

INDIA.

Letter from Indore.

The following letter is from Indore, the Mission of the Western Section of our Church. Rev. J. Fraser Campbell formerly of Richmond, Halifax, is laboring there. The letter is addressed to the Secretary of the Women's F. M. Society in the West and has been kindly sent to us by the Secretary of the W. F. M. Society in Halifax for publication.

Indore, Sept. 13th, '83.

My Dear Mrs. Harvie:—

We have re-opened Miss Rodger's school, and I began, with some assistance to teach it on the 6th of August. At first the little girls were rather unmanageable; being too long out of school, they appear to have forgotten all about keeping quiet. However, in a few days it was evident that they had been in school before, although they still take liberties that we would never think of allowing in school in the distant West. They have not forgotten Miss Rodger, and have several times been asking about her very kindly. The attendance, which was very good at first, has been much reduced since the baptism of Idhar, a young man of the highest caste in the cantonment. There were so many falsehoods reported: on Monday morning I heard some of the little girls talk about being made Christians by force, and, to ensure safety, several have not returned. I am not at all surprised now at statements Dr. Mackay said were made about him in Formosa—Natives, generally speaking, manufacture and circulate reports without the least scruple. How can we wonder when they know not God, and are tossing on the wide sea of superstition, ignorance and sin—like a ship without helm, they have nothing to guide them into the harbour of safety. There was quite an exciting time here after Idhar was baptized—the friends were busy circulating all kinds of false assertions. In the meantime, a most scurrilous article appeared in the "*Pioneer*," one of the leading papers of India; it was copied by other papers and widely spread. You will find enclosed a sample of the letters sent by M. Campbell to the editor of the "*Times of India*," which contains an account of many of the circumstances. I am sorry I have not a copy of Mr. Wilkie's reply to the article in the "*Pioneer*," or I would

send it. I am glad that the corrections were also published, and I know you will share in the joy. I will send by this mail specimens of some of the comments made in other papers. I know you will find them interesting.

The day before yesterday we watched a large Hindoo procession pass by; in the van were a number of boys with gongs which they beat most lustily. Close behind were the idols—they were borne on the shoulders of eight men. The women brought up the rear. They all had red surreys on. Being barefooted and almost all clothed in red, I thought they looked very peculiar.

A few days ago Miss M'Gregor and I witnessed the putting of the idol Gampat into the river. You should just have seen the crowds that lined the banks on either side. The idol was conveyed in a palanquin, gorgeously arrayed, to the river bank, where it was tenderly lifted out. The priest went through certain ceremonies of worship, a lamp was passed around the idol, and several strings of jessamine put around its neck. Some time being thus spent in worship, the image was then carried out into the river on a board. Divinity was supposed to have left the idol before it was put into the water. The crowd looked on apparently well pleased.

I do wish Her Majesty would take steps against the ruinous practice of child marriage. My dear Mrs. Harvie, I must conclude with kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

T. Ross.

I find *Walters* for Christ often attach great importance to the place of worship. They expect to find salvation there only. Do you not know that Jesus can save your souls to-morrow morning in the tanyard, quite as well as next Sunday in the Tabernacle? Do you not know that Jesus is just as much a Saviour on a Saturday as on a Sunday? He is wherever there is a heart that wants him.—*C. H. Spurgeon*.

Throughout all Christendom there is yearly raised for Foreign Missionary work less than nine millions of dollars. For each professing Christian in the world that is less than fifty cents per year, or one seventh of a cent per day. At this present rate of giving both of men and money the world will never be converted, for the natural increase of the heathen vastly outnumbers the conversions.