

"When after my address I called upon Ram Dass to rise and read a statement, which he had prepared, of the grounds of his change of faith and desire of Christian baptism, very deep interest was aroused, and every eye was fixed on our convert. After slowly rising and allowing his eye, bright and steady with the light of firm resolve, to drink in all the detail of the crowded schoolroom, as if seeking to accustom himself to the unwonted scene and position, he began to read in a voice clear and powerful, showing scarce a trace of his recent illness. The paper, which of his own accord he had prepared, had, on the previous day, been read over to me. It exposed the falseness of the Ram Snch and other Hindoo religions, and the impostures of their priests; briefly contrasted with them the simple and godlike doctrines of the Christian faith; and affirmed in language of glowing enthusiasm the peace and satisfaction which the reception of that faith had brought to his spirit—a peace and joy which neither as neophyte, nor priest, had he ever known from his former faith and vaunted saintliness. Knowing the proneness of men in his circumstances to long-windedness, I was glad to assure myself that the reading of the paper would not occupy much more than ten minutes, but to my surprise and chagrin, I found Ram Dass treating it as he had been accustomed to read his shasters. Every sentence was made a text for a long extemporaneous commentary, very good and telling I admit, and thoroughly enchainning the attention of his audience, but threatening to prolong the services till far on in the night. I was therefore obliged, however reluctantly, to cut him short, and ask him to confine himself strictly to his written statement.

That finished, he responded in a firm, manly way to the questions of the formula; and having invoked the divine blessing on the solemn rite, I baptized him into the faith of Christ, of which, God grant that he may be long spared to be a living witness and a powerful and successful preacher. Since his baptism we have been much pleased with his quiet and consistent conduct. The threatened return of his former ailment kept him weak and unfit for a time for work; but with growing strength he has been eager to engage in some active service. Besides bazaar work, he is teaching the junior classes of our orphan boys, and steadily preparing himself for teaching the senior classes also. In this his aid has come most opportunely, as the growing activity of our lithographic press already demands James's almost undivided attention."

ENGLISH PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONS.

For the first time in five years the MESSENGER is without news of the Chinese Mission. It gives, however, the following notes upon the small Indian Mission of the English Presbyterian Church:—

"It is some time since we have said anything about our small but not unfruitful mission at Rampore Bauleah, in Rajshaye. The serious illness of our native missionary, the Rev. Behari Lal Singh, during last winter threatened the discontinuance of our mission; but that period was admirably tided over by the indefatigable labours of his wife, Mrs. Singh, and since then the work has gone on as formerly. Behari, though aged by his late illness, is in good health, and is sanguine that there is spiritual work being done which will appear hereafter. He remarks in connection with this, "When God's servants are deeply and sincerely conscious of their own insufficiency they are sometimes exceedingly near to the gladness and power of God"—a sentiment to which all true servants of God will heartily respond.