

CHRISTIANITY IN INDIA.—II.

BY REV. EDWARD STORROW, BRIGHTON, ENGLAND.

It is not necessary here to enter into the history of Protestant missions further than to state that though they date from 1706, there were not more than fifty missionaries sent all through the country, nor more than ten in active service at any one time. Even during the first third of this century, up to 1833, when the East India Company's charter was renewed and liberalized, the number of missionaries did not average one hundred and fifty nor the ordained native ministers ten. For some years after the commencement of the century only six societies were at work with very restricted agencies. A few low-caste girls were taught, but there were no lady missionaries or high-class schools for boys.* It will be seen that in these features, as well as in others, great advances have been made.

From the "Statistical Tables of Protestant Missions" for 1890, issued only at the close of last year, it appears that 47 societies have representatives in India. More or less associated with these were about twenty ladies' associations, while apart from societies were six or eight isolated missions, usually of limited extent and resources. Connected with these various organizations were 857 foreign ordained missionaries, 118 foreign and Eurasian lay preachers, 76 teachers, principally engaged in colleges and Anglo-Indian high schools, and 711 lady missionaries. It will sufficiently indicate the nationality and religious profession of all these to state that, of the foreign ordained missionaries, 129 were sent by Baptist, 76 by Congregational, 203 by Episcopalian, 140 by Presbyterian, 125 by Lutheran, and 110 by Methodist societies, and that of these about 460 were British, 186 American, and the remainder from the continent of Europe.

But the native Christian agency is considerable. There is a growing consciousness of its importance, and as the native churches have increased, and the openings for evangelistic work and schools extended, the missionaries have given more attention to the selection and training of native agents. The extent to which this has been done will be seen in the following figures. I give the numbers for 1851 as well as 1890, since the statistical tables first appeared at the former date, and they here and in some future instances exhibit the progress that has been made during the past forty years :

	1851.	1881.	1890.
Native ordained ministers.....	339	586	857
Catechists and evangelists.....	493	2,488	3,491

The general efficiency of these has greatly advanced, and among them are many men of undoubted piety, great zeal, and marked ability.

* "Protestant Missions in Pagan Lands," p. 103, by the Rev. E. Storrow. Published by Snow & Co., London. "The History of Protestant Missions in India," by the Rev. M. A. Sherring and E. Storrow. Published by the Religious Tract Society, London.