

Government, which has now put on record its commendation of their benevolent labours for the benefit of the native population, and the happy results of these labours which are constantly becoming more apparent.

The hostile attitude of the East Indian Company towards missions is a great blot on its history, yet it must not be forgotten that its enterprise paved the way for the full establishment of British rule in India, and thus led to the free proclamation of the Gospel in that great and populous country. Open opposition and persecution have ceased, but you must not suppose that missionaries have no obstacles to overcome, or converts no persecution to endure, for this is far from being the case. Both native rulers and English officials often do all they can venture upon to hinder the missionary's efforts, and, as a rule, avowed conversion to Christianity is followed by persecution more or less severe. If no worse measures are taken by his friends, the young convert must expect to be driven from his home, and very often to lose his means of livelihood. Quite recent accounts tell of three Hindu lads, who had been baptized, having been poisoned by their friends, and becoming, in consequence, poor helpless idiots. Another account tells of a young lad who told his father he was a Christian, and was determined to be baptized. The father gave him several dreadful beatings to induce him to give up his new faith, but finding this fruitless he strapped him to a charpoy—native bedstead—and held lighted lamps to the soles of his feet till they were charred, and he was preparing to put him to death when the police arrived and put a stop to his cruel proceedings.

These instances will show you that it is not an easy thing for a Hindu to confess Christ, but Christianity is growing in public favour, and it is hoped that opposition and cruelty to those who profess it will soon cease.

QUESTIONS.

In what year, and how did the East India Company originate? In what way did this Company acquire large possessions and great power in India? How were these provinces ruled and kept in subjection? In what ways did the Directors of the Company show their opposition to missions? What law was in force for a number of years? How was Mr. Haldane treated? Tell