

ary wastes, and a winter more rigid than the utmost imagination of southern minds. In this there was always a good deal of misconception; but the changes of recent years have been startlingly great. With the advance of the railway a strong tide of emigration has set in towards the east. 'Everybody,' says Mr. Davidson, 'is contributing to make Siberia better.' The details give interest. 'The last numbers of the newspapers contain long lists of sums voted by the various "Local Government Boards," "Assemblies of Nobles," "Municipal Councils," and many private individuals in memory of the late love-loving Czar, who was deeply interested in Siberia. The friends of education and religion are spending money freely in founding schools and building churches all along the line of railway in the poorer districts of Siberia. The Government has ably supported such private enterprise. The Holy Synod has given money and grants of books, and the Society for the Spread of Education has also made presents of books and founded small libraries. All this is encouraging.' He continues in words which will be specially welcome to readers of these pages: 'The Bible Society may consider itself one of the pioneers of this popular movement for the spread of education and religion in Siberia, for we were here with our colporteurs and Scriptures before the movement was begun.'

This, however, is a minor matter. It is most pleasant to find many evidences of the cordial sympathy with which the Society's workers in Siberia are everywhere received. 'There is not,' says Mr. Davidson, 'a single steamboat plying on any of the rivers of Siberia that would refuse to carry our men and books free of charge. We have enjoyed a free grant for carriage of Scriptures on the Ural Railway since the Western Sub-Agency was founded; and we have here to note with pleasure that this line has also granted the Sub-Agent a second-class ticket with which he can travel from Perm to Tyumen and back.' Such ready generosity on the part of the railway and steamboat companies deserves cordial recognition. 'Every one of the Society's employees,' Mr. Davidson emphatically adds, 'feels cheered by such practical sympathy.'

INDIA.

Population (estimate for 1891) 286,696,960. Religion (1889): 187,000,000 Hindus; 50,000,000 Muhammadans; 3,500,000 Buddhists; 1,862,634 Christians (Roman Catholics, 963,059; Protestants, 535,081; other sects, 364,494.)

For years the successive reports of the Society's Auxiliaries have been singularly inspiring, and those of the year just closed continue the impression the earlier accounts made. Where everything is interesting it is difficult to choose, and where there is so much encouraging, it is easy to generalize perhaps too favourably. One reads of circulation increasing rapidly, as in Madras and Bangalore, steadily as in Allahabad, or slightly declining as in