

been recently organized, has had "the most prosperous year" in its history; 760 communicants have been added to the churches, making a total membership of 3392. It is said that there is but one presbytery in the United States in which last year "the number of converts was as large in proportion to the number of ministers as in Shantung."

India.—Professor Lindsay, D.D., speaking at the meeting of the London Missionary Society, thus defined the problem presented by India: "There were a hundred Indias, with a hundred different languages, and representing every stage of civilization, from the most primitive to the most advanced. Such differences formed a great part of the problem of mission work. Hinduism included only about a third of the 280,000,000 inhabitants of India; there were about 50,000,000 Moslems, 6,000,000 Sikhs, Parsees, and Christians, and about 20,000,000 of aboriginal tribes. The number of pariahs—outside caste—was, he thought, from 40,000,000 to 60,000,000, and these were practically, for mission purposes, outside the great realm of Hinduism."

—The Rev. Roger Dutt, a Bengali clergyman from Cawnpore, recently addressing members of the committee of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, said that he had been asked whether the missions in India were failures, and that he answered that they were certainly not. There is an impatience about missions. People appear to think that the Gospel has only to be preached, and that then the place where it is preached will straightway be won; but when Christian people are themselves so long in their contest with their besetting sins, it should not be expected that those sunk in sin in India should immediately rise. The conversion of England occupied centuries. India is 27 times as large as England, and contains 280,000,000, as against perhaps 2,000,000 in England in the days of St. Augustine. Even now only a few towns and a few chief centres in India are oc-

cupied by missions. Mr. Dutt quoted some very striking figures from the census returns, showing how rapid the growth of Christianity had been in recent years. In 1851 there were 91,000 Christians in India; in 1861 there were 138,000, an increase of 53 per cent; in 1871 there were 224,000, an increase of 61 per cent; in 1881 there were 417,000, an increase of 86 per cent. This year the Christians are reckoned to be 2,000,000 in number.

—A missionary has recently given this bit of evidence that the Gospel is making progress in India: "There is a *very considerable relaxation in the rigor of caste bondage*. This is true both in regard to the scope of caste rules, and to the question of restoration when caste has been lost. It cost a man more than \$100,000 to be reinstated after losing his caste 70 or 80 years ago, and men were known to commit suicide because they failed to obtain restoration on any terms. In recent years it has been purchased by a wealthy man, to the writer's personal knowledge, for \$300. Caste will be dear at a dollar after awhile."

—The Indian Home Mission to the Santals is a Danish organization which, however, receives considerable support from England. Its secretary in Denmark is the well-known Dr. Vahl, the author of "The Mission Atlas." The stations occupied are in Bengal, the head station being at Ebenezer. There are 6 missionaries with their wives, 4 Santal pastors, 18 deaconesses, 80 travelling elders, and 5 catechists. Recently there has also been established an Assam colony with 1 missionary, 1 pastor, 9 elders, and 3 catechists. The last annual report shows that the work done during the year has been quite successful. The baptisms of converts were 201, and there are at present 6300 baptized members of the community.

—The population of Burmah is 8,921,700; Christians, 2.40 per cent; population of Rangoon, 180,324; races from India in Burmah, 356,087. (Half the population of Rangoon now is from