

THE MISSION FIELD.

DELHI.

REVIEW OF THE MISSION FOR THE YEAR 1884. BY THE REV. R. R. WINTER.

(Concluded.)

The other point is at the other end of a pupil's career, i.e., the considerable number of young boys collected in our subsidiary branch schools, which, so to speak, tap the lay population at a number of widely-separated centres, in endeavors to give a higher tone of truth and morality to the rising generation. Work of this kind is bound to be fruit-bearing, but it is very unshowy; it is long in bearing fruit, and when borne it can hardly be touched, for the slow improvement of a mass of boys from generation to generation is a thing not quickly realized, and least of all by those who are working the improvement. But for these schools some hundreds of young boys would be left to the unreligious schools of Government, or be left to drift about the streets, and add to the already large population of idle and dissipated blackguards.

I will now ask you to go with me to the opposite end of the social scale and see our little schools for leather workers and day labourers of many sorts. There are twenty-five schools of this kind, of which nine are in Delhi, each placed among the people for whose children they are intended. Thanks to Mr. Carlyon's help the course of teaching has been much improved of late, a definite, wholly vernacular standard being appointed for four classes, and the boys who pass through the whole may get a very fair education without being made unfit for their fathers' trades. Several of the boys are Christians, and thus this system of teaching forms the preparing ground for our central training school for readers and school teachers under Mr. Carlyon's supervision. This is a boarding-school. They live with their native headmaster in Mr. Carlyon's compound, and attend the daily services in St. Stephen's. The second batch of four or five passed out last May, and as from time to time these young men, with their Christian wives, go out to country villages, I believe they will much improve the Christians among whom they are sent, and attract others to the Christian brotherhood. Difficulties, I need hardly say, often arise from temper, jealousy, and other human infirmities; but the men are immeasurably superior to the class of teachers of five or six years ago.

This leads me to speak of our city parishes, of which the little schools of which I have been writing form an important part. They number eight, as in former years, unless indeed the Cambridge Mission compound, with its very respectable number of fifty-seven Christians, may be said to form a ninth. My own work of this kind has been lessened, or rather, more concentrated, by my having been relieved of one of my former four parishes (such pluralism our Liberator friends will say is another trumpet-call for disestablishment) by Mr. Maitland, and of another by Mr.

Martin. This still leaves two to my care, and the charge of those in the Mission compound or scattered over the city.

Speaking of this part of our work generally, I should say that our chief step in advance has been one backwards, i.e. to reduce our numbers either by formal excommunication, or to remove the names of those who have practically, if not avowedly, lapsed. Excommunication is, I need hardly say, resorted to only in very extreme cases—for instance, when men have openly in a public meeting renounced Christianity, or by betrothing their children in non-Christian families have shown that they tend more towards their old brotherhoods than to the Christian Church. Our numbers of baptized persons are now reduced to 915, as against the very rough calculation last year of 1,024. The position is so far better, that we can now lay our hands on each of our present number, and know his exact position. An interesting paper has lately been printed by Mr. Lefroy, about his work of this description in the most southern quarter of the city, so I will say no more about it.

Our work outside the city partly combines the itinerations to which I have before referred above, and partly is on the lines of our city parish system. Taking for various reasons some one central town, we place a headman there in charge of a circle of villages, primarily those in which there are Christians or a school, but with the further duty of preaching to the village population within his own district.

During the past year a total of forty-one adults and fifty children were baptised; none of the former need any comment. The services in St. Stephen's have gone on daily, with the help of the boys of the Christian Boarding School in the choir. Our largest Communion in the year was 144 at two celebrations on Christmas Day.

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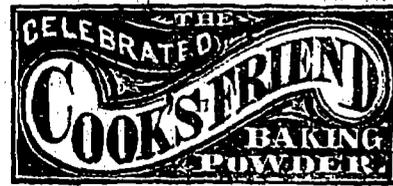
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