

Canadian Missionary Link

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WHAT THE MISSIONARY HAS DONE FOR INDIA.

The testimony of an Indian Christian leader, Prof. S. C. Mukerjee, who for some years has been Secretary of the All-Indian Christian Conference.

The Missionary has come to India at the bidding of his Lord and Master. He has been commanded to go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever He has commanded him. The Missionary has therefore a twofold function to discharge wherever he goes. He must teach and he must build. He must give to the people among whom he works the highest principles of Christianity—love to God and love to man—and build them up as fit citizens of the kingdom of heaven on earth. In obedience to the commission he has received from his Master he has to teach men their duty to God and to their fellow-men. The whole life of man, therefore, falls within his pur-view. Politics loses its narrow and exclusive meaning and anything that touches the life of man concerns him.

The Missionary has been working in South India for over 200 years, and for over a century in North India. During this time he has tried to give to the people of India the truest conception of God as it is in Jesus Christ, and that of their relation to their fellow-men.

Broadly speaking, the Missionary has taught them three great principles:

1. He has taught them liberty—i.e., freedom from the bondage of sin. He has devoted his life to free men from spiritual and moral slavery.

2. He has taught them equality—i.e., freedom from the bondage of man. He has taught them that slavery in any form whatsoever is inconsistent with the

highest teaching of Christianity. Social slavery, as we find it in the caste system, or political slavery, as we find it in the domination of one nation over another, is against the very spirit of Christianity, and the missionary is therefore continually waging a crusade against every form of slavery. "Self-determination"—whether in the life of an individual or a community or a nation—is the only possible consummation according to the highest principles of Christianity.

3. He has taught them fraternity. Diverse forces—such as Education; the English language as the common medium of communication; great facilities in travelling from one country to another; the great impact of Western civilization on the East; a body of uniform laws; great national institutions, such as the Indian National Congress, are in constant operation—bringing about a commingling of races in India. But the biggest force which has contributed towards the awakening of a sense of brotherhood among the different races in this country is the concrete presentation of the Cross, which is the highest symbol of self-sacrifice. Nothing has so much revolutionized human thought, and therefore human society, as the gradual realization of this great truth; that the real value of a man's life is determined by the amount of sacrifice he makes for his fellow-men.

True liberty lies not in domination but in service, not in self-assertion but in self-effacement. The Missionary has been teaching this great truth of the Cross—viz., the truth of crucifying the Self—since he has undertaken the task of evangelizing this country. He has, therefore, rendered a most signal service in making the innumerable classes of people in this country gradually realize that they are brothers in the sight of God, and must therefore bear one another's burden

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