

as the toys, and in age as the slaves, of their lords and masters. Married at a very early age to men of twice or thrice their years, whom they had never seen before, their union was, with few exceptions, a loveless one on either side. Should the hapless woman be left a widow, her lot was indeed sad. If she escaped being burned alive upon her husband's funeral pyre, she was condemned to a perpetual solitude and seclusion, amounting almost to living burial. The strong arm of the British Government has been stretched out for the protection of the widowed daughters of India. Sutteeism has been forever abolished, and the possibility of home and family ties and support have been given her. But even into the jealous seclusion of Oriental homes the blessings of Christianity, with its ennobling and elevating influence, have penetrated; and the Zenana Mission has opened up new possibilities of happiness and knowledge, of mental and moral development, to the daughters of that dusky race.

There are in India, it is estimated, 80,000 widows under six years of age! Can one imagine the amount of suffering that little sentence tells and foretells?

The following is the summary of the Rev. A. D. Rowe, M.A., on missionary effort in India:

"There is in India a native Christian Church scattered throughout the cities, towns and villages, from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin—a Church which has not only members, but also influence, power, and all the elements of growth and self-propagation. We do not say that she has these desirable qualities in as great a measure as we could desire, but she has them in a certain degree and to such an extent that, humanly speaking, even without foreign men and money she would no doubt be able to live and prosper.

"Some of the grandest results of missionary effort in India cannot be put into figures and set up in statistical tables. It is a glorious triumph for the cause to have secured a visible Christian Church, with hundreds of thousands of upright members; to have a respectable and respected native ministry, raised up for the most part from the lowest grades of society—proving its suitability to all—to have a growing Christian literature for young and old; to have churches and schools in every section of the country; but it is scarcely a less glorious triumph to influence for good in indirect ways the whole Hindu nation, and the British Government itself, as Christian effort has done and is doing to-day."

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#### NOON.

When in my quiet room I sit me down,  
The roar shut out which fills the noisy street  
Where clattering carts and restless hurrying feet  
Of busy crowds urged by toil's whip and frown  
Or bent on pleasure, wander up and down,—  
Then, as I listen, I hear it, clear and sweet :  
The music which the church-tower chimes repeat  
Telling the passing hour to all the town.

So, ever and anon, amid the strife  
That thickens 'round us as we near life's noon,  
If we but pause an instant, we may hear  
Above the discords of this mortal life,  
The bells of heaven ring out their joyous tune  
In soft reverberations sweet and clear.