

SPURGEON'S CONVERSION.

For five long years Mr. Spurgeon records that he vainly sought to know the way of peace. He went to church, waited listened and longed to hear how he might be saved. He heard sermons on Christian duties; but he could not do them. He heard election preached, and Law preached, and experience preached, but for all those years he did not once hear what he longed for—the simple way of life through Jesus Christ, and how a poor sinner might find pardon of his sins. At length deliverance came. Says Mr. Spurgeon:

"I shall never forget entering a little chapel, where there was a poor local preacher—a man without learning or ability. He came up into the pulpit and read that text, 'Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth.' He was not wise enough to preach anything but Christ. He had not learning enough to run away from his text. He was such a poor simpleton that he was obliged to stick to the simple gospel; would that there were more simpletons of that sort. I well remember how simple he was; yet he was in great earnestness. He told us whose-
ever should 'look' to the cross of Christ 'should be saved.' My soul 'looked to Jesus;' then for the first time I knew what was meant by believing on him, and in that hour my spirit knew the joy of redeemed ones. I could have leaped from my seat and sung with joy unspeakable, 'I am forgiven! I am forgiven! I am forgiven!' Trembling sinner, 'look to Jesus' and thou 'art saved!'"

How astonishing this story! How wonderful that the man who was to preach to such multitudes as no other preacher addresses, should have wondered so long, vainly seeking some one to tell him of the way of life! But was there not a providence in it that he, after thirsting and seeking so long, might know for evermore how to lead other thirsty souls to living springs? No wonder he preaches plainly now, and though critics may find fault and pedants sneer, many poor souls have cause to thank God for raising up some one to proclaim the good tidings, who knows the needs of salvation and who is willing to preach a simple gospel, such as that which saved his own soul in the day of his sorrow and distress.—*Christian*.

The total number of members who attended the Calcutta Missionary Conference was 460, representing twenty-four churches and societies.

THE McALL MISSION IN FRANCE.

This mission was begun in Paris by the Rev. R. W. McAll in January, 1872, in a mission hall rented for the purpose on the heights of Belleville, where a few months previous to that date, had been enacted the last terrible scenes of the Commune. There were present at that meeting forty-five persons. The exercises consisted of singing gospel hymns, reading the Bible, short addresses setting forth the way of salvation, and prayer. The attendance increased from evening to evening, and soon the hall was crowded to overflowing. It became necessary to open another hall, which was also soon crowded. Then requests for similar meetings began to come to Mr. McAll from different parts of the city. As far as possible these requests were responded to. And this work has gone on increasing & spreading from month to month and year to year, and now, after eleven years, Paris is surrounded with mission stations, which are, to use the striking comparison of the venerable Rousseau St. Hilaire, member of the Institute of France and devoted friend of the Mission from its beginning, "a girdle of forty laying siege to the city, and which have given the gospel *droit de cite* from one corner to the other." There are now in and around Paris thirty-three of the McAll mission stations, with six thousand sittings, and an average weekly attendance of eight thousand adults and two thousand Sunday-school children. Branches of the work have been opened in many other cities throughout France—in Bordeaux, Lyons, Marseilles, &c. The stations now number about eighty, with about 75,000 sittings, and an average attendance in the year of nearly a million souls. The progress of this gospel mission has been truly wonderful. Indeed, as the venerable Dr. Bonar, of Scotland, has said, the fair fields of sunny France are now "white for the gospel harvest."

The Mission is strictly non-sectarian, and is supported by the voluntary contributions of Christians of all denominations in Great Britain and America, assisted by the Free-will offerings of the Protestant churches in France.—*Phil. Pres.*

In Burma there are 471 churches, with 125 ordained ministers, 308 unordained preachers, and 23,250 communicants. Last year the baptisms numbered 1,570.