

INTRODUCTION

We welcome Mr. Taylor's book, giving the story of our Central India Mission. Such a book is long overdue. Formosa and Central India are the two Foreign Mission Fields of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (Western Section) whose origin dates back to the years immediately following the Union of 1875. The outstanding personality and unique achievements of George Leslie Mackay appealed to the imagination of Canadians and created a demand for some permanent record of his life and work. This story, so well told by himself and edited by Dr. J. A. Macdonald, has familiarized the whole Church with the history of our Mission in Formosa ; but in the larger field of Central India, with a greater number of Missionaries and a more varied type of work, no one personality commanded attention in quite the same way. No one life story could give the history of the Mission, and, apart from "The Redemption of Malwa," a very valuable account of the origin and early development of the Mission by Rev. W. A. Wilson, D.D., and those illuminating sketches of "Village Work in India," by Rev. Norman Russell, there has been nothing on Central India available for Missionary Libraries and Mission Study Classes.

Mr. Taylor has written the book we need. In few words he presents the call and claim of India with its 315,000,000 people—one-fifth of the world's inhabitants and three-fourths of the population of the British Empire. Briefly he sketches the history and describes