

in other parts of the Province as respects Protestants of different denominations.—*Colonial Presbyterian.*

THE CHURCH AT HOME.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Committee have recently received a copy of "Statement and Appeal from the General Conference of Missionaries convened at Ootacamund," representing nearly all the Protestant Evangelical societies, laboring in Southern India and North Ceylon, to the parent societies and churches in Europe and America.

This statement is dated Ootacamund, Neilgherries, May 1856.

It appears that these missionaries engaged for fourteen days in earnest consultation on the great work to which their lives are devoted. No detailed account of the proceedings is given in this document, but a report is promised. Reference is made to the general unanimity of their views, and the perfect harmony of Christian love which prevailed among them, together with the spiritual profit and encouragement mutually gained. After referring to the time at which the conference took place, and the recent rebellions, the missionaries give a rapid sketch of the success which, through the blessing of God, has crowned missionary labor in the South Indian field. They attest that, in the Tinnevely, Travancore, Tanjore, and Madura provinces, there are "numerous congregations of men and women who have renounced idolatry and demonolatry, sitting at the feet of the Christian missionaries to learn of Jesus and His salvation." They go on to say:—

"Let us turn now to the missions of the German brethren on the western coast, where we see many proofs that the hand of the Lord has been with His servants, and that many have believed their report. Here, in addition to congregations and churches and schools similar to those we have already described, though on a smaller scale, we see the Gospel in its benevolent aspect towards the industrious laboring poor—the brethren having taught many of them how to improve their temporal condition, while they are also teaching them to seek first the kingdom of God.

"Leaving this field, which is already becoming a fruitful one, and where more than forty devoted brethren are laboring in the Gospel, and already rejoicing over the tokens of God's gracious approval of their toil, we may visit in succession the many stations of various societies of Britain and America, scattered over the land. At each we may look upon an infant church and congregation; at most on boarding and day-schools, both in the vernacular and in English—in a staff of native teachers, with here and there a seminary for their efficient training—on printing presses, with stores of books and tracts, and transla-

tions of the Holy Scriptures, in the various languages—on churches and chapels and school-houses and mission-dwellings; and thus to hold a complete system of appliances for carrying on the work of the Lord. And if we stop at each station, and inquire what has been done to bring the Gospel to bear upon the surrounding masses, we shall be everywhere furnished with ample proof, that the truth has fully enlightened the understandings, and gained the approval of many, and is powerfully leavening the community at large.

"By means of scriptural education many youth has lost his faith in Hindooism, and learned that Christianity is both true and Divine; while by means of preaching, conversation, and perusal of tracts and portions of the Scriptures, many an adult has done the same, being no longer Hindoo in connection, though yet Christian in profession."

At Madras, in addition to the usual method of bringing the Gospel into contact with the native mind, there is a large and powerful system of Anglo-vernacular education, based upon the Bible, and entirely pervaded by soul-transpiring truths, steadily at work, moving the minds of several thousands of youth of the middle and upper classes. Not the least valuable contribution to missionary intelligence is contained in the following extract from the "Statement and Appeal":—

"But let us now collect our statistics, and state what at present is the result of missionary operations; not for our own praise, but for the glory of Him without whose blessing all our works would end in vanity and confusion.

"We have, then, as the fruits of missionary labor in Southern India, and the entire island of Ceylon.

"1. More than ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND persons who have abandoned idolatry, and gathered into congregations receiving Christian instruction.

"2. More than SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND have been baptized into the name of Christ, and have thus publicly made a profession of their Christian discipleship.

"3. More than FIFTEEN THOUSAND have been received as communicants, in full belief that they are the sincere and faithful disciples of Christ.

"4. More than FIVE HUNDRED natives, exclusive of schoolmasters, who are employed as Christian teachers of their countrymen, who are generally devoted and successful in their works.

"5. More than FORTY-ONE THOUSAND in the mission schools, learning to read and understand the Holy Scriptures, which is able to make them wise unto salvation.

"6. More than ELEVEN THOUSAND rescued from that gross ignorance and degradation to which so many millions of the sex in India seem to be hopelessly condemned.

"Looking at these leading results, may we not exclaim, 'What hath God wrought? Surely, 'this is the finger of God!'"