

chapels with as many trained native preachers, proclaiming the Gospel to hundreds of hearers. There are five more trained helpers ready to go forth and unfurl the blood-stained banner of Jesus. There are two Bible women going about distributing tracts, etc. There is an hospital at Tamsui doing excellent service. Two hundred and sixty-three persons have been enrolled as members in full communion. There are eleven elders and five deacons, and about two thousand who might be called hearers." Of those baptized eight have been called to be for ever with the Lord, and eight other converts were taken away suddenly before they had been received into the fellowship of the Christian Church, but not before they had given such evidence of discipleship as to inspire the hope that for them to be absent from the body was to be present with the Lord.

### III. MISSION TO CENTRAL INDIA.

The mission, for the time that it has been in operation, has been attended by an encouraging measure of success. It is still only in the initial stage of its progress. It employs, however, a great variety of agencies to make known the Gospel to the people of Central India. There has been no addition made to the Canadian labourers. Messrs. Douglas and Campbell and four young ladies have constituted the mission staff for the year at Indore and Mhow. They have, however, been aided by a goodly band of native assistants in the various departments of their work.

#### INDORE.

At Indore two services are held in English each week, on Sabbath and Thursday evenings. These are attended by Europeans, Eurasians, and English-speaking Hindoos and Mussulmans. At these services the chief officials from the Native States of Indore and Dhar, Dewas and Jhansar have been occasionally present. A Sabbath-school and Bible-class meet each Lord's day. Every morning a short service is held in the vernacular. The Catechists in turn with Mr. Douglas conduct the exercises. At this station there have been three baptisms during the year. "On the 2nd of March," writes Mr. Douglas, "our first communion was dispensed in the vernacular. Eleven in all communicated. It was to us a truly interesting occasion, rendered sad only by the absence of Sookanandan and Narayan Sing, who for the truth's sake are still in exile."

The villages around Indore, to the number of fifty-five, have been regularly visited, and the Gospel of Christ has been preached in them to audiences ranging from two or three up to three hundred. Advantage also has been taken of the great gatherings of the natives at their *melas* or fairs to make known to them the Gospel message.

A school for Christian girls was opened in June last. From the fact that they have to be clothed and fed, the number admitted is necessarily limited. It supplies a home for the children of Christian families, who in search of employment have found their way into these Native States. When able the parents pay a part or the whole of the expenses. This school is under the care of Miss Fairweather.

A school for boys has been opened in the city, which promises to do good service. The average attendance is about *fifty-four*. "The boys provide their own books, and write on small boards dusted with ground brick. Marathi, Hindi, and English are taught. All think aloud while swaying from side to side. It certainly has the hum of business." One interesting feature of this school is a class of Brahman gentlemen, who meet Mr. Douglas three times a week to study such books as Wayland's Elements of Moral Science, Paley's Natural Theology, and Butler's Analogy of Religion. *Fourteen* have joined this class, and they assure the missionary that it will increase.

The printing press is proving a powerful auxiliary here to the cause of Christ. By means of the printed page multitudes learn the message of life before they hear it from the lips of the missionary. Mr. Douglas says, "In Indore, we have a large reading population, almost entirely destitute of reading matter. The native press here has as yet produced nothing, and the pernicious literature which the West is pouring into such cities as Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, has not yet largely reached this region. Our Scripture tracts have gone into every lane of the city. They have been found in country villages a hundred miles distant. Fathers have sent them far hence by mail to their sons. In the ancient city of Oogoin, we found that the priests in the temple of Kali had seen and heard them read. We were greeted on the street as 'Kitab dene-wala,' that is, the book-giver. They have been distributed along the line of railway. Thus thousands have had an opportunity of reading for themselves precious portions of the Word of God. The total issues of the press have been 203,906 copies, making in all 773,389 pages. Our Scripture booklets are in size 16mo., containing from ten to sixteen pages, and illustrated. We have supplied Mr. Campbell with them for his work, and sent some also to Poona and Ratlam. The thirst for them continues unabated in the city here. Many are distributed from the office to groups of respectable men, who walk from the city to receive them."

Your Committee are glad to report that Mr. Douglas, after encountering various difficulties, was able to secure suitable locations for mission buildings at Indore. He has been able to occupy in the meantime the building upon one of the properties secured, but steps will have to be taken, without much delay, to erect premises adapted to the wants of the mission. The obtaining of a permanent location for the mission must exert an important influence in giving greater stability to the work in Central India.