

After sounding the Swami on the interesting subject of "church women," the reporter asked him his idea of the Parliament of Religions. Here is Vivekananda's opinion:

"The Parliament of Religions, as it seems to me, was intended for a "heathen show" before the world, but it turned out the heathen got the upper hand and made it a Christian show all around. So the Parliament of Religions was a failure from a Christian standpoint. But the Chicago Parliament was a tremendous success for India, and Indian thought. It helped on the tide of Vedanta which is flooding the world."

Having exhausted these American church women and the Parliament of Religions, the Swami adopts the role of prophet when asked, "What are the prospects of the spread of your mission in England?"

"There is every prospect," he replied, with jaunty confidence. "Before ten years elapse a vast majority of the English people will be Vedantists. There is a greater prospect for this in England than in America. You see, Americans make a *fanfaronade* of every thing, which is not the case with Englishmen."—*The Christian Missionary*.

BAPTIST ACHIEVEMENTS IN FOREIGN MISSIONS.

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ACHIEVEMENTS IN EVANGELIZATION.

The primary work of missions is evangelization. Men are lost. A Saviour is provided. The proclamation of the gospel of salvation world-wide, is the glad privilege and purpose of missions. God has led Baptists in triumph in Christ, to the achievement of marvelous results in the winning of men. The Psalmist uses the figure of "handful of corn in the earth on the top of the mountains," the most unpromising place for a harvest,—an insignificant amount of seed,—but "the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon." It shall be so abundant and thrifty that it shall appear like the great waving forests of Lebanon. Surely this is already being fulfilled.

FRUITAGE.

The seed has been sown in Burma, and thirty-six thousand souls are enrolled upon the records of our churches, saved by grace.

The seed was carried to the tribes of Assam, and four thousand answered to their names as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The outcasts among the Telugus have heard the word, and though long withstanding it, they came at length, ten thousand in a year, and sixty-thousand gladly own Jesus, Lord and Saviour.

The seed has found responsive soil in China, and Japan, and Africa, and other countries, and many thousands believe and rejoice in a Saviour's love.

Within the year 1896 Baptist missionaries baptized 16,549 converts. This is about the average for several years past. Of the additions by baptism to all evangelical foreign missions in 1896, about twenty-seven per cent. were to Baptist missions.

THE IMMENSITY OF THE WORK.

The immensity of this work we find it hard to grasp. Baptist missionaries and their helpers preach the gospel every Lord's day at 2,400 stations in heathen lands, and at

probably twice as many places occasionally. It is safe to say that half a million hear the gospel from their lips every week. Besides the 942 missionaries, 4,061 native helpers add to the evangelizing force.

See how wide-spread is the work and how immense the populations being touched by us. Our missionaries are laboring among the 8,500,000 people of Burma, the 5,000,000 of Assam, the 290,000,000 of India, the 350,000,000 of China, the 40,000,000 of Japan. Here is an aggregate of 700,000,000, nearly one-half of the population of the globe.

In the valley of the Congo there are estimated to be 39,000,000.

These fields are occupied by Baptists of the North. Our Southern brethren are preaching the same precious gospel in China, Japan, Africa, Italy, Mexico, Brazil and Cuba; our Canadian brethren among the Telugus, and in Bolivia, our English brethren in India, China, Palestine, the West Indies and Africa.

Baptist missions in Europe have grown to immense magnitude. We have great evangelizing forces in Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy and Russia, and smaller forces in Spain, Switzerland, Hungary and other countries, raised up in those countries primarily, and fostered by our missionary agencies. Baptist missions are facing three-fourths of the heathen and non-Christian peoples of the world. Alas, that we are yet only touching the edges of these great populations.

The missionaries of the Missionary Union have baptized more than 290,000 converts since Judson baptized his first convert in 1819.

There are now in churches raised up by Baptist Missions 263,000 members. The total gathered by them since Carey baptized his first convert Jan. 1, 1800, cannot be less than 385,000. This is 40,000 more than were baptized in all our churches in the United States during the past two years. It is as many as were baptized by Baptists in all the rest of the world, leaving out our own country, in the last ten years.

When we consider what the conversion of a soul means, in the overcoming of ignorance, prejudice and the enmity of the carnal mind; what it means of effort, and of long-continued prayer, and above all, of the convicting and renewing work of the Holy Spirit; what it means to the soul and to the kingdom of God, we are overwhelmed with gratitude, as we review the magnitude of what has been accomplished.

LIFTING UP THE PEOPLE.

And aside from the greater question of salvation, it is no mean thing to be benefactors of great races, and to help to lift them up to a higher plane of intelligence, and of moral and social order.

Christian missions have reached first and chiefly the lower orders of the people. Most of those who have heard are "the common people," as in Christ's time. The result has been a remarkable quickening of intelligence, and of thrift among them. It is no small humiliation for the proud Brahman to see the young man of the outcast class outstrip him in knowledge and mental acumen, and so taking places of which hitherto he has had an unchallenged monopoly. The arrogant Burmese Buddhist gnashes his teeth in rage at the modest Christian Karen boy, who has outstripped him in intelligence and trustworthiness, and so taken the lucrative position that he only has been accustomed to hold.