, having nothing that can be called a home, are barbarous and savage. The range is from the topmost round—the Anglo-Saxon civilisation, which is the highest known—down to naked savagery. The portion of the race lying below "the line of human condition" is at the very least three-fifths of the whole, or 900,000,000."

Nine hundred millions! Who but Christ can be their hope? Figures such as these are too large for us really to grasp and take in. Their mere vastness should, however, rebuke us if we think that missionary work may be undertaken leisurely and half-heartedly.

CONVERSIONS in most of the missions in Northern India do not take place in the large numbers with which we are familiar elsewhere. One by one men are drawn into the Church, nearly always through much tribulation. This slowness is not altogether regretted by the missionaries. They see that the present time is one of preparation and of patience. Knowing the circumstances, the inveterate prejudices, the hereditary moral depravity that is conspicuous in many aspects of native life, they could but view with alarm the admission to the Church of men, whose sincerity was not fairly proved, or the premature attraction of masses of people.

From Cawnpore the Rev. G. H. Westcott has been able to report two adult baptisms :-

"During the month of July there was an interesting move among the Khitmatgars towards Christianity: the head of the caste encouraged the rest to read the Bible. The result of this movement was the baptism of one convert and the subsequent withdrawal of the rest from the position they had taken up. The convert at his baptism received the name of Rakmat, but he was not baptised till every precaution had been taken to test his sincerity. He was formerly

employed by one of the non-commissioned officers in the Lincolnshire Regiment, and during the time when the troops were in Cholera Camp he frequently walked in the four miles after his work was over to receive instruction. He, after a short while, lost that place, feeling unequal to the work of cook, and refused the offer of a better paid post which necessitated his leaving the station, because he wished to remain here for baptism. We finally took him on as an additional servant upon a reduced pay. He was baptised on September 27. Rakmat has since been out with my brother as general servant—bearer, cook, etc.—on a short camping expedition to Hamirpur, and has proved of great service.

"There has been one other adult baptism. One of the boys in the third class of our High School, and the captain of the school cricket team, had long been anxious to be baptised, and had been a regular attendant at the head-masters's Sunday School for non-Christians. He, however, like many others, hesitated to take the final step during the lifetime of his parents. Some words spoken by Dr. Pentecost during his recent visit finally helped him to make up his mind, and he was baptised at the morning service on Sunday, October 11. Two of his brothers, too, will, we hope, be baptised before long, and possibly other members of the family also.

"A Bengali, who has suffered a great deal owing to his supposed intention to become a Christian, has not yet been able to make up his mind, though he yesterday spoke to my brother about the probable date of his baptism."



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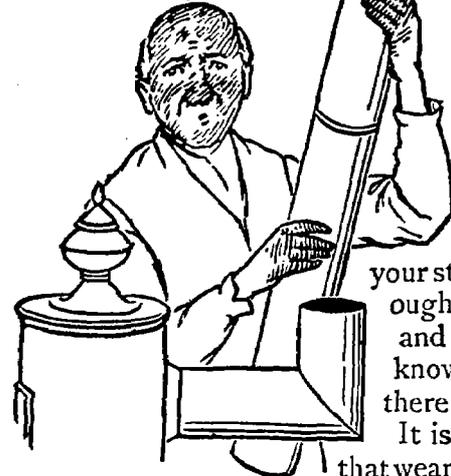
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