

1881



1895

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"THIS IS THE VICTORY, EVEN OUR FAITH."

N.B.—Communications for this Department post-marked after the 18th of the month will appear in following month.

N.B.—All subscriptions for the OUTLOOK must be sent to the Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto.

N.B.—Certificates of Life Membership may be obtained by addressing Miss Ogden, Room 20, Wesley Buildings.

Editorial Notes.

HOW strongly India, the subject of prayer for this month, should appeal to us! The fact alone that her people are ruled by the same sovereign as we should be a motive-power stimulating our sympathies and prayers India-ward. But from every standpoint India appeals to us. Through her teeming population of fully 287,000,000, five times greater than that of the United States, with but one mission-

ary to every 500,000—through her 22,600,000 widows, of whom 250,000 are not yet fourteen years of age, and through the extreme poverty and degradation of the low-caste natives, whom we learn more readily "receive the word," this Oriental Empire is stretching out imploring hands with other heathen nations repeating the old Macedonian cry that for ages has been wrung from hearts weary of their thralldom. Dare we disregard it?

India for years well merited the title, "The Gibraltar of Paganism," but now the ramparts are razed, and "by movements extending over centuries, her people are made accessible to the Gospel." There are bright spots relieving the gloom and wretchedness enshrouding the vast majority of this people. A newspaper published in Madras, and edited by an orthodox Brahmin, lately made this statement: "Hinduism is on its death-bed, and there is no drug which can be administered for its recovery. This terrible crusade against it is now being carried on by the native Christians themselves, and with a tenacity of purpose and a devotion to the religion of Christ which defies failure." An educated Brahmin, who for years had been an exponent of Hinduism has ceased proclaiming what he calls a "decaying system." Large ingatherings are recently reported, principally among the low-caste or non-caste people. According to Dr. Wm. Butler, the M.E. Mission received last year 18,000 into church membership. Let us thank God and take courage. Despite the discouragements of the hour, truth and righteousness will eventually prevail.

At this juncture in India's history we might feel greatly cast down were it not for these rays of light. To think that in one of Great Britain's dependencies, gross wickedness should not only go unchecked, but be *protected* by her Government is enough to sadden anyone longing for the universal reign of righteousness. Some few brave, undaunted hearts have, within the past few years, been laboring earnestly to expose the fearful evils of the opium and drink traffics and State-regulated vice; nor do they desist from their fearless efforts even under the strain of great persecution. The editor of the Bombay *Guardian*, Alfred S. Dyer, is among the leaders in this crusade against the triple curse. A year ago he and three missionaries were imprisoned in Bombay jail for one month—their crime (?) that they wrote, preached and protested against these great public evils "in which the Government is both directly and indirectly a partaker." Rev. A. W. Prautch, one of the missionaries imprisoned, was sent to England by the anti-opium party to call the attention of the British people more fully to the existing state of affairs. At present he is visiting friends in London the Less, and reports 162 meetings held in England, Ireland and Wales, some of them being attended by between 2,000 and 3,000 people. We trust a speedy change in affairs may be the result of this agitation.

In regard to this conflict between the advocates of righteousness, on the one hand, and those who sup-