

tration of what I mean. It is reported in a newspaper which has reached me from Nagpore, and I have every reason to believe that the report is substantially correct, and it is something very affecting, very impressive. The statement, as given in the newspaper forwarded to me by Mr. Cooper, refers to a district in the eastern division of Nagpore, called Chuttisghur, or 'Thirty-six foris,' when translated into English. The inhabitants, some forty or fifty years ago, were upwards of half a million in number, and are now greatly more. The proprietors are Hindus of the higher castes, while the Brahmans are all powerful there,—the bulk of the population being Chumars or workers in leather, who are of a low caste, though chiefly employed as agriculturists, who were very much tyrannized over by those whom they had been taught to regard as a sort of demi-gods.

"At last one of their own number professed to be sent by heaven as a deliverer. A small number of followers gathered around him, to whom he expounded his opinions, and they became enthusiastic admirers. But this leader said to himself, I will get more influence over my followers if, like other holy men, I retire to the gloomy forests among the hills. I will go there for six months, and fast, meditate, and pray; in short, I will act out the grand law of Hindu asceticism, and after that I will return with my revelation to them—with my message from heaven. During his absence, his followers began to expound what he had been telling them to the rest of the people, and before the end of six months great expectations were raised. Upwards of 100,000 people assembled in a spacious plain near the village of Girode, watching for the advent of this new prophet; and when the day at last arrived that he came down from the wooded heights behind, and appeared among them, they were satisfied that he was sent as a prophet from heaven. He told them that his message to them was, that they were to throw off the oppressive Brahmanical yoke, to fling away their idols, to give up their superstitious worship, and were to worship the only one God, who created all things, and to worship him not by outward material symbols, but to worship him by meditating upon him and praying to him. The report is that thousands, if not tens of thousands, obeyed the summons.

"And if it turns out to be so, does it not seem to be a very remarkable movement in Providence? Does it not look like a challenge from the heathen world to come forth and give them the pure gospel instead of the idols which, for long ages, they and their fathers had worshipped? The only other case I know at all similar to this is that of the Sandwich Islands, where as you may remember, before a missionary had landed there at all, under a feeling of the intolerable restraints of the idolatrous *tabu* system they were suffering from, the people had resolved to demolish their temples and burn their idols, and at that very time our American brethren were preparing a mission to send to them, and in the course of the next forty years the Sandwich Islands had become at once civilized and Christianized.

"I know not what others feelings may be with regard to the case I have mentioned, but I wrote at once, on my own responsibility, to Mr. Cooper and Dr. Wilson, suggesting that they should at once send some competent parties, European or native, or both, to see what this movement really was, and to report upon it. Why not drop any regular work to watch such a movement as this? If I were in Calcutta I would not hesitate to throw aside any ordinary routine work and go thither to enquire, and if it turned out to be anything like the representation now given, what results might we not hope to witness! This region is within the proper circle of our missions, and there is no other mission but our own within reach of it. Therefore it is flung, as it were, by the providence of God