

eagerly looked for, as they not only bring them letters from their relatives and friends, and the European news in general, but also the provisions on which they have to subsist till the following summer, as the inhospitable shores on which they reside provide them with scarcely anything but fish and seals.

Christians in India.

One of the Church of England missionaries describes as follows the quality of the Native Christians of India:—

“As in the pagan world during the first days of Christianity, so now in Bengal, the upper ranks of society seem to have ignored the great religious movement which has been slowly gathering strength around them. Our wealthy rajahs and great landowners have, in the pride which riches beget, and the listlessness which ease engenders, hitherto persistently turned a deaf ear to the sound of the gospel trumpet. The Bengal Church, therefore, consists of men drawn almost entirely from the middle and the aricultural classes. The number of educated and respectable Christians is comparatively speaking, very small. It will not be much beyond five hundred at the most. Some of this number have, by their superior intelligence and ability, risen to positions of influence and respectability. One of them is now occupying the foremost rank in the literary world of Calcutta. Several have been in England to complete their professional studies, and, after successfully passing the necessary examinations, have come back to their country as assistant-surgeons of Her Majesty's Army, and barristers of the High Court of Judicature, Fort William. A goodly number are engaged in the work of education, a few are deputy-magistrates and munsiffs, some are ministers of churches, and not a few are given to evangelistic work among the heathen. Many are employed in Government offices. A respectable number have passed with credit the university examinations for degrees. But by far the overwhelming majority of Bengali Christians are cultivators.”

From the Census returns it appears that in Madras Christianity is increasing at a greater rate than either Mohammadanism or Hinduism.

A Missionary to China.

The October *Record* of the C. P. Church contains an account of the ordination of Rev. J. B. Fraser, M.D., as Missionary to China. Besides the members of the Presbytery of Toronto, there were present several members of the Foreign Mission Committee, and others, including Rev. W. Fraser, of Bond Head, and Rev. R. D.

Fraser, of Cookstown, the father and brother of the missionary. The Revd J. G. Robb, B. A., of Cook's Church, preached and presided. Mr. Robb preached an appropriate and able sermon from James v. 16. “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” He spoke first of the power of prayer, and secondly of the prayer of power, describing the quality of acceptable and effectual prayer. Mr. Robb afterwards put to Dr. Fraser the prescribed questions, which having been answered, the ordination prayer was offered by Rev. W. Fraser, of Bond Head, the father of the missionary. Rev. Prof. McLaren, Convener of the Foreign Mission Committee, then addressed in appropriate terms the newly-ordained missionary. At the conclusion of his address he presented Dr. Fraser, on the part of the Foreign Mission Committee, with a copy of the Holy Scriptures, and also with a copy for Mrs. Fraser, referring to the self-denial of the wives of the missionaries, and to the importance of the labours which devolve on them. Principal Cavan addressed the congregation, pointing out the necessity of the Church making greater efforts for the prosecution of missionary work, urging a higher measure of liberality on the part of the members of the Church, and exhorting them with their contributions to offer up their prayers to God for the outpouring of His Holy Spirit. The meeting was one of great interest. Dr. Fraser and his work, we doubt not, will be remembered by many who were present at this ordination and by others.

The Foreign Mission Board has called Mr. A. Gilray to engage in the Chinese Mission.

Heathen Cruelty.

An occasional act of heathen cruelty occurring at the present time in India shows how great the deliverance is which the Gospel is working out for that land. At Mulkapua, in the protected state of Kalapur, two persons, one of them a priest, recently decoyed a child twelve years of age into a heathen temple. Here they murdered him and then burned his body with betel nuts and camphor before the image of the goddess Karle, in order to induce the deity to reveal to them hidden treasures in the neighbouring hill. The crime was detected, the remains of the child discovered by his parents, and the British authorities had the priest tried and executed. Near Mulkapur, where the cruel deed was done stands the old fortress town of Panally, in which the Presbyterians are about commencing a mission. One of its towers was built over the remains of a maiden buried alive, in order to make it impregnable; and