

one who had not been in India to conceive what converts had to endure for conscience sake.

BAPTISM OF FIVE HINDOO GIRLS

From a late Letter from Dr. Duff.

Since I last wrote to you, other five of the orphan girls in the Institution under Miss Laing have been admitted into the Christian Church by baptism, on a credible profession of their own faith. A signal blessing has been poured out from on High on this Institution. Good cause have the ladies at home who support it to rejoice in the fruits of their self-denial, perseverance, and generosity.—The two hours which I spend in the Institution every Sabbath forenoon, are to me hours of unmingled satisfaction and delight—such order, such propriety, such wakeful attention, such earnest interest, such palpable progress in the knowledge of Divine things, on the part of the young people assembled! Oh! that the number of such assemblages were multiplied all over this dark land!

Those lately baptized had for months manifested deep heart-concern for their sins of word and deed—but especially of *heart-sin*. At times they sobbed and wept bitterly under strong convictions of sin—its guilt and its danger. Their own accounts of the workings of sin, of faith, and of hope, were so simple, so natural, so accordant with the experience of believers generally, as to leave no reasonable doubt of the sincerity and reality of their profession. At different times they were examined by Mr. Ewart, Mr. McKay, and myself. And being all of us perfectly satisfied, they were at last baptized by Mr. Ewart in the presence of their own associates, and several members of the Free Church Congregation. Thus, within the last eight months, have not fewer than *twelve* given credible evidences of a saving conversion in that Institution? And thus, amid all our clouds and thick darkness, are we cheered by another and another smile of Jehovah's countenance.

The Rev. Mr. Lechler, of the London Missionary Society, gives the following account of the success of efforts for the temporal improvement of the converts:—

“About a Savings' Bank I never thought, or even wished to do so, before I came to India, and particularly to Salem. The custom of the poorer classes is, to spend all, whatever their income is, little or much; or to make their savings up into jewels, at a very great loss, at least one-half. So it was with the few Christians I found here; and not only so, but some were deeply in debt. It was about two years before I could get them out of debt; and then the Savings' Bank was set on foot. At first, very few availed themselves of it—some were disinclined to

relinquish their former habits, and others suspected this novelty altogether. Perseverance, however, and the example of the few, wrought a favourable change. Some of the teachers, and those who had the smallest pay, have now a little money in this Bank, and are able to render some assistance in the Lord's cause; while the capital of the whole, though still small, is in the hands of a dear native Christian, who was thus set up in business, and at the same time enabled to spend at least one-half of his time in distributing Tracts, selling Scriptures, and speaking the word of truth to those who came to him, without being dependent on European support.

But to return to the public meeting. The people, and especially our school-children, were greatly animated. One of the lads rose, and said with much feeling, and with tears in his eyes, ‘When our minister first commenced these various institutions among us, I thought it was all for his own profit, but of late I have seen that it is all for us—I therefore publicly ask his pardon, and the pardon of all present.’ This, as well as the rest of his short speech, was said in evident sincerity, and made a deep impression. He is the son of a carpenter, now dead, with whom our industrial school originated.

Another of our lads, who learns bricklaying, came to my room after the meeting, saying, ‘When you first told me to work I was much displeased, and for a long time I did not like my trade, but now I see the advantage of it, and feel truly thankful. In future I will always do as you tell me.’

One of the Teachers who addressed the meeting said, somewhat in these words:—‘Friends and children, when our Teachers first introduced these trades among us, I did not like it—I thought it was wrong, because it is not done so in other Mission-stations, but now I see that it is *not* wrong. I see a spirit of activity and industry diffused among us—I see that in some measure our large school of nearly 70 children is supported by your work, and you may support it still more. When I think of the Apostles and our Saviour himself, how they at times supported themselves, how the Apostle Paul, by means of his trade, found an entrance for the Gospel in Corinth—when I think of Mr. Williams of the South Sea Islands, how he introduced the Gospel there, and how he sent forth native teachers, I feel grieved and ashamed because I know no trade. If a famine were to take place in Europe, or if a war should break out, what would become of us, who have hitherto lived on the bounties of the London Missionary Society, and of other children of God in distant lands? We have got upon their shoulders, and are carried by