

## MISSION FIELD.

(From the American Church S. S. Magazine.)

New obstacles to Missions are presenting themselves in foreign countries. The religions of India are beginning to defend themselves against missionary effort. A letter of the Rev. J. W. Scudder, from India, to the *Bible Society Record*, says: "The dying faith must be revived. Hinduism must be repaired and purified. Prompt reversion to the ancient Vedic faith is indispensable."

Such are the almost daily wailings of the native press. Thus we find ourselves in the midst of what is called, "The revival of Hinduism." Nor is this, by any means, mere fume and fuss. Opposition to Christianity has become active and aggressive. "Hindu Preaching Societies" and "Hindu Tract Societies" are accomplished facts in Madras to-day, and these facts are repeating themselves in country towns and villages. A "Branch Hindu Tract and Preaching Society" was established here in Vellore on the 6th May. Officers were duly elected, and funds were subscribed to carry out its purposes. Hindu "missionaries," paid agents of the society in Madras, visit the place frequently, and preach vigorously to large audiences in the street and in surrounding villages. Tracts and books are freely distributed. Men are warned to avoid Christian missionaries as they would serpents; to eschew reading the Bible and Christian publications; to withdraw their children from Mission schools, and to make every possible endeavour to cripple and frustrate the "foreign devils" who have undertaken to introduce and propagate a religion "false in itself and unknown to their ancestors."

All this has its effect upon the multitude. Opposition of the masses to Christianity is far more bitter and pronounced than it has ever been before."

## THE VEPEY MISSION ASSOCIATION, MADRAS.

By THE REV. A. WESTCOTT, Principal of the Theological College, Sullivan's Gardens, Madras.

(From the Mission Field, London, England.)

Many of our friends at home who watch with interest the progress of our Christian work in India, may be glad to have some brief account of a Mission Association in Madras which endeavours to plead the cause of Christ before educated Hindoos. The Vepey Mission Association was started about two years ago, by the Rev. W. Relton, M. A., the Secretary of the S. P. G., in Madras. The President of the Association is the Rev. W. Foley, M. A., Headmaster of Bishop Corrie's Grammar School in Madras, and a member of the Diocesan Committee of the S. P. G. By permission of J. H. Bullivant,

Esq., M. A., the Principal of the S. P. G. College, the association hold their monthly meetings in the lower hall of the college. At each of these a lecture is given, or a paper read on some religious subject, which is followed by a discussion in which all persons present, Hindus, Mahomedans, or Christians are cordially invited to join. There is generally a very fair number of Hindu students present at these meetings, and they listen attentively to the papers and make their comments and criticisms thereon. Native clergy, catechists, and schoolmasters of the S. P. G. also attend. As a regular attendant at these meetings, one cannot help being struck by the fact that all the strength of the Hindu faction is devoted to the difficult task of endeavouring to whitewash the character of Krishna. No attempt is ever made to bring any moral accusation against Jesus Christ, but His holiness is fully acknowledged. Hindus attempt to bring Krishna into comparison with Him. The want of unanimity among the Hindu speakers is very striking. One Hindu will take up a position entirely at variance with that held by another co-religionist, and any one of them is prepared to hold at the same time two absolutely contradictory propositions. The strength of the Hindu champion lies in their capability of resisting conviction. They are, however, undoubtedly more logical than they care to show themselves.

(To be continued.)

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