

nished with convenient and airy rooms, where you can walk about and live as comfortably as in your own house. It is so quiet compared with the dreadful shaking and noisy shouts of the bearers when you travel by palanquin. These same canals are a wonderful creation of British enterprise and capital. One long one, from the banks of the Krishna to Madras, is fed by many rivers as it passes on its way for 300 miles; here and there it is fed by back waters from the sea, and near its terminus it crosses the famous Pulicat Lake. This canal was mainly a famine work; its preparation in the sore famine of 1878-79 gave occupation to thousands of poor starving creatures, and it is now useful as a navigation canal. It carries passengers and goods up and down the country, and would carry rice to famine districts should a famine again threaten those parts.

From the banks of the Krishna a high level canal runs eastward, and at Ellore, my own station, it joins the waters of the Godaveri and goes on the banks of the Godaveri a distance of about ninety miles. On the north side of the Godaveri another canal continues the communication down to the sea at Coconada, which is a fine port, the second in the Presidency, so we have water communication in a continuous line for about 400 miles. Then there is irrigation under all this great line, from the Krishna to the Godaveri. Hundreds of thousands of acres are brought under rice cultivation that lay barren waste and uncultivated. These canals yield, it is said, a yearly revenue of 400 per cent. on the capital, and they effectually prevent famine in all these districts, and give their surplus food and stores to stricken lands in other directions.

Along these canals it is our bishop's delight to travel; he is now an old man over sixty years of age; he has been out in India since 1861. The heat and toil of palanquin travelling tires him so much that he can only give us confirmations in a few places off the main water ways. Not one more station for confirmation is now given than we had twenty five years ago, and yet the mission has extended hundreds of miles on every side, so people have to come surprising distances to be confirmed. I had candidates at Ellore, some thirty-seven miles, some twenty miles, and so on. In Bezwada, some came over forty miles to be present at the confirmation, and what striking scenes are these confirmations! There stand aged men and women over sixty years of age, men and women at their prime, and at stations where we have boys' and girls' boarding schools, a good band of youths and maidens, clad in their charming white clothes, with forms and faces beautified and lit up by the halloving influences of Christian education, and these form a picture in the fore front of our candidates that would convey pleasure, I do believe, to every eye. One very interesting and novel feature attended the confirmation at Ellore. Cholera is very prevalent in all our borders. Christians are often, I may say generally, exempted from the worst ravages of the disease. It entered, however, a

Christian family in a town not far from Ellore, and several children were attacked and laid low; all were saved but the married daughter, whom I know to have been a devoted Christian girl; all the others were spared; then the parents, in gratitude to God for their preservation, brought their youngest son, an infant in arms, and desired to make him over to the church for the service of God, and by the bishop's own acceptance of the gift. The bishop did not hesitate a moment, but told me to accept the gift, and after the confirmation was over, the mother brought her infant son up to the chancel and handed him over to my arms, and the bishop spoke through me to the parents saying he accepted the gift in the name of the Lord for His service, and prayed that a blessing might follow both to God's people and the parents themselves. As the Archbishop of Canterbury remarked in the annual sermon for the Society last year, "Eastern people have feelings and give expression to them in forms unknown to our western ideas, and the Holy Catholic Church easily adapts itself to these feelings and varieties all the world over, manifesting in the Church the manifold wisdom of God." In Ellore district 250 were confirmed, but of course a large number had been already partakers of the Holy Communion. With us confirmation is mostly a rite for the official cognizance of those baptized during the interval of the visitations. It does real good to the people to have their bishop among them; they are struck at the sight of a superior government official coming all the way into remote rural parts for the service of the Christians, who in the caste-men's eye are the off-scouring of all things unto this day.

Now for another scene. A main branch of our organization is the European Missionary Conference. It was the first germ of our Church order. I remember well the first time we met was October, 1858, in the very house where I am now. Ah! me, when I think of the brethren that met together then: Mr. Noble, our first founder; Mr. Sharkey, the father of our district work; Mr. Darling, to whom the first Pentecostal blessing was vouchsafed in Raghapuram; Mr. Tanner, who came out with myself to the work; and Dr. Royston, our then secretary, now Bishop of the Mauritius. Ah, woe is me, where are they all? The two first lie side by side in St. Mary's churchyard, Masulipatam, the others are all gone, not one remains, and many, many more that afterwards met in conference. Like the first group, some removed to Heaven, many more gone from the work they loved so well, yet still the band remains with ranks unbroken, compact and firm, not indeed equal "to the first three." None will come again like Mr. Noble, who was fed from the fire of Simon's glorious zeal, yet still able, devoted, faithful, earnest men have never been wanting to fill up the place of those taken away by death or failing health. The conference is no longer what it once was, our only institution; it is not even a representative body, for our district council and provin-