

first stone thrown, brought to the house of the Missionary the first earnest inquirer. One object was gained. The attention of the people has been aroused. The Word of the Lord has free course and is glorified in the Ephesus of Northern India.

"INDICATIONS AND ANTICIPATIONS.—Deeply affecting and stimulating are the remarks often addressed to the Missionaries in their journeys. Near Agra a man steps forth from the crowd: 'I have read,' he says 'the New Testament, and it is true Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' In Rajshaye, a Bairagi listens, deeply attentive, with many more, to the Missionary discoursing on the love of Christ. He is asked if he has anything to say in reply: 'Nothing,' he says; 'there is no reply to this; this is substantial truth.' Anxious hearers crowd upon the Missionary's steps. The Word of God is placed in their hands; 'What,' say they, 'are we to do with these books? You come and speak to us a few words and then go away, and we never more hear these words.' Deeply grieved, the Missionary retires. He inquires of us, Are no more labourers forthcoming to reap the waitened fields? In the district of Tipperah your Missionary visits a valley, the people of which are glad to hear of Christ. They say, 'Your religion is good. While there will be an end of our religion, yours will have no end, but will flourish and thrive more and more.' In Mymensing, amid salams and thanks, the hearers say, 'We never heard such good and pure words; we are very glad you are come.' Others say, 'We never heard of this religion but the words take hold of our hearts, and we will not forget them.' On the way to the Baijnath mela the native preachers are welcomed in a certain village, all the men and women coming out to listen. The people are heard to say at the close of the address, 'All the Hindu gods and goddesses are false; there is but one true God; let us understand who the Lord Jesus Christ is, that we may not forget him.' In not a few instances the hearer repeats the message, and bids his companions 'come.' In one place, says Mr. Morgan, on a recent tour, 'I listened to an elderly man speaking to a group that gathered about him. He was explaining the object of the distribution of the books, and saying that the gods would soon be abandoned, and all men would worship one God. "You go" said he, "a long distance to bathe in the Ganges, but it is all in vain." In two places Mr. Smith hears that the people of themselves have regular Christian worship, that one man frequently engages in prayer, and reads the Word of God to them, in secret, for fear of the punchayet, the village council. At Digneer, in the vicinity of Agra, an aged Zemindar hears the Word, and is convinced. With the assistance of the Missionary, a chapel and school-room are built, regular services held, and some fifty persons profess their renunciation of idolatry. At another place, a Pandit goes about reading religious tracts and preaching against idolatry. Prophecies which may probably originate in the consciousness of the people themselves of the inherent weakness of their system, or in that dim light which wanders in desert regions discerned preceeding the dawn, but spreading from one knows not what quarter of the sky, are muttered among the people, or openly addressed to the Missionary. A Brahmin, for instance, will say, 'The *kali yug* is soon at an end, and then we shall all become Christians.' Another will reply to the urgent appeal at once to give up idolatry for the Gospel, 'There is still some delay till this *yug* (time) has ended. You must have a little more patience, and then your preaching and giving of books will have an effect upon us.' Before crowds of people others will say:—'Your religion will finally triumph; our Shastres predict this; but there is still some delay.' Never, says one of the Missionaries, reporting these incidents, was the Gospel listened to with more attention. 'It is impossible,' says Mr. Morgan, of Howrah, with reference to a recent tour in the Hooghley and Midnapore districts, 'to describe in a brief report the exciting scenes that I have witnessed

in large towns. I have been treated with kindness. The most respectable Pundits have visited me in my humble lodgings. Numerous questions asked, and interesting conversation carried on till ten o'clock at night. The people are convinced that idolatry cannot stand much longer. Temples are falling into ruins, and Brahmins are sinking into poverty. Indigenous schools are springing up in all directions. I have found the Scriptures distributed by me last year daily read in the schools. Women have thrown aside their fear, and implored books for men, children, and grand children. I have preached on the platform of temples, and Juggernath's car has been my place for the distribution of the Scriptures."

"THE FUNDS.—It now only remains for the Committee to advert to the present financial position of the Society. It will be remembered, that at the last Annual Meeting 'An Old Friend' of the Society authorised one of the Secretaries to state, that he would give a donation of the balance, 1,813*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*, then due to the Treasurers. By this truly generous gift, the Society was freed from debt, and an encumbrance which had weighed very heavily upon it for nine years, and necessarily prevented any enlargement of its operations, was happily removed. Surely this was a token for good, and a great encouragement to proceed with their proposed scheme of the enlargement and consolidation of the Mission in India. Your Committee very naturally watched the progress of the financial returns month by month, the more that it was feared the increased cost of all the articles of subsistence would materially affect the ability of a large number of their friends to give their usual donations, to say nothing of the increase necessary to carry out their plans. To their great surprise and pleasure, month by month during the year, there was a steady increase, except in January; but in February an increase again occurred, and what was deficient in the previous month was more than supplied. It is well known that most religious societies receive a very large portion of their income in the last month of the financial year. It was apprehended by the officers, that the receipts in March of the present year, would hardly come up to those of March in the preceding year. But, contrary to expectation, each day brought a large supply; and the Committee have now to report, with deep thankfulness to Him who hath opened the hearts of his people, that the total receipts for the year amount to 24,759*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, being 6,330*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* in advance of the year 1853. The receipts for general purposes amount to 20,870*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.*; an increase of 5,764*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* The balance in favour of the Society, and in the hands of the Treasurer, is 1,208*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* It is now to be shown how much of this excess of income for general purposes over the income of 1853 may be regarded as an increase which may be reckoned upon as likely to continue. The donation to liquidate the debt, 1,813*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*, and donations specially for India, 2,551*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, amounting together to 4,364*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*, being deducted there is left a clear, substantial increase in the general collections and contributions of 1,400*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* If it be inquired from what sources this increase has arisen, it may truly be replied, that the information which has been given respecting India, and the reasons and grounds for the proposal to extend the Mission in that important field, have awakened very general attention. The churches have been appealed to by their pastors. Suggestions for united and fervent prayer have been kindly received and acted upon, and organizations revived and strengthened. In some places where they did not exist auxiliaries have been formed, and efforts made, and with an encouraging amount of success, to include in the various organizations churches which had hitherto held aloof, or only assisted the funds at uncertain intervals.

"CONCLUSION.—Whether, then your Committee look on the results of past years of labour, on the manifest tokens of God's blessings which have been given to His servants, or to the present aspect and position of the