

much blessed in his labors. Besides the Indians, a considerable number of Esquimaux come hither to barter their furs. They are still heathen, and it is for their evangelization that Mr. Stringer has nobly devoted himself. They are a peculiar people, very different from the Indians in many respects."

It will be remembered that Rev. Mr. Stringer and Rev. Mr. Marsh are Canadians, supported by Wycliffe College, Toronto.

EPIPHANY TIDE.

So blithe this hour, when once again
The Star glows steadfast in the sky :
So hope attuned, when human pain
Grows less, for faith that help is nigh :
So hallowed, when the angel train
With song and harp are passing by.

Once more, between the midnight's gloom
And the pale rose of breaking dawn,
Heaven's matchless lilies wake and bloom,
And far athwart the east are drawn
The pencilled sunbeams which illumine
All pathways men must journey on.

Again the sages and the seers
Bend low before a little child :
And o'er the long and stormful years
The desert spaces fast and wild,
The strife, the turmoil, and the tears,
He looks, and smiles, the undefiled.

Epiphany tide ! At Mary's knee
The shepherds and the princes meet :
Love-bound in dear humility,
To clasp the infant Saviour's feet.
The Star is bright o'er land and sea ;
The Gloria song is full and sweet.

THE last official census of India gives that country a population of 288,000,000 souls. In regard to religion they are distributed as follows: Hindooism has 207,500,000 adherents, or 75 per cent. of the entire population; Islam claims 75,000,000 adherents, or 19.96 per cent.; Buddhism has 7,000,000 followers, or 2.48 per cent.; Christians have 2,225,000, or only 0.80 per cent. of the population; Parseeism has 89,887 followers, or 0.03 per cent. But while the Hindoos and the Mohammedans increased only 10.74 per cent. in the one case, and 10.70 per cent. in the other, and in the case of the Buddhists the increase has been exactly in proportion to the rate of increase in the population at large, Christians have increased fully 22.16 per cent.; a much larger increase than the rate of population or the progress made by any other religion in India. Therefore, the sanguine words recently uttered by Sir Charles Elliot, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Bengal districts, were fully justified by the condition of affairs, when he stated that the steady progress of Christianity in India is now not only a fixed fact, but the advance has also been so rapid that the friends

of the Gospel have all reason to feel encouraged and to prosecute the work with vigor.

THE ship *Britannia*, which struck on the rocks off the coast of Brazil, had on board a large lot of Spanish dollars. In the hope of saving some of them a number of barrels were brought on deck, but the vessel was sinking so fast that the only hope for life was in taking at once to the boats.

The last boat was about to push off, when a midshipman rushed back to see if any one was still on board. To his surprise, there sat a man on deck with a hatchet in his hand, with which he had broken open several of the casks, the contents of which he was heaping up about him.

"What are you doing?" shouted he. "Escape for your life! Don't you know the ship is fast going to pieces?"

"The ship may," said the man; "I have lived a poor wretch all my life, and I am determined to die rich."

The midshipman's remonstrances were answered only by another flourish of the hatchet, and he was left to his fate. In a few minutes the ship was engulfed in the waves.

We count such a man a madman; but he has too many imitators. Many men seem determined to die rich at all hazards. Least of all risks do they count the chances of losing the soul in the struggle.

And yet the only riches we can clasp to our bosom with joy in our dying hour are the riches of grace through faith in our only Saviour, Jesus Christ. Let us make these riches ours before the dark hour comes. They will continue, and will afford joy and comfort when earthly riches are useless. *Selected.*

"OVER fifty years ago," says a writer, "seven shoemakers in a shop in the city of Hamburg said, 'By the grace of God we will help to send the Gospel to our destitute fellow-men.' In twenty-five years they had established 50 self-supporting churches, had gathered in 10,000 converts, had distributed 400,000 Bibles and 8,000,000 tracts, and had carried the Gospel to 50,000,000 of the race. It would take only 150 of such men to carry the Gospel to the whole world in twenty-five years. Even if there were no more than 2,000,000 of Christians to-day, yet if every Christian would but be the means every year of leading only a single person to Christ, in ten years the whole world would be converted."

AN injury received and endured for God's sake is of as much value as a long prayer; and time is not lost which is spent in the practice of meekness and patience.