

sent the piety and morals found in these cities. As a rule, the missionaries are slow and circumspect in receiving converts. They could have myriads if they would condescend to allure them by mercenary motives, or accept all those who apply for baptism. In my opinion they err more on the side of hesitation than of haste. Such as they have are usually received after due waiting and inquiry ; they are carefully instructed, and not seldom suffer much in accepting the Christian faith. But what wonder, considering whence they came and what they were, if a residuum of Asiatic, Hindu, and common human defect cleaves to them ! But as communities it is a matter of surprise that they have become so free from the superstitions of their ancestors, accepted the great truths of the Gospel, and moved far away from Hindu customs and opinions toward the New Testament standard of belief and life.* The facts I have given speak for themselves ; but they could be sustained by any amount of independent testimony. The *Times* correspondent, for instance, recently wrote, "The status of the native Church is rising every year ; so also are the character and acquirements of the agents." And again, on January 24th, last year, "The Decennial Missionary Conference, held in Bombay, had a surprising record to show of the result of missionary work. During the past nine years with which it deals extraordinary progress is disclosed in every department of evangelistic labor."

But the results of missions extend far beyond the limits of the Christian community. There is a great change passing over native society, affecting its religious, moral, intellectual, and social condition ; and of the four forces producing it—just and beneficent government, English character and life, education, and missionary propagandism—the last is the most potent. This was the testimony of Lord Lawrence, and few men were as competent to form a judgment : "Notwithstanding all that the English people have done to benefit India, the missionaries have done more than all other agencies combined." They are carefully selected and well trained. They are better informed on most Indian questions than other Europeans. They know the people better, and come more into sympathetic contact with them. They are the enemies of every abuse, superstition, and evil custom, and the advocates of justice, humanity, and reform. They have been the pioneers of every forward movement, from the abolition of sutteeism and infanticide to the emancipation of women. Of all foreigners they are most respected and trusted. None are so disinterested, zealous, or efficient in the discharge of their duties. Though usually living away from social restraints, in the midst of vice and immorality, where it is easy to sin and temptations are great, they live more beneficent, lawful, and pure lives than any other class, native or foreign.

* Neither forms of vice nor of error, but of moral weakness, characterize the defective side of the Hindu Church. It is more free, for instance, from gross moral defects, loose practices, and extravagant pernicious errors, than were the Christian communities throughout Egypt, Syria, and Greece in the first centuries, and from ignorance, violence, and lawlessness, than the converts of medieval Europe.