

Missionary World.

CHRISTIAN CHILDREN IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

In most large villages there is a Government school in charge of a native teacher, who is generally a Brahman. Such schools are supposed to be available for all classes of the people, but as a matter of fact none but the highest castes attend them. Other castes are persecuted if they dare to claim their rights. The schools are supported by local rates levied upon the property-holders of the villages and the European heads of the Educational Department do their utmost to secure the privilege of attendance at school to all classes, but local officers, teachers and high caste parents often make it impossible for native Christians and others to secure admission for their children to such schools.

AN ILLUSTRATION TO THE POINT.

The Christian preacher living at Wadut, a small town near Satara, sent his children to the public school, the only school in the place. Most of the Brahman boys left at once. After awhile the excitement became intense, and about two-thirds of the boys left the school. As a warning to the people that they would lose their school entirely the assistant master was transferred to another place, but this did not seem to have any effect upon them. The headmaster was from the first favorable to the Christians, and he was therefore boycotted by the people. He was turned out of his rented house and no one would rent him another, so that he was obliged to live for sometime in a neighboring village across the river. He deserved great credit for his steadfastness in obeying his departmental instructions in the face of so much opposition. For several months the attendance was very small, just barely enough to prevent the school from being discontinued. The Brahman element seemed determined that they would not yield. In October a desperate effort was made to accomplish their object by force. A Government native official, not belonging to the Educational Department, came into the school, and at once sent for the father of the Christian children. He talked to him very severely and finally compelled him by intimidation to sign a paper stating that he would have his children sit apart from the others. This official also gave the teacher strict orders to see that the arrangement was carried out, and for about a week the order was enforced. The teacher, however, reported the matter to his superior and asked what should be done. The reply was, in substance, "You have received your departmental orders, and you must not obey orders from any other source." Thus the Christian children were restored to their rights, and what for the time seemed to be a very serious matter turned out to be a most amusing episode, to the chagrin of the whole opposing party. After this they tried to establish a private school, but after employing five or six different teachers without success, it was finally given up. They then concluded to accept the situation, and as the new year opened the boys returned to the school, and were now ready, after about eight months' loss of school privileges, to learn their lessons in company with the Christian children.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IS A CHRISTIAN GOVERNMENT.

Numberless instances might be quoted to show the attitude of the Government towards the missionaries and their work. When governors and other high officials, such as H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, who for five years was in command of the army in Bombay, go upon their annual tours of inspection, they visit every mission station on their route, encourage the missionaries and show their appreciation of their work. Lord Reay and Lord Harris were specially sympathetic. The former when on a visit to Ahmednagar addressed a large company of Christians in the native church. Upon be-

ing told that there was one man present who had been a Christian for fifty years and who had been the means of bringing at least seventy-five heathens to Christ, the Governor said that he should like to shake hands with that old gentleman, and descending from the platform he shook hands warmly with the faithful old man who, possessing little of the wisdom of the world (he was barely able to read), had let his light shine so that men had seen it and glorified his Father.

MADAGASCAR.

Recent letters from missionaries of the London Missionary Society in Madagascar say that "The situation is melancholy, but if anything, so far from getting worse, there are hopeful signs. The French made the great mistake of supposing that the conquest of the country was completed when the capital fell, and they did not take the steps requisite to secure order. They are now rectifying the mistake. The mass of the people cheerfully accept the change of Government, for they know it means they will be able to get justice. It is only a noisy and disorderly minority that creates the disturbances. As to the L.M.S. and its work, there is every reason to believe that when things settle down greater progress will be made than ever. There are no difficulties with the Government—on the contrary, there is a cordial understanding. News has just been received that the memorial church at Ambhipotsi, at the extreme southern point of the hill upon which the capital is built, has been handed back by the French military authorities to the L.M.S. and the native worshippers. Since the occupation it was necessary to use the building for barrack purposes, the soldiers being withdrawn during hours of worship when the congregation was allowed to enter, but now the soldiers are withdrawn altogether, much to the joy of the people. The improvement in the methods of government is illustrated by the fact that the negotiations for a site of land for a new mission hall were completed between the L.M.S. and the Government in two days, whereas under the old regime they would have been drawn out over six months. The Jesuits are troublesome to the L.M.S., according to their immemorial custom, but there is no reason to suppose that their intrigues are favored by the Government. It is only just to give the French credit for their friendly treatment of the Society.

NOTES.

A Turkish pastor had a member in his congregation who was a great smoker. Upon his friend promising to give up his tobacco the pastor made a thank-offering of ten Turkish pounds (\$44) for evangelistic work. This money was sent out to India and was spent in purchasing tracts and illustrated leaflets for distribution in the Sunday School connected with the High School at Ahmednagar.

Here is a striking contrast, showing the superiority of Christianity over all other religions—"Mohammedanism has a history of thirty centuries. It has won 200,000,000 followers, and its degraded and wretched myriads are confined to Southern Asia and Northern Africa. Christianity, after nineteen centuries of life, has won 400,000,000 followers, and with the exception of China and Turkey, its happy and enlightened people rule the world."—*The Presbyterian*.

Rev. J. G. Paton writes from the New Hebrides: "The following facts and figures may be interesting: There were 18 missionaries and 271 teachers at work last year, and 9,587 people attending school, and there are now 296 candidates for baptism; 492 adult baptisms and 148 marriages were solemnized during this year. The sum of \$156 in cash was raised and 5,210 pounds of arrowroot, amounting to about \$1,300, was made for mission purposes. This item does not include the large amount paid for books in cash or by contribution of arrowroot. Sixteen couples volunteered for work on heathen islands, and 1,120 natives renounced their heathenism and joined the Christian party, while the number of Church members stands at 2,082."

Young People's Societies.

CONDUCTED BY A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S COMMITTEE.

THE PLAN OF STUDY.

Enquiries are coming from many quarters as to the details of the "Plan of Study," just issued. It is meeting with a hearty reception both within and outside the Church. It has been endorsed by recent Presbyterian conferences and by Presbyteries, and in the *Golden Rule* of 15th ult., at the close of an editorial article descriptive of the Plan, the writer adds: "We are sure that all Canadian Presbyterian Endeavorers will hail with delight this helpful co-operation on the part of the General Assembly and will by speedy adoption of the plan suggested prove that 'for the Church' is no idle phrase for them." Presbyterian Endeavorers should take note of the fact that a special Topic Card embracing the "Uniform Topics," and the topics of the Plan of Study as well, is being issued by the Endeavor Herald Company of Toronto.

A GOOD SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

Says the *Knapsack*, the United States organ of the Boys:

"The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys, and the promotion of habits of reverence, obedience, self-respect and patriotism, and all that tends toward a true Christian manliness.

"Is there anywhere in this world a grander or better worded object than ours. First, last and all the time, strive for the supreme object, the promotion of Christ's Kingdom among our boys. The methods to be employed are various. Learn to adopt your plans to the individualities of your boys and success will surely follow. Teach them that reverence for the church edifice as the temple of God is an attendant essential, teach them that obedience in the little things, as the military drill, but go towards the forming of that character which enables one to say, 'Thy will be done,' with humility and yet with truth. Teach them also to love the nation's flag, teach them to know that self-respect is of more importance than the esteem of the world, and lastly teach them to take Christ for a model and strive for His attributes."

GETTING READY TO SPEAK.

Rev. C. H. Yatman has written many wise words of counsel for Christians, but nothing more practical than the following hint for participation in prayer meetings:

"Many a service could be saved from ruin if some one got up and gave a straight, honest, happy talk on some theme of interest to everybody. There is too much unripe mental fruit served up at meetings. Reader, get a blank book; write one item of the list below at the head of each page, then begin to gather facts and illustrations and Scripture on that theme, putting all under the proper head. Then, when your page is full, straighten out your material, throw away any useless stuff, put the good into such shape as your mind can grasp, and the first chance you get, speak it.

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Courage. | Scriptures. | Holy Spirit. |
| Faith. | Jesus. | Conversion. |
| Enthusiasm. | Consecration. | Knowledge. |
| Love. | Endurance. | Tact. |
| Salvation. | Rewards. | Experience. |
| Prayer. | The Law. | Manhood. |
| Repentance. | The Gospel. | Destiny. |
| Character. | Retribution. | Grace. |
| Sin. | Heaven. | Hope. |
| Joy. | Difficulties. | Peace. |
| Paul. | Zeal. | Work." |

In a similar manner an Endeavorer can make preparation for the Christian Endeavor prayer meetings by devoting a page to each topic for six months or a year.—*Golden Rule*.

Baltimore Christian Endeavorers sent five hundred and sixty-four children from the slums of the city out into the country for two weeks each, during the summer.

A GOOD EDUCATION; WHAT IT IS AND HOW TO GET IT.

REV. W. S. M'TAVISH, B.D., DESERONTO.

Nov. 15th.—Prov. viii. 1-11; ix. 9, 10.

Opinions differ greatly as to what constitutes a good education. The Chaldeans thought a man was well-educated when he was skilled in soothsaying, necromancy and astrology. The Greeks sought after wisdom and many of them thought they were not educated unless they were well trained in philosophy and dialectics. The Jews regarded the knowledge of the law and prophets as very desirable, if not absolutely necessary. The Roman Catholics look upon a knowledge of the Church Catechism as indispensable to a good education. Many Protestants think that a good education can be obtained by taking a regular course in college or university and that nothing beyond this is required.

But God's view and man's may be far apart. The wisdom of the Greeks was foolishness with God (1 Cor. iii. 19). God may regard much of our boasted education as folly. Paul spent his early life in one of the most famous schools, at the feet of a renowned teacher—Gamaliel; but the best part of his education was received after his conversion. Where did he obtain his knowledge? Not from any teacher but by revelation of Jesus Christ (Gal. i. 1). Timothy never attended college and yet from his childhood he was instructed in the Scriptures and they were able to make him wise unto salvation. Daniel attended college in Babylon, but before he entered he learned many things which his teachers could not have taught him; and even while he was there he acquired knowledge which was not imparted to him by his college masters.

Now while it is very desirable to possess a knowledge of the arts and sciences as taught in schools and colleges, yet there is a branch of knowledge which cannot be acquired from college text-books or from university professors. Three things are necessary—a text-book, a teacher, and a willingness to learn and apply knowledge.

I. Our best text-book is the Bible. David did not possess more than a fragment of the Scriptures as we now have them, and yet by diligent study of, and meditation upon, the portion which he did possess, he became wiser than his teachers. By the divinely-inspired statutes he was warned, and in the keeping of them he found a great reward. He hid that word in his heart that he might not sin against God.

What a grand text-book the Bible is! How profound its proverbs, how sublime its poetry, how plain its commandments, how lofty its prophecies, how practical its precepts, how elevating its moral code, how urgent its entreaties, how tender its invitations, how earnest its warnings, and how splendid its imagery! The best thoughts of other men are but the thoughts of the Bible diluted. The grandest conception of men in modern times are but the reflection of the thoughts of the inspired penmen. However thoroughly trained a man may be in the knowledge of the schools, his education is sadly defective until he has a competent knowledge of this text-book.

II. Our teacher is the Holy Spirit. The same spirit who first inspired the sacred writers to record the great things of the Bible must teach us now to understand them. He is the Spirit of Truth, and His commission is to lead us into all truth. Through this Spirit we are enriched in everything, in all utterance and in all knowledge—

"That Heavenly Teacher sent from God
Shall your whole soul inspire,
Your minds shall fill with sacred truth,
Your hearts with sacred fire."

III. There must be a willingness to learn. No one can make progress in the arts or sciences who imagines he already knows everything, neither can one obtain that wisdom which comes from above unless he is humble and ready to learn the lessons which the Holy Spirit would teach him. Jesus said that unless we receive the kingdom as a little child we shall not enter therein. One of the characteristics of the child is willingness to be instructed. Unless we realize our helplessness and ignorance, we can never hope to be properly educated in the school of the Great Teacher.