

infused new vigor into the stereotyped life of the great populations placed under English rule, and are preparing them to be in every way better men and better citizens of the great empire in which they dwell."

India has been justly called the "Gibraltar of paganism." A vast population, fettered by rigid bonds of caste—"caste that would make it a curse for the shadow of one man to fall across another, or for two converts to drink out of the same sacramental cup;" its womanhood imprisoned in the Zenanas, unwelcome as a babe, untaught as a child, enslaved as a wife, despised as a widow, and unwept as dead; dominated chiefly by three great religious systems—Brahmanism, subtle and seductive; Buddhism, ethical but at heart atheistic; Mohammedanism, bigoted, merciless, dooming to death every follower of the prophet who even looked away from the crescent to the cross. Yet India is opening her heart to the gospel of the crucified One. The "Light of Asia" hastens to its setting; the "Light of the World" climbs the eastern sky.

Stipends of Home Missionaries.

A SHORT time ago a few friends, among them the Missionary Secretary, were seated at the hospitable board of one of our wealthy and liberal-minded laymen. The conversation turned for a time to the subject of missions, whereupon the host remarked: "Don't you think, Dr. Sutherland, that you should spend less on Foreign Missions and more on the Home work?" The answer was: "I wouldn't put it just that way. I would say, let us spend more on the Home work by all means, but not less on the Foreign." This little incident is related as an introduction to some remarks upon our Home Mission work, and to emphasize a thought that is finding expression in many quarters, namely, that our Home missionaries, for the most part, are wretchedly underpaid, and that the Church must—absolutely MUST—do something to remedy the evil complained of.

By way of further introduction, we will now submit a concrete case, representative of many more, premising that the extract which follows is from a letter recently received from a brother who has spent many years on Home Missions. For obvious reasons we withhold his name, but may say that he is a preacher of more than average ability, faithful, laborious, and successful in the work to which he has consecrated his life. Thus he writes:—

"I am sure that you and others in the East either do not realize, or else do not unhesitatingly accept our statements of the situation. I want you to read this carefully. After more than twenty years in our work, I am under the painful necessity of living in a 'shack' by myself—'keeping batch,' as it is familiarly called out here—doing my own cooking, and as far as practicable my own washing, etc. You may ask, perhaps, why not board out? For the simple reason that to do so would be to go hopelessly into debt, as the following facts will clearly show. We have in—about a dozen hotels, and I do not know of one where a man will be kept for less than \$10.50 a week. I tried it for about two months at the above figures, and had to abandon the idea, as I was going so fast behind I saw no chance of

catching up. Now, with a salary, including missionary grant, of \$375.00, you can see how I would come out at the end of the year. And you must remember that everything else is on a par with the price of board. I have paid \$50 for a suit of clothes. Now, I came to the—country, and I remain here out of loyalty and love to our cause. I knew that most likely a young man, with but limited experience, would be the only one available, and out of pity for such, and love for our Church, I volunteered. I had a unanimous invitation to one of the—city churches last Conference, but under the impression that my work here was not done, I would not accept. Now, is it unfair for me to ask, Is the sacrifice to be all on one side? I can, at next Conference, get my choice of nearly half-a-dozen places where I will have easier work and better pay, but that is not the question with me. I want to see the foundations of Methodism in this district deep and solid, and I know that a great deal depends on the stand we take now and for the next year or two."

The length of the foregoing extract prevents further comments at the present time, but it will be the text for a homily in our next issue.

A Great Need in Methodism.

RECENTLY a letter was received from the Rev. James Turner, one of our faithful and laborious Home missionaries, stationed at present on one of the missions in the Kamloops District, British Columbia. The letter was read before the Committee of Finance, and it was ordered that extracts from the same should be published in the OUTLOOK, so that the attention of the Church might be called to some special features of the work in one of those interior districts, where the very high cost of living calls for the exceptional treatment of some of our missionaries in regard to stipend, and where the circumstances of the people call imperatively for outside aid in erecting places of worship. For the present, we call attention to the last topic only, purposing to make the others the text of a separate article. Speaking of the Kootenay region of country, Bro. Turner says:—

"In a few years this will be the most important mining district on the continent—this, mind you, not on my own authority, but from men of the largest experience in the United States and elsewhere, who show, by investing largely in mining property, and town property as well, that they have implicit confidence in the future of the district. Now, we will want three new churches during the coming summer. I will want, at the least, \$2,000, besides the ground, so as to make the way clear. I am as confident as I am of my life that every cent advanced will be paid back, with interest, in the near future. . . . Kaslo, one year ago, had one house, now it has a population of nearly 1,000, and the foundation is laid for several other towns, which will grow just as the mines are developed. . . . Members of our Church are coming in, and many young men from Methodist homes who will be lost to us if we do not follow them up with the means of grace with which they are familiar. Two railways are to be built during next summer, and that will greatly increase our population, and we must try and keep pace with it. . . . Perhaps you are acquainted with some good brother who has \$2,000 that he can spare, and will lend it to the Lord and the Kootenay District for a given time; and if he has any doubt about how the money will be spent, if he can come during next summer and oversee the entire work, I will be only too glad to be relieved of the responsibility, and will let him have all the honor and a full share of the pleasure, and will give the only security I have to offer, namely, the church and land, and my own note, if accepted."