

they stand to us. The inhabitants of India are estimated at 180 millions; and to this vast population there are only about 400 ordained missionaries, or one to every half million of the people—an average equal to five ministers for all Scotland. "What are these among so many?" Every successive thirty years are sweeping away these 180 millions into the eternal state, and raising up as many in their stead, to perish as they have done, unless those that have the gospel take pity upon them, and send men to tell them of that one Divine Saviour, by faith in whom alone they can be saved. All these millions are sunk in the deepest darkness, and in the most appalling superstitions. There are the Hindus, with their almost countless gods, their costly temples, their cruel, licentious, and debasing rites, their noxious caste, and their vile social customs; there are the Mohammedans, trusting in a man like themselves, proud, self-righteous, and hating Christianity—the former conquerors and rulers of the country, and anxious to regain their lost dominion; and there are the various hill tribes, known by many different names, the ruins of the ancient inhabitants of India, all of them not merely immersed in the lowest depravity, but many of them professed traders in human blood. With regard to all these races, it may be said that Satan, working on the strong wickedness of the carnal heart, and through the agency of the acute mental facilities of the people, has, in the course of ages, woven a system of religious rites, the main features of which are falsehood, cruelty, and pollution, and which keeps his victims "under the power of darkness." Fast bound in the chains of the evil one, they appeal to us for pity and for help. The cry that went up from the oppressed Israelites in Egypt, was but a whisper in comparison with that which arises from all parts of India. And this terrible cry comes from those whom we have subdued, and whom we are keeping under our sway by force of arms.—We have assumed the responsibility of them; they are our subjects; we have that gospel which can give them rest, peace, and salvation; and surely, then, we shall contract very deep guilt, if we "forbear to deliver" those millions "that are being drawn unto death, and that are ready to be slain."

2. *The Encouragements for Mission-*

ary Work in India.—These arise from the free access that is had to the people, from the fruits of the literary labours of the missionaries, and from the great rewards that may be won there. All the missionaries testify that, before the late outbreak, they could with the utmost safety traverse all parts of the country, visiting all the people in the large towns, at their heathen temples, their religious fairs, and in the villages and country districts. British protection was an effectual shield to them in all their journeys. And everywhere they found multitudes prepared to hear them. In many places the people were ready to dispute their statements, and to defend their own systems; but there was no difficulty felt in obtaining an audience. And whatever might be the sea entertained by the natives of compulsory conversion on the part of the Government, and the effect which such an idea had in stirring up opposition to the ruling powers—an idea not unnatural in the case of those whose traditions informed them of the coercive measures of the Moslem conquerors—there is the fullest evidence to prove that they welcomed spontaneous Christian persuasion, and never took offence at those who sought, by argument and personal instruction, to gain their assent to the doctrines of the gospel. We have of late read a great deal about India, and it seems to us that the proofs which come from all quarters go to show, that the natives, attached as they are to their own systems, wonder at and despise those Europeans who, bearing the name of Christians, countenance and aid in any way their religious worship; and that, on the other hand, they regard with favour those who openly avow their Christianity, act in accordance with its principles, and who labour even to make converts. It is true that, in the late disturbances, some of the missionaries and native Christians have lost their lives; but, from the accounts which we have seen, we are disposed to say, that it was because they were found in the society of the British officers and residents, whom they regarded as their oppressors; and that, with the exception of a few bigotted Mohammedans, there does not appear to be anything to intimate that hostility was directed against the Christians, simply as Christians. This is a matter of great importance, and it is full of encouragement,—as it assures us that,