

Among the miseries which heathenism brings to India is the destruction of human life by snakes and wild beasts. As life is sacred, and beasts are worshipped, the natives will not kill even the most poisonous reptiles. In such a country as India there might not be official returns of even one tenth part of the deaths, and yet for last year "the records show that 1,165 persons and eighty-one cattle died from the bite of venomous reptiles, and that sixty five persons and 2,252 cattle were slain by savage beasts. The natives, of course, will do nothing to destroy their gods, and so long as snakes and wild animals are worshipped the work of exterminating them must be left to the English residents, who appear determined to immortalize themselves at the business. The past twelve months they expended 12,754 rupees in rewards for the destruction of 339,472 snakes and 964 wild animals. But even at this rapid rate it will take a long while to exterminate the constantly multiplying hordes of deified reptiles and beasts."

Mission work in India appears to be advancing another stage. The *Philadelphia Presbyterian* says that the Foreign Mission committee of the Alliance of the Reformed Churches, at a meeting held lately in London, considered a movement which has made considerable headway, and which is likely to lead to important results. It is a movement looking towards the formation of a native Presbyterian Church in India. Information has been received that in the closing days of the year 1889, a large committee, consisting of representatives from every Presbytery or body corresponding thereto, met in the city of Calcutta. This committee divided itself into three sections, as follows:—1, On Local Organization. 2. On Doctrine. 3, On Polity and Worship. These committees agreed on reports which were presented to the Indian branch of the Alliance, and the following resolution was adopted: "That whereas there is nothing in Doctrine, Polity, or Worship, to keep the Presbyterian churches in India apart, and

whereas the interests of Christianity, more especially from a missionary point of view, will be advanced by their union, it is resolved that the Committee on Presbyterian Union be appointed a Committee of the Alliance to formulate a basis of union on the lines of the resolutions arrived at to-day, and send it to the various Presbyteries and bodies corresponding thereto, for approval, and transmission to the home authorities for their sanction." A constitution is to be prepared for the new church based on the constitutions of the Presbyterian churches in Europe and America. The doctrinal basis recommended is:—1, The Apostle's Creed; 2, The Nicene Creed; 3, A Modern Statement of Doctrine.

DEATH OF REV. JAMES T. BLAIR.

At Florenceville, N. B., March 26th, Rev. James T. Blair passed to his rest being about forty years of age.

At his home in St. John, when about 25 years of age he decided to devote himself to the work of the ministry. Taking a regular course of study at Dalhousie College and at the Halifax Theological Hall spending the summers in labour in the Home Mission field of New Brunswick, he completed his course and was licensed on the 3rd of May, 1887, and on June 9th of the same year he was ordained as missionary of the Home Missionary station of Florenceville, etc. The field prospered under his labors and about nine months afterwards was raised to the status of a regular congregation and Mr. Blair was called as their pastor. He was inducted March 20th, 1888, and labored faithfully for just two years when the summons came to a higher sphere of service.

He took *la grippe*, and afterwards contracted a cold which brought on pneumonia and ended in death, after a very short illness.

Mr. Blair was a man of more than ordinary beauty of character and was beloved by all who knew him. His work was short, but he lived not in vain. To Mrs. Blair and her little ones in their sudden and sore bereavement many hearts will go out in sympathy.