

It was said one hundred years ago, that it would be useless to try to evangelize the people of that country, but experience has proved the statement to be false.

Great Britain owns eight thousand miles of railway and fourteen thousand miles of canals in India.

The people worship three hundred different false gods, ranging from the sun and moon down to mud by the river side. Three of them are considered to be famous by the natives, these are the Creator, the Preserver, and the Destroyer, the last of which is most of all worshipped. To the great river Ganges they offer human sacrifices.

One of the most striking things in connection with this benighted people, is the fact that some of their so called Vedas hymns are most beautiful in thought, as for instance the following verse :—

“ If through want of strength or light, we have gone to the wrong shore,
Have mercy Almighty, have mercy !
If we commit an offence, or break Thy laws through thoughtlessness,
Have mercy, O Lord, have mercy.”

Having quoted these touching words the speaker then quoted the words of that familiar hymn,

“ Can we whose souls are lighted
With wisdom from on high,
Can we to men benighted
The lamp of life deny ?”

Tradition tells us that St. Thomas preached in India and that he was martyred on a mound outside the city of Madras. Such a thing though possible, remains still only a tradition of great uncertainty.

A Danish missionary, Fredrick Schwartz, who landed in India in the year 1750, was the first one of all that noble line of men and women who since then have given themselves to this great work.

His mother died when Fredrick was still an infant, and on her death bed, she expressed a wish that her son should be called, Christian Fredrick Schwartz, and that he should become a missionary to India.

For years it appeared as though Fredrick had no intention of fulfilling his mothers wish, but when he came to England to perfect himself in the English language, he became acquainted with a man