

I believe that nearly every one of the forty was utterly neglected, and in due time drifted back into carelessness and indifference. A lesson which missionaries in all foreign countries are very slow to learn is, that the humblest converts have rights. It is for them to say what their ecclesiastical affiliations shall be, and if, for instance, they chance to live within the limits of a field in which the missionaries tolerate caste, no low caste convert should be compelled to join such a mission. It was recently said in print, that at this present hour there is a whole village of inquirers in Southern India, willing and anxious to be baptized, but who are denied their right because they chance to live a very short distance beyond a boundary line which was laid down long years ago by parties long since dead. These poor people, for reasons which they have a perfect right to entertain, refused to go to the missionaries to whom they were sent, and hence are kept in nominal heathenism, contrary to the spirit of the New Testament, and contrary to the spirit of Christian justice.

9. This policy interferes with the normal progress of the gospel. We ought to look forward to the time when Christianity will free itself from the narrow limits of the mission house and mission agencies, and begin to advance over the country from heart to heart and from village to village, by a steady process of normal growth. Whenever it becomes a living, indigenous Christianity, it will advance in this way. In some places we see indications of such advance for which we ought to be devoutly thankful. I was told recently that the well-known movement among the Telugus in Southern India is steadily creeping northward. It is becoming more and more a normal outgrowth, and it will advance from heart to heart and from village to village on lines which no human wisdom can either mark out or obliterate. We may as well try to legislate against the advance of white ants as against the advance of a movement which is simply a normal outgrowth of vital Christianity. In western Rohilkhund, on perhaps a smaller scale, a similar advance has been noted. The people have relatives or fellow caste men, and becoming earnest Christians, they speak to these friends of Christ, who in turn becoming interested, wish to be Christians, and in this way Christianity has crossed the Ganges at many points and is moving westward. The missionary, or the native preacher, as the case may be,

does not lead, but follows such a movement as this. He is told of inquirers in such and such a place, goes over to them, baptizes them, and organizes them into a church. If India is ever to be a Christian empire, similar movements will be witnessed all over this vast country. But all such movements will ignore the artificial boundary lines which have been laid down by men who could not anticipate the developments of the coming years. I have been much perplexed by some of these movements myself, but some years ago became convinced that the only way open to one who wished to follow where God led, was carefully and conscientiously and tenderly to nourish and cherish every such development of normal Christian growth. Missionaries everywhere should hail every such appearance with joy, and pray that what is the exception may quickly become universal.

10. This policy ignores the special call which the Holy Spirit so often gives to the Christian preacher. Paul and Silas were Spirit-led, and they planted permanent churches where they preached. If India is ever brought to Christ, many successors to these men will yet appear. Could such men work in India as Paul worked? It is constantly said that Paul never built on other men's foundations, but this policy forbids a man to dig for his own foundation. If when Paul reached Philippi he had been met by a deputation of brethren, telling him that they had a monopoly of all the foundation-laying in Greece and Macedonia, and directing him to go elsewhere, he would have instantly replied, "Not for an hour!" It is not probable that India will ever see another Paul, but that she will see hundreds of men of like spirit is certain, and we should open a way for them rather than close it against them.

Let us in the next place glance briefly at the proposed code of inter-missional rules. Such a code, if agreed upon with practical unanimity by all the societies interested, would, no doubt, be of value as a guide to young missionaries, and it would also greatly influence public opinion which in the long run will be found the chief factor in settling points in controversy. But it is nearly certain that any attempt to give such rules the force of laws will end in failure, and probably aggravate the evils which they are intended to prevent. A somewhat elaborate code of this kind was actually adopted in the Panjab about a quarter of a century ago, but it proved a dead