

## PREFACE

The Title chosen for this book has more than a geographical significance. In some respects the Native States of Central India are typical of the real heart of conservative India. Large districts in Central India are still without any knowledge of the Gospel, and the sway of hoary Hinduism is unchallenged.

The task laid upon me in the preparation of this book proved to be more difficult than at first appeared. To write the history of the growth of a Mission is one thing ; to make out of it a book suitable for study classes on India is a more difficult matter. The combination of the two has imposed limitations which will be only too manifest to the readers. For instance, much in reference to religious beliefs and religious and social reform movements had to be omitted, and the history of the Mission is at best a mere outline.

No attempt is made in this book to discuss women's work as a distinct and separate phase of the work in Central India. It is so closely related to the whole work of the Mission that it was felt that any such distinction would be unnecessary and unwise.

There is much that has already been written on Indian life and religion, and the author is largely indebted to the writers referred to in the foot notes. He would also express his gratitude to his fellow-workers in Central India and other friends there who kindly supplied photographs which are reproduced in this volume.