

In all ages
Every human heart is human,
—In even savage bosoms
There are longings, yearnings, strivings,
For the good they comprehend not.
—*Longfellow.*

Field Studies for June.

INDIA AND AFRICA.

The population of India is said to be over 280 millions, and as there is but one missionary to every 250,000, there is yet very much to be done before all can even hear the glad tidings.

Sixty-five missionary societies are represented here. The native protestants number 559,661, an increase of 150,000 in ten years.

The people are divided into different classes or as they call themselves castes. Those of a high caste may not eat nor drink with one of a lower caste. This is a great hindrance to the advance of Christianity, for when anyone is converted, he of course loses caste, and according to their view his life is blighted. A woman's life in India is one of great misery. From the day of her birth she is considered a disgrace. As soon as possible she is married, and as the husband is very often an old man, she is soon left a widow and to be a widow is even a greater disgrace than to be a woman. There are 21 millions of widows and of these 78 thousand are under nine years of age. Formerly the widows were burned when the husband died, but more than fifty years ago this was stopped by law. Now life is spared to them, but it is unutterably wretched, for the widow is the drudge of the household, and her clothing and food are scanty and of the poorest kind. Our little Canadian girls have much to be thankful for when they compare their lives with those of the little child widows of India.

The women generally live a shut in life. Many of them are never seen outside their own homes, and even those that do go out are closely veiled so that they may not be seen by the passer by.

No woman is allowed to be seen by any man except her husband and near male relatives. And even with these she does not live, as the women of our country do. She always waits on her husband as he eats, and she cannot eat until he has finished his meal. Only one woman in 858 can read or write. Since lady missionaries have been allowed to visit the women in their Zenanas, many have learned to read and write and also to sew. The Zenana is the part of the house where the women live. Many houses are yet closed to the missionary, but wherever she gains an entrance she is heartily welcomed and her hearers are earnest in their desire for something to brighten their days. Their

delight in listening to the story of Christ is wonderful.

Christian schools and medical missionaries are doing great things for India. Until the lady doctor was sent out the women of India were without aid, and their suffering was increased by such neglect.

The British and other foreigners, outside of missionaries, who live in India show their interest in evangelizing the natives, by giving annually more than \$300,000 towards the support of mission work.

In Africa of the 192 millions of people only two millions have heard of Christ. There are 2,000 missionaries at work here, these represent 34 missionary societies. And yet with all this force there is a district of 4000 miles south of the great desert that has never seen a missionary. In the Upper Congo Valley the first convert was baptized recently and in that whole region there are living 30 millions of people. In the north and east Mahomedanism prevails. Outside of this the natives are heathen of the lowest kind. Where Christianity has come, the people have improved, even if they have to suffer persecution for Christ's sake. The women are not shut up like the women of India, but they are treated brutally, and upon them comes all the heavy work, such as in our country is done by the men.

Is it something to be discouraged over that both in India and Africa so many millions are living in misery waiting to hear the glad news that shall make them free? God knows all about it, and we must earnestly pray that He will hasten the time, when all people shall know of His Kingdom. God is faithful to perform His part, let us seek to do ours.—H. S. S.

Questions for June.

What is the population of India?
How can it be shown that there is very much to be done yet?
How many Missionary Societies there?
How many native protestants? What increase?
What can you tell of the Caste system?
Why is this a hindrance to Christianity?
Is woman's life in India a happy one? Why not?
How many widows in India?
How many under nine years of age?
What became of them fifty years ago?
Why is a widow's life a hard one?
Have our little Canadian girls anything to be thankful for?
Can you tell us something of woman's life in India?
How many can read and write?
What is a Zenana?
Are the lady missionaries welcomed there and what good can they do?
How do the people of India feel on hearing of Christ?
Are there any Christian schools there?
What good can the medical missionary do?
How do the British and other foreigners who live in India show their interest in evangelizing the natives?
How many people in Africa?
How many know of Christ?
How many missionaries there?
Has any part of Africa never seen a missionary? What part?
What can you say of the Congo Valley?
Does any religion prevail in Africa?
How do the people improve when they become Christians?
What can you tell of the women of Africa?
What is discouraging about India and Africa?
What can we do about it?