

world seems opening for the press, giving accuracy, definiteness, diffusion, and permanency to the Divine word.

In many pagan languages the press has already a power comparing favourably with its power in Christian lands. It is the right arm of missions, and every voice from abroad testifies to its efficacy under the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

A letter just received from the Madura mission among the Mahrattas of India gives a calm, intelligent view of the facts as they already exist, and may be expected ere long to exist as far as the influence of the gospel shall spread among all the nations of the earth.

"We have had some proofs of the Master's presence and blessing as we have gone forth sowing the good seed of the kingdom this year. We have striven to 'sow beside all waters,' and have left many a little messenger to preach in the villages after we had turned to other parts of our field. We cannot expect here, more than in our own land, that every tract or book given away, or even sold, will be read and remembered. But here and there one proves to be 'fastened as a nail in a sure place.'

"The power of the heathen literature with so much culture as exists in India, is very striking. The people will sit still in vast assemblies far into the night listening to some one who can recite or sing their poems and puranas in commemoration of the absurd and often indecent exploits of their gods, compared with which they consider the Bible as very prosaic. Still our books are sought and sold, and that increasingly, as they come to be known.

"We have sold the little Mango story by the hundred, and there are two or three more of like nature which will doubtless have a run just as soon as they are known.

"One man who received a tract at the medical dispensary began to read it, supposing it to contain some directions about his medicine and diet, and ended by ultimately coming over to Christianity. We have given away many hundred handbills in our itinerancy this year, besides selling a very good amount."

Such is the influence of the religious press among hundreds of millions of men. Will it not be a joy to God's people to supply our fellow-labourers abroad—who have given their lives to this work—with all the books they need!

Miscellaneous.

INTERESTING FACT.—I remember distinctly, says the late Rev. J. Campbell, an interesting anecdote, referring to the late Sir. D. Dalrymple (Lord Hailes,) a Scotch judge. I had it from the late Rev. W. Buchanan, one of the ministers of Edinburgh. I took such interest in it, that though it must be about fifty years ago since I heard it, I think I can almost relate it in Mr. B.'s words:—"I was dining with a literary party at old Mr. Abercrombie's (father of General Abercrombie, who was slain in Egypt at the head of the British army,) and spending the evening there. A gentleman present put a question which puzzled the whole company. It was this: 'Supposing all the New Testaments in the world had been destroyed at the end of the third century, could their contents have been recovered from the writings of the first three centuries?' The question was novel to all, and no one even hazarded a guess in answer to the inquiry.

"About two months after this meeting, I received a note from Lord Hailes, inviting me to breakfast with him next morning. He had been of the party. During breakfast he asked me if I recollected the curious question about the possibility of recovering the contents of the New Testament from the writings of the first three centuries. 'I remember it well,' said I, 'and I