

out of existence ; they ruled in Ireland for several centuries, and in the end they conquered England. Anshar was the first Christian missionary to these seemingly untamable pagans. He heard and heeded the call which summoned him to rescue the perishing. Harold Klak, King of Denmark, when on a visit to Germany, had been baptized in the cathedral of Mayence, and sought for a missionary with sufficient daring to return with him and preach the Gospel to the fierce sea-kings of Jutland and Sweden. Anshar responded to the call. His friends at Corbie remonstrated with him, and tried to prevent him entering upon such a hopeless task. But he would go. Autbert, the steward of his monastery,—a man of noble spirit—volunteered to accompany him. They sailed in the same ship with Klak, and before they reached their destination, the zealous missionary had completely won the King's respect. Anshar's first work was to found a school in Schleswig in which to train such Danish youths for the ministry as might be obtained, by purchase or otherwise, from the savage population. He encountered much opposition and many difficulties, but he toiled on with some measure of success. His friend Autbert took ill, returned home and died. A rebellion broke out ; Klak was expelled from his kingdom, and Anshar was obliged to retire from his field of labour. But a new enterprise awaited him. Olaf, King of Sweden, had sent ambassadors to the Court of Louis the Pious, the Emperor of Germany ; among other things they said that many of the Swedes were anxious to have Christian teachers sent to them. Anshar was again summoned to the palace, and commissioned to go to Sweden. He sailed at once with a friend named Witmar. They were attacked by pirates and plundered of every thing they possessed, and reached the ancient capital, Sigunta, with nothing but their lives ; but they were graciously received by Olaf, who gave them permission to preach to his subjects. The good work prospered, and in course of time Anshar was appointed Archbishop of Hamburg, which became the centre of missionary operations for the northern kingdoms. Meanwhile the Swedish mission was entrusted to one Bishop Gauzbert, who was successful for a time,

but by and by the pagans rose in rebellion and expelled him from the country. Nor did it fare much better with Anshar, for the Norsemen swooped down upon Hamburg, sacked the town, burnt the church, and destroyed the mission. It is said that when the gentle and heroic missionary gazed upon the desolation, he calmly exclaimed, "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away ; and blessed be the name of the Lord." Soon after this, Anshar was providentially entrusted with an embassy to Horick, King of Denmark, and so won the confidence of that monarch that he was allowed to resume the Danish mission at Schleswig. Although the work was frequently interrupted by outbursts of opposition, the spread of Christianity was rapid. Anshar resolved to revive the Swedish mission also, and so great was his influence now with Horick that he obtained from him a letter to the King of Sweden, in which he said that "he had never in his life seen so good a man, and that for this reason he had allowed him to do what he wished respecting Christianity in Denmark, and hoped that King Olaf would do the same, for he certainly aimed at nothing but what was good and right." On his arrival in Sweden he found the pagans were opposed to the new religion. His companions pronounced it madness to proceed, but Anshar's reply was, "I am ready to die here for His name's sake." Noble Anshar ! For thirty-four years he laboured among these wild Norsemen, and won his way to their hearts by a life of self-denial, and by the power of gentleness and truth. He did not obtain what he often looked and even longed for—the martyr's crown, but he had the satisfaction of laying the foundations of Christianity in both Sweden and Denmark, and passed away peacefully to his reward on the 3rd of February, 865. He spent his last days in calmly arranging the concerns of his mission stations ; and then, with his eyes fixed on heaven, he entered into rest, these words lingering on his lips, "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving kindness." "God be merciful to me, a sinner." "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit."

FROM INDIA the Rev. Narayan Sheshadria reports fifty-one baptisms last year, 1884, and twenty since.