

—The agents of the Church Missionary Society in Persia have formulated a scheme, which the directors heartily endorse, for a vigorous forward movement. These are some of the features: Efforts devoted in the main to direct work among Persians; raising up a body of Armenian and Persian converts to preach the Gospel, and women as well to labor for Persian women; making a specialty of itinerating work and medical mission work; and forming as soon as possible Christian communities of Persian converts, encouraged and urged to remain in their own villages and towns, and among their kindred and friends, to bear patiently whatever persecution may befall. Herein is genuine heroism for Jesus, and let all Christians remember this project when they pray.

India.—The number of languages spoken in British India is 78. The Hindi, which is emphatically the Hindu tongue, and comes nearest to the old Aryan speech, is spoken by 103,000,000. The Bengali is used by 42,000,000.

—As a specimen of genuine paternalism in government, commend us to this, which has been done in Bengal. That country is the home of malarial fevers. While the average of life in England is forty-four years, in India it is only twenty-four. Thirty years ago the British Government determined to establish cinchona plantations at its own expense. The experiments have been prolonged, and have had their successes and reverses, but perseverance has had its reward at last. The government is now able to furnish a five-grain dose at the nearest post-office, to any applicant, for a farthing. In September last 120,000 of these little packets were distributed to the suffering at this merely nominal price.—*The Pacific*.

—A missionary writes: "The period for touring in India is during the cold season. The Indian year can be divided into three parts—four months of roasting in the hot weather, four months of boiling during the rains, and four

months of cooling during the winter season. It is not to be wondered at that those who only know India as it is in the winter should carry home golden accounts of its charms, though many will think that the remaining eight months of the year rather counterbalance its charms."

—In this land of the Vedas they have a queer fashion, when a crime has been committed, of handing over, not the criminal, but the least useful and most impetuous member of the community—the most aged, for example—as a sort of vicarious offering to justice. The *London Daily News* gives this cogent illustration. A certain man had been strangled, and by his own confession the deed was brought home to a feeble old fellow who for twenty years had been paralyzed in both arms. But since he said he did it, and his family all said the same thing, he went cheerfully to jail, where for the residue of his days he will be well fed and clothed, without need of toil, and in congenial company!

—Speaking of the remarkable mass movements in North India attending the work of the American Methodists, and resulting in the average of 1000 baptisms a month, even the High Church organ, the *Indian Churchman*, is constrained to behold with "unqualified approval." It sees "no reason to doubt the genuineness of the work," and counts it "an encouragement to missionary effort throughout the length and breadth of India." These new converts "have caught the passion for souls," etc.

—Bishop Thoburn has purchased an abandoned tea plantation in the Himalaya region, covering 1000 acres, for \$4000, and plans to make of it "a vast industrial establishment," where men and women, boys and girls, shall be taught divers useful occupations.

—In Calcutta the Methodists have received the gift of land worth 50,000 rupees as the site for a school of a high order for boys and young men, and of