

tidings that the expenditure of labor and life is "not in vain in the Lord." Whole sections of country have within a few years been won from hopeless and debasing idolatry to the knowledge and faith of Christ, and the simple and pure worship of the one true God. In many other places, indeed in every place where the Gospel has been preached, idolatrous systems are tottering, and, by the power of God, may be expected soon to fall and be buried forever out of sight. How literally the promise of God is being fulfilled—"I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possessions," God hath said it, and it is being done, and shall be fully accomplished.

"Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Doth his successive ages run."

In this grand work of evangelizing the world it has been the privilege of Free Baptists to share. For many years the Free Baptist Mission in Southern Bengal, India, has been faithfully and successfully prosecuting its good work. As is true of all Foreign Mission undertakings, many and great difficulties have been encountered. But, by the help of God, they have been surmounted, and each year the Mission has extended its influence and won a steady and increasing success.

The Report for the year last closed, issued from the Mission Press in Mithapore, and which was received but a few days ago, presents interesting and cheering facts concerning the progress of the work. The report, summing up the work of the various departments at the several stations, says:—"The year has been one of steady progress. Nearly all the Churches have received accessions to their membership, besides other evidences of the Divine favor." It is highly gratifying to learn that the subject of self-support, which has been kept before the minds of the native Christians, has made an impression on them, and in this direction there is a growing hope. "It will be a strong point made when ideas of independence become familiar to the Christian Hindu mind." A thoughtful writer on Missionary themes has well said that the three chief features of progress in foreign fields are accessions, extension and self support. The Missionaries believe the increase and extension will be comparatively small until the native Churches come to appreciate the importance of self-support; hence they are patiently instructing them in this direction. "History proves that a free Church is the most fruitful one."

With your permission I will make a few extracts from the report, just enough to indicate the character of the work being done:

"Although it is usual to judge the progress of evangelical work by the growth of churches, still this cannot in all cases lead to correct conclusions. Especially is this true of mission work in heathen lands.

Of the direct addresses to the people not more than one in ten are delivered to the regular congregations of the churches of Christian communities. The other nine are addressed to people in the streets and market places who in number far exceed those taught in regular congregations. We cannot doubt