

people. This was first indicated, and to the great alarm of the Pope, by the vote, ordered by Victor Emanuel, in 1870, to determine whether the people preferred to be governed by the Pope or by himself. This vote was more than ten to one against the Pope, and in some instances more than one hundred to one.

Another indication is found in the fact that while the great majority of the people have been kept in such ignorance that they can neither read nor write, there is an intense anxiety on the part of old and young to learn to read, so that they may be able to read the Bible. They have been shut away from this by the priests, until the hunger has become so great that it is not an uncommon thing for old men, who have worked hard until the going down of the sun, to hasten to the evening school-room and remain for an hour and a half before going to their scanty supper.

I have seen gray-haired old men arise in their places, when able for the first time to spell out a single verse in the New Testament, with their whole frame quivering with excitement, and with such manifest interest as is seldom seen among any class of pupils in our own land. This kind of work is fundamental to all permanent success in Italy. They will accept the teachings of the Bible, while they persist in doubting, or even rejecting, all instructions from the priests.—*Rev. C. W. Cushing, D.D., Italy.*

A BRAHMIN'S TESTIMONY.

A STRIKING testimony, recently borne by a learned Brahmin, in the presence of two hundred Brahmins, official students, and others, has just been published:—

"I have watched the missionaries and seen what they are. What have they come to the country for? What tempts them to leave their parents, friends, and country, and come to this, to them unhealthy clime? Is it for gain or profit that they come? Some of us, country clerks in government offices, receive larger salaries than they. Is it for an easy life? See how they work, and then tell me. Look at the missionary. He came here a few years ago, leaving all, and for our good! He was met with cold looks and suspicious glances.

"He was not discouraged; he opened a dispensary, and we said, 'Let the Pariahs (lowest caste people) take his medicine; we won't;' but in the time of our sickness and our fear we were glad to go to him, and he welcomed us. We complained at first if he walked through our Brahmin streets; but ere long, when our wives and daughters were in sickness and anguish, we went and begged him to come even into our inner apartments; and he came, and our wives and daughters now smile upon us in health! Has he made any money by it? Even the cost of the medicine he has given has not been returned to him. Now, what is it that makes him do all this for us? *It is the Bible!* I have looked into it a good deal in different languages I chance to know; it is the same in all languages. The Bible! there is nothing to compare with it in all our sacred books, for goodness, and purity, and holiness, and love, and for motives of action. Where did the English people get their intelligence and energy and cleverness and power? It is their Bible that gives it

to them. And they now bring it to us, and say, 'That is what raised us; take it and raise yourselves.' They do not force it upon us, as did the Mohammedans with their Koran, but they bring it in love, and say, 'Look at it, read it, examine it, and see if it is not good.'"

CHRISTIAN WORK ABROAD.

A RETURNED missionary says: "You have no idea how we are hindered in our work by so called Christians." *Christians?* Yes; you know, to the heathen, all white men are Christians; hence, they think whiskey a good thing sent them by Christian friends; but they discover too late, that it "biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder."

Yes, the heathen lands are supplied with whiskey by America and England—two of the greatest Christian countries on earth.

When the New Congo Free State Constitution was formed, Mr. Stanley tried to prevent the importation of strong drink, but was over-ruled, and so the greatest curse to man is received into Congo, and does its wicked work. Eleven million dollars worth of rum was imported into Congo during the year 1885. Mr. Hail tells a very touching story of an old man of Japan who tried hard to be a Christian. He befriended the missionaries when it required courage to do so. He could bear the ridicule of his comrades, the persecution of his enemies; but he succumbed to the appetite for strong drink and died a drunkard's death.

Temperance workers have this to encourage them, that while they help the cause at home, they are aiding the missionaries by removing an obstacle from their path. The intelligent Japanese say, "Send us missionaries, but do not send us whiskey."

Opium (as a writer in one of our exchanges says) though cultivated and prepared in India, is wholly under the control of Christian England.

The Churches of England and America, who are engaged in trade in these heathen countries, or those employed by the Government, and both English and American sailors, offer another hindrance to christianizing heathen lands. The heathen look upon them all as Christians, and when they see their loose and immoral and oftentimes licentious conduct, they draw at once the inference, if these things are right for the Christian, they cannot be wrong for the heathen. They cannot believe that one born and brought up under Christian influences can be anything but a Christian. The heathen mind cannot grasp the idea that one should know the goodness of the Lord Jesus Christ and not worship Him.

False teachers, too, harass and grieve the worker in the foreign field as well as those who labor in the home church. The French Catholic priests, wherever they go, attempt only to add numbers to their church. They baptize without conversion, and thus a sect of native Christians (?) is formed that is a reproach to the cause.

With the good things of Christendom the evils must go into these foreign lands as a natural consequence; but by lessening these evils at home, by contending against them here, we will be doing something for the noble band of men and women who have given up all to carry the good news to the millions who sit in darkness.