

pointed to Nagpore. Interesting services were held on the occasion of their being sent out, when Dr. Duff, Convener of the Foreign Mission Committee, presided.

INJURIOUS EFFECT OF PROSPERITY.—Since the commencement of the American war, a great impetus has been given to the cotton trade in India, and a large measure of material prosperity has been the result. This, however, has not been without injurious effects. The Rev. D. Nauroji, native missionary, says :

"I am grieved to say that our continued material prosperity is doing us a vast deal of harm in a moral point of view. I think I never saw heathenism prevailing in greater force than at present. A number of our most ignorant and superstitious people have acquired large fortunes by the cotton trade. Now these people are completely in the hands of crafty priests, who move them to do almost anything they please. Hence new temples and idols are springing up in our midst; and old forsaken rites and ceremonies are being revived. A great many of our enlightened classes are also carried away by these things. They are in the minority, and they now find that it is of no avail to oppose the old orthodox party. In a worldly point of view they suffer on that account, and consequently they give in to the views and feelings of the old school.

"This is a source of great trial to us. Some of those young men of whom we had good hope have thus been carried away. I frequently move among the educated youth, and now-a-days I perceive a great change among them. Formerly I could get them to hear me, to read good books, to enter on friendly discussions with me,—but now they are, as a body indifferent to all these things. How cheerless—how discouraging! But faith rises above such feelings, and, grasping with a firm hand the immutable promises of an immutable God, rests in hope that though appearances are against us, the seed sown in faith and hope, and watered with earnest prayers will not be lost. It is impossible that it can be lost. It shall accomplish that for which it is given, even the glory of God. It will bring glory to him whether souls are saved or not. This is the highest object every Christian has in view, and his working for it will not be in vain."

CULNA RURAL MISSION.—This station, about 50 miles north of Calcutta, has been occupied for nearly 25 years. For the last 15 years it has been occupied entirely by Christian native labourers. Connected with it there are several sub-stations. From first to last there have been a good many converts in connection with this station. Further additions have recently been made. Mr. writing to Dr. Duff, writes says :

"I am glad to inform you that on Saturday evening last three candidates for baptism came down from Culna, and have since that time been staying in the mission house. Their names are as follows :

"Puna Lal Basu, 19 years of age. 2nd class.

"Kumedh Behari Basu, 17 years of age. 3rd class.

"Monohur Ghose, 16½ years of age. 3rd class.

"Their knowledge is not very great; but they display great firmness and sincerity. We have been almost in a state of siege during the last three days. Their mothers and friends have come down and have given incessant trouble. Sometimes the lamentations of the mothers have aroused the whole square.

"On Sabbath evening one of them struck herself with bricks, and made the blood flow profusely from her forehead and temples. She seized her son so frantically, and called for a knife to cut her own throat, that I was obliged to send for a palkee and order her friends to take her away. She has been back several times, but has been quieter than she was the first evening. Now she declares that he is under age, and threatens a writ of *habeas corpus*. She has a relative in an attorney's firm in Calcutta, and so it is very probable that she will carry her threat into execution. Provided that all stand firm, I intend