

HYMN.

RUTHERFORD.

Roll on, thou mighty ocean,
 And as thy billows flow,
 Bear messengers of mercy
 To every land below.
 Arise, ye gales, and waft them
 Safe to the destined shore,
 That man may sit in darkness
 And death's black shade no more.

O Thou eternal Ruler,
 Who holdest in thine arm
 The tempest of the ocean,
 Protect them from all harm.
 Thy presence e'er be with them
 Wherever they may be;
 Though far from those who love them
 Still let them be with Thee.

W. M. S. HYMNAL.

FIELD STUDY FOR JUNE.

Our field this month is India, and a most wonderful country it is. As you know our beloved Queen is Empress of that splendid empire, and since her reign the population has greatly increased. Before that infanticide, the killing of infants, was common, and war and all kinds of oppression kept down the population. In 1891 it was 286,000,000. So India contains more people than all Europe, leaving out Russia; ten times the population of England, or one-fifth of the human race! The Province of Bengal alone contains a population greater than the United States with all British North America!

Every form of religion is represented in India. All kinds of Idolatries. There are many great temples there, but the worship of their gods is one of superstition and degradation—the offerings to them are made in fear and not in love. Fear of their anger or revenge. These people have a special claim on our prayers, for God has given this magnificent country into the hands of our nation, doubtless with a view to its salvation; and yet there is not one missionary now to each quarter of a million of its people. Probably more than half the inhabitants of India have never once had the gospel preached to them. Yet there is great encouragement to send it, for India is said to be more open to Christian efforts than any other portion of the heathen world. Heathen customs are giving place to ideas and usages which, at least, lean toward Christianity. Caste, that dividing line between the classes of people, which was so strong that a high caste man or woman could not go near one of low caste for fear of defilement, is gradually breaking down under the slow spread of a Christian civilization. The condition of the child wives of India is somewhat improved by a law which raises the age of marriage several years, though in this country it would still

seem absurdly young. You have all heard of Pundita Ramabai's school for child widows; she is doing a noble work in giving an education to these poor little outcasts, and so making life brighter and better for all those who are fortunate enough to attend it. But alas, there are thousands of little widows who are still in degradation and misery. Let us go on praying for them, if we can do nothing more. We have no mission there yet, but the Methodist Episcopal church of America is doing a grand work there. Thousands are entering the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, and they have 1200 native teachers.

There are other christian schools in India. Long ago there were hardly any schools except for Brahmin boys, who sat out under a verandah and studied aloud as the boys do in China. For slates they had boards covered with sand in which they wrote their lessons. One reason why girls did not go to school then was because they were married before you would be old enough to go. The common houses have mud floors; all the cooking is done over a mud fire place in one corner. They sit on the floor and eat with their fingers. Men and women do not eat together; the wives serve their husbands first and themselves afterwards. The women of India are more fond of jewelry and ornaments than of clothes. The Bible women and lady missionaries do much good in the zenanas and homes of the women.

S. E. S.

QUESTIONS FOR JUNE.

- What can you say of India?
- Who is Empress of India?
- Why is the population increased since her reign?
- What was it in 1891?
- How does it compare with other countries?
- What is the religion of India?
- What kind of worship?
- In what spirit are offerings made to the gods?
- Why have these people a special claim on our prayers?
- How many have heard the Gospel?
- Is there any encouragement to send it?
- What is one of the signs?
- What can you tell of caste?
- What has improved the condition of the child wives of India?
- What is Pundita Ramabai doing for the child widows?
- Can we do anything for those who are still neglected and wretched?
- Have we a Mission there?
- What church is doing good work? What are the signs?
- Are there other Christian schools in India?
- Will you tell about the schools they had long ago?
- Give one reason why girls did not till recently go to school?
- What about the houses in India?
- What are some of the eating customs?
- What do the women of India delight in?
- Mention one great means of good?