

THE MISSION FIELD.

BRITISH GUIANA.

The venerable Bishop of British Guiana, and Primate of the West Indian Province, who has just completed his 77th year, went on a visit to the Potaro Missions in October. The Stations visited included the Mahahie Falls, where Mr. Pierce and his family were drowned, in 1882; the Mission Church, at the Dallic Waterside, and S. John's, Bartica Grove; here he held a Confirmation, and visited the convicts at the penal settlement. On October 18th he reached the Ichourah Mission; and here the account leaves the bishop and party, many of the risks and efforts of the journey having yet to be surmounted.

On the suggestion of the bishop, thanksgiving services were held in many of the churches in the diocese in connection with the Seabury Centenary.

MADRAS.

The census of 1881 showed that out of a population of 31,170,631 in the Presidency of Madras, there are 711,072 Christians—a proportion of 23 Christians in the 1000, an increase of 30.39 per cent. when compared with the census of 1871. The largest increase is in Tinnevely, the numbers amounting here to 38,375, bringing the total to 140,946. Next to Tinnevely come Madura and Tanjore, but the percentage of Christians to the whole population is largest in the city of Madras. In Tinnevely, the most Christian of the rural districts, 8 2/3 per cent. of the population is Christian. In all the large rural Christian communities the proportion of females is very high. In new districts the converts appear to be chiefly males. The proportion of Christians living in towns is very much higher than the proportion for the whole population. In the proportion of Christians to the population, the Province of Madras stands first; next, British Burmah; third, Coorg; fourth, Bombay; fifth, Bengal. The Roman Mission, founded three and a half centuries ago, has the largest hold in the country. The Church of England ranks next, and claims two-thirds of the remainder. The highest advance in education is found in the city of Madras, where there are 4,142 educated native Christians. In the 48 municipal towns in the Presidency of Madras, the proportion of those who are educated or under instruction is 36.66 Hindus, 30 Mohammedans, and 52 Christians. In education both Hindus and Mohammedans are outnumbered by Christians.

BOMBAY.

Archdeacon Matthew, of Colombo, in a letter describing a visit to Bombay, says:—"I was fortunate enough to stay in St. John's Mission House

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at Mazagon, some two miles from the Fort, and very quickly and happily the three or four days passed during which I was there. The regular ways of the house, the frequent opportunities of prayer, the quietness, and yet the brightness, of its inmates impressed me very much. I never felt before so much convinced of the truth that God's service is perfect freedom, and that losing our life here for Christ's sake is the finding it in the highest and truest sense. There is a daily celebration of the Holy Communion in the Church, and usually in the Sisters' Chapel as well. The Sisters, who are living close by, have two excellent high schools for girls under their care—one in the Fort, called the Cathedral High School, and another in the Home at Mazagon. Both are large and important schools. There is a large boys' school at Mazagon in the same compound, and a home for lads, who are at school or in offices in the city, as well as a little Marathi Mission, which is under the care of Mr. Lord, who, before long, hopes to go on to the work for which he is specially designed, viz., a mission to the Jews, of whom there are large numbers in Bombay." Archdeacon Matthew preached in Bombay Cathedral for the Colombo Bishopric Fund, and 340 rupees were collected during the day. He also visited the Colaba and Byculla Churches. "St. John's, Colaba, is a most beautiful church, the finest I have seen in the East. It was built as a memorial to those who fell in the first Afghan war. Its spire is almost the first object seen as you enter the harbour." He also visited the "Towers of Silence," where the Parsees expose their corpses to the vultures. Whilst he was in Bombay the eclipse of the moon took place. The noise in the streets was very great, the people appealing to a supposed giant, begging him to let the moon go and give her light.

The report of S. P. G. Tamil Mission in Bombay states that the present congregation amounts to 235, a scattered flock, kept together with

difficulty. The people are not by their origin inhabitants of Bombay, but foreigners, having come from the Madras Presidency, differing greatly in language and modes of life from those among whom they live. They are scattered through the whole of the Island of Bombay. The majority of them are domestics in occupation, such as butlers, hammals, cooks, nurses, amahs, ayahs, and coolies, and the rest are draughtsmen or clerks, fitters or mechanics, brakesmen or guards, firemen or drivers, &c., working in various offices or firms, or on the railways. The non-Christian Tamils in Bombay and Poona number about 6,000. Some of them are merchants; others are mechanics or servants. At Mahim, nine miles to the north of Bombay, there are a considerable number of Tamil Mussulmans, chiefly merchants; and about 700 Tamil Hindus, labouring in the tannery. An attempt has been made to maintain a mixed day-school here. There are some Christian families both here and at Igatpuri.

The Church statistics of the United States for the year 1884, show an increase in all particulars except ordinations, where there is a decrease of 47 to the diaconate and 25 to the priesthood. The net increase of the clergy is 86, the deaths numbering 56. The increase in baptisms is 2,637; in confirmations, 4,171; in communicants, 17,891; and in contributions, \$723,437.45.

The whole number of Anglican clergy, including those of the American communion, is stated at 29,000; of these 21,000 are in England. The whole number of bishops is 223, and of them twenty are retired. In England there are forty bishops to sixty-nine in America. In another decade the ratio will possibly be two to one.

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