

to grant permission—"in deference," he says, "to the scruples of the Jewish and Christian residents."

—Pastor Faber, a German who is endeavoring to found a mission in the Kurdish district, has just recorded some experiences which testify to the advancing light. In his journey in Kurdistan he visited one of the most noted of the Kurd sheiks. The sheik received him kindly. A sheep was slain and prepared, and before beginning to eat he said, "We will remember your Jesus, of whom I have read, that He always thanked God before eating." And when the meal was over he took out of his pocket a well-worn Persian New Testament, and showed that he knew it better than many a Christian.

India.—A wealthy Hindu has given funds for a proposed "snake laboratory" in Calcutta. The scientific investigation of the poison of different snakes, and the investigation of present remedies for snake bites, will be the laboratory's work. In such a country as India, where 20,000 die annually from snake bites, such an institution ought to be of great value. The wonder is it was not established before.

—In the India of to-day, to be able to add *medical* to *missionary* is like placing a cipher after other figures—it gives a tenfold value, says a writer in the *India Female Evangelist*.

—Bishop Thoburn thinks that the converts in India during the next eight years will outnumber those of the last ninety-two years.

—The *Indian Witness* contains the statement that one missionary in North India has raised up 170 preachers. This man has not been at any time in charge of an orphanage or theological seminary, but during a ministry of some twenty-six years he has sought out and led into active work this large number of assistants.

—The census for 1891 reveals some astonishing facts in regard to the di-

visions of caste. It seems that there are 1354 divisions of caste, tribe, and race, specified by name, while there are 7109 similar divisions not so specified in the printed lists, but noted in the manuscript returns. The census gives specific names to 521 kinds of Brahmans who are priests. The varieties of the cultivator caste, called Marathas or Kunabis indifferently, number 957. The carpenter caste has 94 divisions; the blacksmiths, 76; the goldsmiths, 86; and the coppersmiths, 108. A single division of the merchant caste, the Waniyas, has 411 subdivisions. Even the out-castes have their classes, for the census notes 244 kinds of Mahars and 154 kinds of Mangs.

—Formerly few high-caste people became Christians, but now it is otherwise. The Rev. A. Clifford, a missionary of the English Church at Calcutta, says that recent converts are of all classes and of greater numbers than ever before. Of 31 recently baptized he says: "These included a Kulin Brahman, headmaster of an important Hindu school, with his wife and family; a wealthy Hindu gentleman of position and culture, and an honorary magistrate, with his wife; a Bengail doctor, with wife and family; a young man, the son of the civil surgeon of a Mofussil station; a young educated Brahman; a Brahman lady of wealthy family; a Hindu fakir; a leper man and leper woman; a respectable young Mohammedan and others."

Siam.—Probably the largest idol in the world is the "Sleeping Idol" in Bangkok. It is at least 160 feet long, and is made of brick, and heavily gilded. The feet are 5 feet long, and the soles are beautifully inlaid with mother-of-pearl.

—The success of the Laos mission is seen in this urgent request for enlargement: "We ask for 3 ministers, 5 physicians, their wives and 2 young women, in all 18 new laborers. We ask for the establishment of 3 new stations and the building of 5 residences, besides the