

Soon the court was full—crowded most in the neighbourhood of the fire. And leave asked from me, the howkabs were set in constant circulation; and for a full hour I broke down the bread of life to these rude and simple-minded men. The parting salaam was spoken, and my foot in the stirrup, when one from the circle came near, and folding his hands, said, ‘Cherisher of the poor, my brother is very ill in the house; you will have the goodness to come and see him and give him medicine?’ ‘To be sure—lead the way to your house.’ It was a poor place enough, where uncouth buffalo cows contested the small space with their biped masters; and where it would have puzzled an analytical chemist to say how much air would have been left had the smoke been abstracted. Into the smoky glimmer of the fire a poor, consumptive man was carried on his rude couch. Alas! what could I do for him? There are times when the missionary longs—is almost tempted to pray—for the possession of these miraculous gifts which the master and his first disciples dispensed. As it was, I did what I could. A soothing mixture for his racking cough, some words of advice about his diet, and the breathing of a purer air; and then invoking the blessing of God upon them, while the poor man’s mother clasped my feet and sobbed, I turned sadly away.”

DR. DUFF’S ESTIMATE OF THE PROGRESS OF INDIA.

Dr. Duff, in taking leave of the Missionary Conference of Calcutta, and in responding to an address presented to him by that body, took a view of the progress of India during the last few years. In the course of his address he said:—

“And what vast strides of progress in every department since 1856. The gigantic company, the greatest the world has ever seen, which, in the course of a century, became the grandest Colonial empire on the face of the globe; the over-shadowing Power, whose own peculiar policy was to stereotype the ancient order of things, to shut out India from the world, and eternize the reign of ignorance and superstition, has been swept out of existence with the besom of destruction, and the millions of India brought into enlivening contact with the sovereign British nation. Thousands of miles of railway have been constructed,—some of them over mighty rivers, and some over stupendous mountains. The distance of Benares has been reduced from one or two, or even three months, by the old river route to a single day. In 1840 it took me twenty-one days to get to Rajmahal; last year I went there in eight hours! Immense tracts of wild jungle and forest, for unknown ages the haunt of the tiger and the elephant, are now covered with flourishing tea and other plantations. An English mail reaches us every week by the Red Sea; and news by telegram from London sometimes in little more than a fortnight. Social and other changes have also proportionally progressed. The peasantry of Bengal have in many parts been awakened, to the surprise of all who regarded them as the most abject and passive of beings, from the torpor and lethargy of ages. Great reforms have been effected in the legislative, judicial, administrative and financial departments. Natives of talent and rank, long excluded from all high offices of State, have now become members of our legislative councils, high courts, and the coveted civil service. The re-marriage of Hindu widows, who are often mere infants, doomed to perpetual isolation, degradation, and misery, has been rendered legal. A native prince is preparing an enactment for the abolition of Kulin polygamy. The demand for female education is spreading over the country with a rapidity that utterly baffles our power to meet it. The Guramahashays, or teachers of indigenous vernacular schools,—once deemed the most inert and hopelessly incorrigible of all bipeds under the sun,—are, under sundry impulses, beginning to show signs of animation and activity. A University has been established, which has improved the