

We have seen enough of the famine, to know what want of rain means, to these poor people.

Saturday morning, from far and near, the people crowd outside the Compound gate, and wait for us to distribute grain to them. At first we gave rice, and then decided, if all who came were really needy, they would be glad to get a coarse kind of grain, of which, for the same amount of money, we could get a much larger quantity. This we did, and the numbers did not decrease. We have counted from two hundred to two hundred and seventy at one time.

I sometimes think my heart has grown hard, seeing so much of want and misery, since I came to India, but even yet, I know I have some keen heartaches, when I go among these poor sufferers and see their wretchedness. Many of them are so greedy, never seeming to care whether the one sitting next gets anything or not.

We have them sit in rows, and tell them to keep in their place until all are helped, but some times one who has been helped moves along slyly and sits among those who have not yet received their share, and so gets a double portion. Another manoeuvre is for one woman to claim a certain child and ask a share for it, then when we get along a little farther among the crowd, we find another woman possessing the same child, so as to get a double measure. I have keenly felt this ingratitude and then have been brought to examine myself and see that I am more ungrateful for what my Heavenly Father gives me than these people can possibly be, for what little we give them.

You remember in my last letter I told you that Somalingam's wife seemed near the Kingdom. The work of grace has been going on slowly and steadily, and about seven weeks ago, she asked for and received baptism. We had been praying and looking for this since her husband's baptism in the beginning of '04.

The wives of Veerasalayalu and Esvarou seem to show little, if any, interest in the gospel. Will you join with us in praying that they may be brought to feel their need of Christ, and give their hearts to Him who yearns over them and longs to make them His own?

When the Christ-life appears how it transforms and brightens! If Christ dwelt in each heathen home in Bimbi, what a transformation this would be!

This has been a good year throughout our Missions, and we feel encouraged. I know you have rejoiced with us, that so many have been brought into the light of the gospel of Jesus.

Yours in Him,
LILLIE P. MOHR.
— Tidings.

INDIA AS A MISSION FIELD.

There are at least four things that strongly recommend India as a field for missionary enterprise, and furnish reasons why the money of the Church, to even a still greater degree than heretofore, can be wisely expended there.

1. *The British government.* The immense importance to the missionary of friendliness on the part of the civil ruler can hardly be exaggerated. While the Christian worker may not desire active interference on his behalf, and would even repudiate any organic connection between Church and State, believing that all should be treated precisely alike, with even-handed justice, whatever their creed, nevertheless he does wish for complete protection

both for himself and his converts, and a hundred times in the year he sees what a difference the favorable influence of the secular power makes in his work.

The events of the past few years have shown with startling emphasis how easily and speedily a hostile government can greatly impede, if not entirely destroy, labors, that for a generation have been struggling hard for a foothold. We have seen how little regard a Roman Catholic or Greek Church power was disposed to give Protestant missionaries, and how even German officers, nominally Protestant, would not hesitate to hamper or prohibit the action of English-speaking preachers in the territories they acquired.

The disgraceful conduct of the French in robbing the London Missions at the instigation of the Jesuits in Madagascar, and the utter intolerance of Russia at all points, are well known; while the American treasure and blood has been nobly poured forth, seem likely to be wiped out through the cruelty of Turkey, the covetousness of Russia, and the heartlessness of Germany.

In bright contrast with all this is the unobstructed and unjeopardized ground for activity in British India. While the government is professedly neutral, as it should be, nevertheless its policy is decidedly helpful to the Christianization of the country. Through its grant-in-aid system a very large amount of money is bestowed upon the mission schools.

Its officers, both civil and military, are in very many cases decided Christians in something more than a nominal sense, and by their generous private contributions as well as personal influence largely aid the missionary. The latter has no hesitancy in appealing for protection in any exigency that may arise. It is promptly and effectively given, and his poorest convert is upheld in his rights, against every sort of persecution, by the whole force of the paramount power.

How much this means, and how very much it is worth, no one probably can fully appreciate who has not been in some of the trying situations so frequently arising on a mission field, where vast numbers of non-Christians surround a little handful of despised departers from the faith of their fathers.

What the missionaries themselves think of the advantages they derive from the British government may be seen from the resolution, unaniously and most heartily adopted by a standing vote at the great Clifton Springs meeting of the International Missionary Union last summer, where one hundred and fifty-five foreign workers convened. This is what they said:

"We recognize with devout gratitude to God the gain which has accrued to religious freedom in the world during the period of the reign of her majesty, Queen-Empress Victoria. As missionaries of various nationalities we rejoice in the liberty of speech and of the press secured to all persons in the United Kingdom and throughout the colonies of the British empire, and among the vast heathen and Mohammedan populations subject to its domination; and also in the legal and peaceful abolition of terrible iniquities and abominable customs which had existed in India, sanctioned by, though not an essential part of, the religions of its peoples. Wherever the British flag floats it affords equal protection to professors and propagators of all religious faiths. American and other non-British missionaries also now have in cases of need, often occurring in some regions, assistance as readily and fully extended to them by British officials as if they were loyal English subjects. The almost ubiquit-