

many will readily receive Christianity as a new avenue by which to obtain such merit. This indeed is one of the many hindrances the missionary has to contend with ; but it is not as formidable as another characteristic, which is rather difficult to describe, but which we will call *seeming submissiveness*. For example : A Chinaman will stand and hear a missionary expose the failings and weaknesses of his gods, and will in many cases, assent to all that is said, and still go away with his faith in his gods unshaken. Or a servant will receive gracefully a reproof, will listen attentively, even cordially, while you thoroughly expose his shortcomings, and with a polite bow will acknowledge all, and perhaps thank you for " your kindness to such an unworthy person, and will promise that the faults you have mentioned will be immediately, completely, for ever corrected. You know what these promises are worth, but such penitence will undoubtedly soften you, and this, be it noted is the object for which his promises were designed.

The most melancholy characteristic, however, is the absolute indifference everywhere apparent to the profoundest spiritual truths in the nature of man, and their ready acceptance of the most absurd statements and contradictory opinions as perfectly consistent. Add to this the fact that they have not the slightest conception of many of the fundamental truths of Christianity ; and notwithstanding their extensive vocabulary, that it is so difficult to find words that will even suggest to the Chinese mind the idea we wish to convey.

Do you wonder if, at times, we are discouraged, and say, " who is sufficient " for such an undertaking. Thanks be unto God for His promise, " My Word shall not return unto Me void." We go forth trusting in that promise, assured that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the *only* remedy for such ills, and the only power able to raise China's millions from the depths into to which sin has brought them.

Yours sincerely,

J. F. SMITH,

CHEFOO, N. CHINA, Feb. 23, 1839.

## CATECHISM ON INDIA.

QUESTION. Where is India ?

ANSWER. In the south of Asia.

Q. What is India ?

A. A colony of Great Britain.

Q. What is its area ?

A. 1,779,478 square miles.

Q. What is the population ?

A. In March 1887 the population was estimated at 268,137,044.

Q. How are the people divided religiously ?

A. Into Hindus, Mohammedans, aborigines, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis, Jews, Roman Catholics, and Protestants.

Q. How many are Hindus ?

A. About 188 million.

Q. How many are Mohammedans ?

A. About 50 million.

Q. How many are Aborigines ?

A. About 6,500,000.

Q. How many are Buddhists ?

A. About 3,500,000.

Q. How many are Sikhs ?

A. About 200,000.

Q. How many are Jains ?

A. About 125,000.

Q. How many are Parsis ?

A. About 85,000.

Q. How many are Jews ?

A. About 12,000.

Q. How many are Roman Catholics ?

A. About 964,000.

Q. How many are Protestants ?

A. About 900,000.

Q. How many of these protestants are communicants in the missions of the different Societies ?

A. About 150,000.

Q. When were the first Protestant missionaries sent to India ?

A. In 1706.

Q. Who were they ?

A. Henry Plutschau and Bartholemew Ziegenbalg.

Q. By whom were they sent ?

A. By the Danish Missionary Society.

Q. What was their field of labor ?

A. Tranquebar.

Q. What noted missionary did this Society afterward send ?