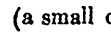


RELIGIOUS RESULTS OF THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS.

Mere statistical figures do not give the highest results, but they are well worthy of study. I take them from two reliable sources: First, the Government Census for 1881, which also gives the numbers in 1871 for comparison. The census for 1891 is not yet published, but we have it on the highest authority that the rate of increase in Christian converts is fully maintained. Second, the elaborate and careful statistical returns prepared every ten years by a committee representing all the Protestant societies at work in India. These extend over the three decades 1851, 1861, 1871, and 1881. As another decade has nearly run out, it is easy for any one familiar with the missionary history of the period and accustomed to statistical inquiries to form an estimate for the year 1890. As the first visit was so near to the returns for 1851, we give these without any estimate for the two years from 1851 to 1853, so that the period will practically extend over thirty-nine years—rather a long generation. The following are the numbers for the Protestant Christians of all India, without including Ceylon and Burmah: Native Protestant converts, 1851 (from returns), 91,092; 1881 (from returns), 417,322; 1890 (estimate), 720,000—that is, an increase of EIGHT-FOLD in forty years, or seven times in a generation. The *estimate* is a low one—only at the rate of 70 per cent for the decade. It was 86 per cent for the previous ten years.

It may be put in the *Graphic* form, thus:

The Native Church in India in 1851  (a small church spire), and in 1890  (a tall spire 7 times the height of the other).

But what is more important—showing that the increase is not merely in numbers, but is an inward as well as outward growth—is the fact brought out in the tables giving the increase in the number of communicants, which is greater than in the number of professing converts. The numbers were: 1851, communicants returned, 14,661; 1881, communicants returned, 113,325; 1890, estimated, 215,000. The *estimate* is based on the low rate of increase of less than 80 per cent in the last decade, while it was 115 per cent in that from 1871 to 1881. This gives an increase of FIFTEEN-FOLD in 39 years, or they have multiplied *thirteen times* in a generation.

But a higher proof of church organization is seen in the increase of native pastors and evangelists. The former, especially, have multiplied at an astonishing rate, implying an increase of intelligence and character in the members of the Church, and a much greater efficiency in ecclesiastical work. Forty years ago there were only 21 ordained native pastors in all the missions in India. Now they cannot number fewer than 700 or 800. Thus: 1851, native pastors (returned), 21; 1881, native pastors (returned), 461; 1890, native pastors (estimated), 750.

These invaluable agents have multiplied THIRTY-SIX TIMES in 39 years