

became so enraged that he was held down forcibly and made to drink water in which a Brahman had dipped his toe. In all this time they had never met with a Christian. When I went through this part of the district two years ago he saw some of the books I had sold to others, and this day he met someone who had seen me and bought books, and he had dropped his work and had hurried in without delay, reaching me, as I have said, late that evening. His talk was a continual surprise to me. He seemed to know the New Testament thoroughly, compared the Pharisees to the Brahmins, and was very familiar with Paul's epistles. I went to his village the next morning, and they were very joyful and entertained us, saying our coming had given them great support. He bought a first book to learn to read. His knowledge of the Scriptures was the more remarkable, as he had only heard them read by the others. When they brought out the worn book, carefully wrapped in a cloth, I touched it with a feeling of reverence." And so in many other cases.

I suppose there is no one who has lived long in India and interested himself much in mission work who could not give similar instances from his own personal experience. For the Bible is now much studied in India, and is growingly appreciated every day. Peshab Chunder Mozamdar, the present leader of the advanced Brahmos, in a recent public lecture to native students at Lahore, recommended the Bible as the best book they could read, and the diligent study of Christ's precepts therein as the only way to attain purity of heart. In the large and important town of Islamabad, in Kashmir, we are told that most of the wealthy Muhammadans possess a copy of the Bible; many of them read it, and one native gentleman acknowledged that he was going through it for the eighth time, and liked it more and more. In the south of India we read of a juvenile society being formed in one of the colleges for the study of the Christian Scriptures, all the members of which are heathen high-caste lads. In Bengal we read of school boys choosing copies of the Bible for prizes, and begging that their knowledge of Scripture may be specially noted on their school certificates.

When the Rev. R. Bateman returned the other day to Narowal, the *elite* of the place gave him an address of welcome according to Indian fashion, and along with it, as the most appropriate gift they could select, a New Testament stamped with the municipal seal. In the Punjab, where, at the present moment, a most remarkable missionary movement is going on, the colportage sales have risen by one-half and added 15,000 to the issues of the previous year.

And so the leaven is working. Christianity, as someone has said, is in the air. The personality of our Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is impressing itself deeper and deeper upon the people. "You may deny His doctrine," said Keshab Chunder Sen to his countrymen, "you may even hate His name; but you cannot resist His influence." "In the midst of these crumbling systems of Hindu error," says Peshab Chunder Mozamdar, "in the midst of this self-righteous dogmatism and acrimonious controversy, in the midst of these cold spectral shadows of transition, secularism, and agnostic doubt, to me Christ has been like the meat and drink of my soul." But let us not be in a hurry to count conversions. They will all come in God's good time. Be it ours to labour patiently, prayerfully, hopefully. God is never in a hurry. "Behold the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it until he receive the early and the latter rain. Be ye also patient."

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