

THE Canadian Missionary Link.

CANADA.

In the Interests of the Baptist Foreign Mission Societies of Canada.

INDIA.

Vol. VI., No. 6.] "*The Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*"—*Is. lx. 2.* [FEB., 1884.]

"Thy Kingdom Come."

Among the countless songs of praise
That angels sing thro' perfect day,
Among the fervent prayers they raise
Is heard this sweet, exulting lay,—
"Thy kingdom come."

"Thy kingdom come." How often sung
Within God's earthly courts to-day!
It falls from lips of old and young
And multitudes in worship pray,—
"Thy kingdom come."

And it is coming, blessed One,
Thy glowing banners floating high
Are moving to and the rising sun,
From east and west is heard the cry,—
"Thy kingdom come."

The nations greet Thee, King of kings,
And over land and over sea
Now ever louder, clearer rings
The pean of Thy victory,—
"Thy kingdom come."

Still conquer, mighty Lord of all,
And may Thy conquests never cease,
Until the last usurper fall
And in each heart, O Prince of Peace,
"Thy kingdom come."

LIDA BAKER.

Mission Work among Lepers in India.

From the Indian Evangelical Review.

It stands out as our first great fact that the Master Himself, the great Lord of the missions, was very marked in His sympathy with, and His kindness and love to, the poor leper, and that He gave it as one of the proofs of the genuineness of His own mission: "The lepers are cleansed." "And Jesus put forth His hand and touched him, saying, 'I will; be thou clean.'" The great Master thought it no waste of time; and if at that early stage of the world, it occupied a prominent place in genuine missionary work, how much more so now, when there is a multitude of labourers sent forth into the vineyard?

2. It stands out as our next great fact that there are at least 125,000 of these poor sufferers in India; indeed, the late Rev. James Vaughan, C.M.S., in his valuable work, "The Trident, the Crescent, and the Cross," puts the number at 200,000!

3. It is a fact that some of the best and brightest of our missionaries have given much of their time to this work, have been greatly blessed in so doing, and have left it on record that some of their happiest moments have been spent amongst the lepers. Amongst these we may specially mention three, whose loss we now deeply mourn, and two of whom were present at the general Missionary Conference in Allahabad—the Rev. Dr.

Morrison, the Rev. James Vaughan, and the Rev. John Newton, M.D. Mr. Vaughan, in a letter to a friend in Ireland, in writing on this subject, said, "I was out on a preaching tour; we had reached the last day of the old year. I prayed that night that God would show me some new work to do for Him in the coming year. The answer came, almost as a voice from Heaven, 'Go to the lepers!' There was a large leper asylum in Calcutta, not far from my church. As soon as I returned home I began to visit these poor creatures. I got my native brethren to help me in that work. It was in several ways trying to flesh and spirit; but we persevered, and at length one convert rewarded our efforts. Very soon others laid hold on Christ, and the leper asylum contained a leper church, as these interesting converts fitted up at their own expense one end of their ward as a church; and I can truly say that some of the happiest moments of my life have been spent in ministering to those poor sufferers in that little sanctuary. No service could be more solemnly interesting than the administration of the Lord's Supper to that little band of maimed believers. Some had no hands, others no feet, several were blind; but to see them kneeling on their clean mats around the table, to see the spirit of devotion which actuated them, whilst every now and then a tear of grateful love fell from their eyes, was a sight to do one good. Many a time have I returned from such a service blessing God that He ever led me to engage in so hallowed a work. Before I left Calcutta it had been my happiness to have baptized upwards of forty of those poor people. Brighter specimens of Christian faith and love and devotion I never witnessed than I have seen amongst these forty."

In one of Dr. Newton's reports we read, "No one, I think, can appreciate the *physical* as well as moral aspect of the good tidings of Christ, so well as he who has watched the physical decay brought about by this awful disease. When heart grows sick and faint in its daily contact with suffering which no human aid can reach, when the mind is filled with even greater loathing on discovering that even these poor victims are often slaves to avarice, lust, malice, and all the other hateful passions of sinful men, oh! it is such a relief to know that there is One whose precious blood can cleanse from even such moral and physical pollution, and whose divine Spirit can create, within the wreck of the old, a new heart and a new body like unto His own glorious body—a body free from all taint of corruption, which shall live for ever. It is a most blessed privilege to be allowed to tell this good news."

One of the last acts of this devoted servant of Christ was to write to a friend from his dying bed pleading for these poor sufferers, and begging of him to look after them for him.

A veteran missionary, still in the field, writes to a friend: "I am thankful to find the cause of the lepers so warmly taken up by earnest Christians at home. I wish