

God's own chosen people worshipping, in this distant land, the God of their fathers, and as they chanted forth in mournful cadence the old songs of Israel, we thought of the words, "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land."

These people have been in this place from time immemorial. In the year 388 A. D., they received from the Brahmin prince of Malabar a copper grant conferring the place upon them. The synagogue is a plain edifice, with a small belfry and clock about 200 years old. The floor is neatly paved with china tiles, and at one end of the room there is a gilt recess veiled with a rich curtain ; behind these are folding doors, and within are five copies of the Pentateuch in silver cases, with covers of rich brocade. The copies are written in Hebrew on vellum. Separated by a hall from the room where the men worship is a smaller room in which the women sit, apart from the men hidden with railing and net-work. I believe there is much bitter feeling between these two classes of people. The Black Jews claim that they were the first to land in the place, whilst the White Jews claim a like honour. Looking at the people, one would be inclined to decide in favour of the White Jews, as they seem to have preserved very markedly the Jewish caste of face, whilst one would judge that the Black Jews had intermingled in marriage with the surrounding people. They marry and inter-marry among themselves, but a White Jew would not marry a Black Jew, and *vice versa*.

Coming out of the synagogue we were met by a young Syrian Christian, who is engaged in Mission work among the Jews. We had quite an interesting talk with him, not only about the Jews, but also concerning his own people.

You know the Syrian Christians claim that Cochin was the place where St. Thomas landed and built his church ; they claim to be direct descendants of the church. We visited with him