

in the world. It towers amid the ruins of ancient Delhi, one of two minars of a mosque; but the Kootub now stands in solitary dignity and splendour. Its base, a polygon of twenty-four sides, measures one hundred and forty-seven feet. The shaft tapers, and is divided into five stories, each girdled by a projecting balcony resting on elaborately-carved brackets. Fine red sandstone is the material up to the third story, and from the third balcony to the fifth white marble is used. Within, a staircase of three hundred and seventy-six steps turns round and round to the balcony of the fifth story. Several times injured, the pillar has been several times repaired. It is claimed to have an age of over six hundred and fifty years.

It is a very beautiful object as it stands, like a lonely sentinel, amid the ruins of the ancient Indian city. Its deep red in the lower part, crowned with the clean white of the upper, its graceful proportions, its fluted sides, and its richly carved ornamentations make it one of the most remarkable structures ever erected by the hand of man.

On the influence of Christian missions in this vast empire of India, the following is the testimony of a missionary well qualified to judge—the late Rev. M. A. Sherring, of Benares:—

“The question is often put in England as well as in India, What has been the real result on the Hindoo mind of all the influences derived from English education, English rule and laws, material improvements, railways, telegraphs, liberty, and, above all, Christianity, which have been playing upon it with more or less potency within the scope of the present century?

“As to the material or physical changes and improvements introduced into India, it is necessary to note how far the people generally have benefited by the vast and magnificent enterprises which have been of late years prosecuted in their country by their busy and restless conquerors. With freedom of communication between all parts of the peninsula, safety of travelling, and general security, they also enjoy an immense increase in what are termed the comforts of life. All kinds of merchandise, to many of which most persons were formerly utter strangers, find their way to every corner of the land. Food is more varied, clothing is finer and cheaper, money is more plentiful, houses are better built and better stored; trade, especially among small merchants, has greatly increased, and to crown all, peace prevails everywhere, from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. In spite of famines, which were never grappled with in former times as they are in these, there is less poverty, less misery, and more wealth in India than there ever was; while the labourer is better paid, and receives greater consideration from those above him than he ever did. As a consequence, there is more real happiness among the people than at any period of their previous history.