

by 6,000,000. Amongst the native population of 228,000,000 there were found 20,933,626 widows, or about 16.32 per cent, as compared with 1.22 per cent. in England, and 2.71 per cent in Italy. Of the vast population only 13,000,000 can read and write, and only 4,900,000 are under instruction. The religious status of India shows in what a minority the Christians stand. Hindoos, 89,937,450; Mohammedans, 50,121,535; native worshippers, 6,426,511; Buddhists, 3,418,884; Christians, 1,892,634. There are besides several millions of minor divisions of Oriental beliefs.

DARK FIGURES FROM THE INDIA CENSUS.

Rev. T. Craven, in an article in the *Heathen Women's Friend*, refers to the evident conclusion that there remains a great work yet to be done, says, "Out of a total of 21,195,313 women and girls in the Northwestern Provinces, the territory occupied largely by our North India Mission, there are under instruction only 9771, and only 21,590 who are able to read and write. *Twenty-one million one hundred and sixty three thousand nine hundred and fifty-two* are without instruction and unable to read or write. These are Hindus and Mohammedans; from the same report we gather that of Christians two-thirds are able to read and write.

This same census gives a sad commentary on the influence of early marriage in India. According to it showing there were girls married up to the age of nine years, 230,720; from ten to fourteen years, there were twenty percent more female deaths. In the columns showing the condition of Christians, we see that deaths of Christian females are about the same as males, there only being 4516 females against 4616 males; thus showing again, as it does in so many other ways, the kind of liberal help Christianity extends to women, and the heavy oppressive hand with which Paganism and Mohammedanism strike girlhood into premature graves.

Still reflecting upon the condition of women in India, the depression and sadness of our hearts is intensified as we notice that while yet children, under nine years of age, there are 4673, and under fourteen 23,543, who are doomed to wear the widow's weeds to be the slaves of the household, to lead a life than which death to most seems preferable.

In the entire population of 21,195,313 women and girls, there were a total of widows of all ages 3,622,107—one girl or woman to every six. Every sixth female a sad, dreary, hopeless, crushed sister, a slave to the other five. Our work is only

begun.—*The Missionary Helper.*

THINGS TO BE REMEMBERED ABOUT INDIA.

The increase in the number of native Christian adherents for the last thirty years is as follows:—They numbered, in 1851, 102,951; in 1861, 213,370; 1871, 318,363; in 1881, 523,590.

The increase in India from 1851 to 1861 was 53 per cent; from 1861 to 1871, 61 percent. from 1871 to 1881, as stated above, 83 per cent.

The number of actual communicants in India alone was in 1851, 14,661; in 1861, 24,076; in 1871, 52,816; in 1881, 113,325.

The number has thus doubled each decade, on an average, and considerably more than doubled during each of the last two decades.

As showing the healthful character of the mission work, particularly in the older societies, it is found that in the leading societies there has in ten years been an increase of only twenty-three foreign missionaries, while the number of native preachers in the same missions has increased from 140 to 279; in other words, has nearly doubled.

The five societies, namely, the Church Missionary Society, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the London Missionary Society, the Baptist and the Wesleyan Societies, had, in 1851, 191 foreign missionaries and thirteen natives. In 1861, 232 foreigners and 59 natives; in 1871, 235 foreigners and 140 natives; in 1881, 253 foreigners, and 279 natives.

The decennial statistics also give the cheering information that nearly one dollar a year is shown to have been contributed for church purposes by every communicant of the native churches of all denominations in India, Burmah and Ceylon.

There has been a great advance in the number of women and girls received under instruction. Thus, in 1851, 13,095; in 1861, 21,024; in 1871, 31,580; in 1881, 65,761.

The principal meeting of the Missionary Conference, held in Calcutta during the last week in December, was presided over by the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, who gave an excellent address. Here is another of the best representatives of England in the east, who does not hesitate to cast his influence on the side of missionary cause. The time has passed when any one, who is not a hater of Christianity itself, will affect to discount the great influence which mission have exerted upon the great masses of Hindoostan.