MISSION FIELD.

MISSIONS IN INDIA.

The President of the Hindu Society, formed in connection with the Oxford Brotherhood in Calcutta, hao contributed a most useful article to the Nineteenth Century on this subject. After speaking about the work as it has been carried on in the past, and bearing evidence to the devotion of those who per formed it, he refers to the wiser methods now adopted. The Guardian, commenting on this article, 88V8:-

But still, after all is said, after justice has been done to all these grounds for thankfulness and hope, there is left in one's mind a certain sense of a grave lack. There has been much indeed that is excellent, noble, wise, and dutiful in the past work-much that will always tell for good, for conscientiousness and perseverance cannot lose their power or their task; they will go on bearing their constant witness. And yet the sense remains that something more is needed. This does not look like the way in which the East is to be won—in which the heart of India, reserved, susceptible, passionate, and enduring, can be pierced and thrilled and liberated by the truth of the Crucified and Risen. All nations, it may be, have their own estimate and settled expectation as to the way in which religious energy is to be embodied; and this steady, respectable, sensible, cautious work, this work that, unworldly and spiritual as it may be in its mo-tives, seems usually in its methods and outward expression to fit in so smoothly with the world around it, this may appear to the Hindu or Mohammedan no less strange as an expression of religious intensity than the ways of a Scotch Presbyterian might look to a devoutly minded Tuscan peasant. There is need of something more incisive, arresting, venturesome, irrevo-cable, unearthly. It seems to be the sense of this need which brings a new tone into Sir William Hun. ter's language as he speaks of the most recent form in which the missionary spirit of Englishmen has approached its task in India. It is, indeed, a form which has, beside the fresh hope it brings for Indian Missions, a great significance as to the character and life of the English Church. It would be hard to mark the note and meaning of this most impressive outcome of the revival which God has granted to us in words more just and deep than those Sir William Hunter uses: "A new form of missionary effort has arisen in India. The great evangelical societies to whom the rapid progress of the last thirty years has been chiefly due go on with their work more actively than over. But side by side with them small Christian brotherhoods are springing up-ascetic fraternities living in common, and realizing the Indian ideal of the religious life. In Bombay, in Cal-cutta, in Dolhi, certain houses of Christian celibate brethren are becoming recognized centres of in-

fluence among the Indian University youth. They consist of English gentlemen of the highest culture, who have deliberately made up their minds to give their lives without payment to the work. They are indifferent to hardship, fearless of disease, extraordinarily patient of labor, and in no hurry to produce results." Then, after speaking with somewhat more detail of the work of the Cambridge Mission at Delhi and of the Oxford Mission at Calcutta, Sir William Hunter concludes: "The truth is that the example of these Oxford men's lives, their simple and ostentatious asceticism, their daily service to others without a thought of themselves, are creating a deep impression. Their deaths produce a deeper impression still. It would be unwise to overrate the narrow sphere within which they at present work. But it is difficult to over-estimate the value of their influence within that sphere. I myself do not expect that any Englishmen, or any European, will in our days individually bring about a great Christian awakening in India. But I think it within reasonable probability that some native will spring up, whose life and preaching may lead to an accession on a great scale to the Christian Church. If such a man arises he will set in motion a mighty move-ment, whose consequences it is im-possible to forsee. And I believe that, if ever he comes, he will be produced by influences and sur-roundings of which the Oxford Brotherhood in Calcutta is at present the forerunner and prototype."

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