

doubts are now very extensively entertained as to the propriety of consuming the time and talents of well qualified missionaries in the conveyance of elementary instruction. *Boarding schools*, in which the children are entirely separated from their heathen neighbours, are rapidly superseding those of a more general character, and are furnishing to the wives of our missionaries and other Christian philanthropists an admirable sphere of benevolent exertion.

There is, besides, at all our principle missionary stations a growing desire amongst our brethren for some provision more adequate than any yet existing for the education of native preachers, catechists, and schoolmasters. Candidates for all these offices are rapidly increasing, and, as it must be by natives that India must be eventually evangelized, too much attention cannot be given to the subject. The natural timidity of the Hindoo character, the necessarily limited acquaintance with divine truth which the most proficient native can as yet obtain, the *tact* and *courage* and *moral power* essential to the prosecution of the missionary enterprise will for a long time require that Europeans should direct and superintend the labours of their native brethren. But the time has come when our measures in reference to India, must assume a very decided character, and never was there a juncture in the history of Britain more favourable for the adoption of such measures than the present. The Christians of our British voluntary Churches, are now prepared to rival and even to excel those of another order in the provision made for securing the inestimable advantages of an educated ministry. *Such a ministry must be given to India, and we foresee the time when the best energies of our greatest and most gifted men will be devoted to the formation and execution of some plan that shall secure for the teeming millions of India, a succession of enlightened native preachers of the gospel.* We long to see the schools of the Christian prophets rising amidst the Temples and Mosques of Hindoostan, and sending forth, as from so many fountains, the waters of salvation throughout that mortal wilderness. Till then, the British Churches will have but very partially discharged their obligations in reference to India,—till then we shall not be able rationally to anticipate the full realization of our hopes, the plenary answer to our prayers on behalf of India.

## MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE. INDIA.

### NATIVE FEMALE EDUCATION.

The subjoined communication from the Rev. John Hands, lately returned to England, supplies a gratifying testimony to the progress of female education in Travancore, and clearly establishes the competency of this branch of Christian labour to achieve, under the Divine blessing, the object it has in view.

On the 15th December last, I attended an examination of the native girls' school at Nagercoil; the largest and the best conducted institution of the kind I have seen in India. It contains ninety girls, who are all supported and educated in the Mission-house. I was delighted with the clean, neat, and orderly appearance and behaviour of the children; with the intelligence they generally displayed; and especially the readiness and propriety with which most of them replied to questions on the Scriptures and various

religious subjects. A good number of these children contribute to their own support by the manufacture of lace; these I afterwards saw at their work, and was strongly reminded of what I have often witnessed in my own county in England.

After the examination, a number of the young women who have been trained up in this school, but are now married and settled in the neighbourhood, called, in a body, upon me: they expressed their thankfulness to Mr. and Mrs. Mault, who had so long cared for them and instructed them; and to God, who had, in his mercy, brought them into the mission-school, and taught them to know him, and, as they hoped, to love him too; and they particularly requested that, on my arrival in England, I would express to the kind ladies who had contributed to the support of their school, how deeply they felt obliged to them. I promised I would do so; but suggested how much better it would be for them to express their feelings in a short Tamil letter, which I would get translated into English, and carry home, for the perusal of the ladies subscribing to the school; they agreed to this, and three of their number were deputed to draw up the letter. It was written the same day, and faithful translation thereof made by Miss Mault. I send you both the English and original. I am sure it will please you, and be especially gratifying to those ladies who aid in supporting the school. Several of these young women, with their husbands, are members of the church; some are teachers; and all who have families are endeavouring to train up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

The following is the letter which Mr. Hands thus introduces:

Kind and benevolent Ladies,—We shall feel to the end of our days, that we owe you a great debt of gratitude, for though we were entire strangers to you, yet you had compassion on us, and sought our welfare, but providing for us the means of better instruction, that we might, like Mary, choose the part.

It would be impossible for us to enumerate all the mercies that we now enjoy through your liberality. We hope you will kindly accept this brief mention of them.

You, being aware of the ignorance, superstition, and ungodliness, prevailing among the people of this country, together with the oppressions the poor experienced from the rich, and the unmerciful treatment the slaves received from their masters, sent your missionaries among us, and when they came they found us in this deplorable condition. Moreover, according to the custom of this country, we, in connection with the rest of the female part of the community, were stupid and unlettered; but, by your favour and bounty, we have been raised from this wretched condition, have been taught to know the true God, to feel the evil nature of sin, and to follow the Saviour of the world. Some of us have been redeemed from slavery, and now enjoy liberty, and, what is still more important, all of us have been taught, not only to read the Scriptures, but also to understand the truths therein contained. The rich and the great of this country do not contribute in any degree to the furtherance of this object; but when we look on what you have done, we are persuaded you are influenced by the benevolent and divine command which says, "Love your neighbour as yourself." We who have been trained up in this good way, and are now the mothers of from one to five children, are enabled to live in