

OUR MISSION IN INDIA.

1.—General Questions about India.

Question.—What was the population of India in 1891?

Answer.—Two hundred and eighty-six millions, of whom 220 millions are in British India, and 66 millions in native states.

Q. What is the difference between these?

A. The Provinces of British India are ruled directly by British officials, while the native states are ruled by native princes under British control.

Q. What is the religion of the people?

A. Two hundred and seven millions are Hindoos, 57 millions are Mohammedans, 7 millions Buddhists, 9 millions of forest tribes, and a few other heathen sects., while Europeans, Protestant and Catholic, and native Christians, are about two millions.

Q. What is the proportion of Protestant Christians to heathen?

A. Scarcely one of the former to every two hundred of the latter.

Q. What is the result of mission work during the last dozen years?

A. The Christian population has increased by about half a million.

Q. What has been the increase of the heathen population during the same time?

A. About 30 millions.

C. How then can India become Christian?

A. Christianity is increasing more rapidly each year, and the Bible tells us that "The heathen shall be given to Christ for His heritage."

Q. What do many of the Hindoos think about the prospects of Christianity?

A. Many think their old systems are doomed and that India will be Christian.

2.—Our Mission Field in Central India.

Q. What are the physical features of Central India?

A. It is a high table land and less subject to heat and drought and famine than most other parts of India.

Q. How do the people live?

A. In villages and towns, even the farmers live thus.

Q. What are their houses like?

A. Mostly mud huts, eight to ten feet square, with earthen floors, grouped around an open court-yard 60 to 80 feet square, into which all the refuse is thrown, making the place foul and unhealthy.

Q. What do most of the men work at?

A. In the fields, on the roads, at trades and labor of different kinds.

Q. What is the common wage of a laboring man?

A. About two dollars a month, to keep himself and family.

Q. What takes place when a native is converted?

A. He often loses his places and wages and cannot get food for his family. Many are thus kept from joining the Christian church.

Q. What is the condition of these people in body and mind?

A. They are mostly weak in body, but have keen, strong minds.

Q. How do the missionaries carry on their work?

A. Preaching, in the house or church, on the street, in the bazaar or market place, teaching in schools, giving books and tracts, dispensing medicines to win the people, visiting the homes, &c., &c.

Q. What is the special need for lady missionaries in India?

A. The better class of women are kept shut up in their homes, called zenanas, where none but lady missionaries are allowed to go, and they have here a great field of work.

Q. How many cities are occupied as centres of work in that mission?

A. Five cities. Indore, 83,000, and Mhow, 25,000, in the State of Indore; Neemuch, 20,000, and Ujjain, 28,500, in the State of Gwalior, and Rutlam, 31,000, in the State of Rutlam.

Q. How many more large centres not far from these, which should have settled missionaries?

A. At least twice as many more.

Q. How many people not far from these centres are without the Gospel, and to whom our church should at once send it?

A. Over five millions.