

taught to construct words and short sentences by writing on a palm-leaf with an iron style. Thence he proceeds to use the finer leaf of the plantain; and finally, when well advanced, he is taught to write on paper hardened by the juice of the tamarind tree, and to draw up petitions, business documents, accounts, &c. In some of Hindi, though not in the Bengali schools, a wooden board or a brass plate smeared over with mud, or cloth and water, is employed for tracing words by means of a wooden style, as well as for calculations in arithmetic."

The teachers are miserably poor, and have to employ themselves between the hours of teaching, at any pursuit that will enable them to add a few pence to their small pittance in order to make a living; and "the village school will frequently be held in an open shed, occasionally in the covered place in which the weekly market is held, on which day a holiday is given to the scholars, and the pedagogue occupies himself in the busy duties of what, in Europe, we should call the clerk of the market."

The language employed in the common schools, now under notice, is Bengali in Bengal proper, and Hindostani in Behar and other districts. The Urdu language, though much richer in variety and force of expression, (the language of the Pulpit) has not found its way into any of the class-books of the elementary schools, where it might be advantageously used.

Among the teachers employed, the Brahmins, contrary though it is to them, in consequence of their high caste, to give instruction in the elementary branches, are the most numerous. The people being divided off into castes, and each caste keeping

at a respectful distance from the other. "Twenty years ago, it was rare indeed that the least degree of instruction was enjoyed by any of the lower castes of tailors, water drawers, sweepers, or such like;" recently some change has taken place in this respect.

The domestic instruction as is imparted in families is still more unsatisfactory than that taught in the common schools. The high caste men will not send their sons to the elementary schools along with the sons of the lower orders of society, consequently in some instances they remain uneducated.

In contrast with the state of indigenous education in India, is that established by the Christian Missionaries. Wherever these labourers in the field of truth would locate themselves, schools would arise, and elementary instruction be imparted in the vernacular tongue. Through the instrumentality of the Rev. J. Long and others, useful books in the language of the country have been prepared and put in circulation in the schools. Before the recent rebellion good results were produced in many places from these works.

The Bengal government have established a system of education, and appropriated a large amount of money in aid thereof; but from the extravagance, in its expenditure,—paying a large staff of officers; the real workers, the teachers, get very little for their labour.

The Calcutta colleges, and Company's colleges, have done but little for the education commensurate with the exertions made, nor will they ever do much for the elevation of the Indian mind, until CASTE—the curse of India—be trampled under foot.