

II.—INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

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The Rapid Baptisms and Mass Movement in North India.

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The great movement among the poorer castes of North India holds on unabated. From fifteen to twenty thousand annually are added to the Methodist mission alone. The United Presbyterian mission of the Punjab is also having a large ingathering. In some cases in the Methodist mission deputations have come in from a long distance asking for teachers to come and teach them Christianity and open schools for their children. In several directions thousands of inquirers are asking for baptism. One pastor in three months had baptized four hundred, and was expecting to add at least one thousand to his Christian community during the year. The great demand is for native pastors and evangelists to conserve and carry forward the work. The theological seminary at Bareilly is taxed to the utmost to meet the want. The score or more trained men turned out annually is far below the need. It is much to be regretted that friends in America do not at once furnish the \$40,000 called for to put this seminary on a larger basis at once. Instead of eighty at least two hundred students should be on the roll under training to push and conserve this great work.

This is no sudden movement. For more than a third of a century the Gospel has been faithfully preached in these regions, and many copies of the Scriptures circulated among the people. They have had the truth held up. The sense of sin has been awakened, and the true way of salvation has been before them. So the baptisms are not "hasty" in the sense of some critics. Preachers, European and native, have been sounding out the Gospel for

years, and multitudes have been thinking. Thus the present harvest, amounting to perhaps 85,000 of a Christian community among the Methodists, is not a sudden thing without ample plowing and sowing and watering. True, the harvest has been largely gathered in more recent years. Some 65,000 have been added within four years, and the number will soon run up to 100,000, and more, if a pastorate to care for the multitudes gathered in can be raised up.

This is no superficial work. It is, to be sure, not matter for surprise if tares are found among the wheat in so large a harvest. A mass movement like this must carry along with it and catch up a good deal that is not altogether good, and in this it differs in nothing from large revival movements in the home land. But will any one say such revivals are failures? The weak are strengthened and the utterly worthless are eliminated. So the missionaries deal with this movement which has its critics in the field, particularly among less successful missions. Those who know the work realize that a strong substantial church is being raised up, served by a native ministry, and that effective self-support is being developed. Tried by the tests of self-support, spiritual life, endurance of persecution, and martyrdom, a true church is being founded. Rev. P. M. Buck, in a recent letter written in the midst of this work, says, "These converts manifest a very encouraging willingness to do what they can to support the work among them. Persecution has been common and persistent. In the region where the greatest number of baptisms has occurred, the leading men of a large number of villages assembled in council, where it is said several hundred were present, and they bound themselves under a curse to suppress Christianity and prevent its fur-