

The Rev. J. T. Parfit left Baghdad for Mosul, on April 2nd last, reaching the latter place on Good Friday where he had a remarkable reception. The house was crowded with visitors, and during the first three days nearly 400 men—Protestants, Jacobites, Moslems, and Jews—came to offer welcome. Mr. Parfit is charmed with Mosul and its surroundings, and is astonished at the bright prospects for work there. "A Medical Mission," he writes, "would do wonders here, and in every way would be a greater success than in Baghdad."

BENGAL—The Indian S. S. Union at its annual meeting in Calcutta at the end of April last gives the following striking particulars as to its work: "The first Sunday school in India, perhaps in Asia, was started in 1803. In 1898 there were 6,300 schools with 260,000 members. India's soil bears one-fifth the world's population, but only one-hundredth of the world's Sunday school membership. In England and Wales *one* in every *four* of the population is a member of a Sunday school, but in India we have but *one* in every 1,000, while China has but *one* in every 64,000. The outlook is not of the brightest, we admit, but it is only a matter of time. The dykes of superstition and idolatry are already giving away. India, Malaysia, and indeed all Asia, will soon, if the Church is loyal to her Lord, be flooded with beautifying, civilizing, fructifying Sunday schools.

In connection with the Santal Native Church Council there were 258 baptisms during 1899, sixty-six being of adult converts. Notwithstanding the comparative poverty of the Santals, *each of the ten pastorates of the district support or partly support a preacher as their "Own Missionary" to the surrounding heathen.* This is a step in the right direction, as the burden of the work in India will have to fall on the people of the land eventually."

NORTHWEST PROVINCES—The Bishop of Lucknow paid a visit to Gorakhpur in February, and confirmed forty-eight candidates of whom twenty-two were adult converts. During the Bishop's visit he formally opened a new Parish Room, given through the liberality of an European of Gorakhpur.

On February 13th, the Rev. J. W. Hall had the privilege of baptizing twenty-six converts at Asilpur, a village about two miles from Laliana, in the Meerut district. On the same day he baptized three more converts at Laliana; and on the 15th, eighteen at Khejuri. There are now forty-eight Christians at Laliana, twenty-six at Asilpur, and about a hundred at Khejuri, besides about ninety-five at Jeyi, Sona, Dhanpur, and Baksha. Mr. Hall spent a week in the new rest-house in the district in April, and worked in the villages. He baptized another convert, and the newly ordained

deacon, the Rev. G. Emmanuel, baptized three adults at Jeyi, and in a village named Phitkari three people were admitted as catechumens. In Holy Week many village Christians met beneath the trees at the rest-house day by day for special instruction and devotions. Mr. Hall asks for prayer for more Spirit filled workers. There are nine villages in which inquirers are being taught, and the staff is quite inadequate.

The Rev. A. Outram estimates that two-fifths of the whole Bhil population have died from famine or disease. Transport is the greatest difficulty, for Kherwara, the centre of C.M.S. district of the Bhil country, is sixty miles from the railway, and carts and beasts of burden scarcely exist. When the needed rains come, the roads, bad at the best, will become impassable. Mr. Outram tells of one village, named Kagdar, where 500 people applied for food, "all destitute and bound to die," but he had only grain enough for fifty. He wrote on May 21st: "We have now 5,500 children to feed twice daily, collected in fifteen centres. These centres are dotted about an area nearly covered by an equilateral triangle with sides of sixty miles each. Each centre has to be supplied with grain once a week, and the nearest railway station fifty miles distant. So our hands are full, especially now that cholera had broken out very severely. One of my centres alone lost eighty children from it last week. Pray for us, for the burden is heavy, but our Lord can supply all needed grace and strength, as He has done up to the present.

The Gonds, too, another aboriginal hill tribe, in the Centrai Provinces, are suffering from famine. As far back as February last, the people were collecting gurri seed, only fit for Indian cranes to eat; others beating out bamboo seed, "a most extraordinary crop this year," the Rev. E. P. Herbert says, "a veritable God-send;" but many could not procure even that hard fare.

PUNJAB AND SINDH.—At the frontier station of Quetta, on Easter Day, the Rev. A. E. Ball baptized a Mohammedan mullah and his wife. A man of the Chamar caste and an infant of Christian parents were also baptized. On that day there were thirty-four communicants including the missionaries and a new Communion set given by a lady in England was used for the first time.

WESTERN INDIA.—The Bishop of Bombay held a confirmation in Girgaum Church, on March 31st, when twenty-five candidates from the C.M.S. Urdu congregation were confirmed. The Bishop conducted the service in Urdu and gave two addresses in that language.

The Bishop of Madras, at an Ordination service at Masulipatam on Sexagesima Sunday,