

CONVERSIONS TO CHRISTIANITY.

(TWO HINDU FAMILIES RECEIVED INTO THE CHRISTIAN FOLD.)

There was joy in heaven above, we believe, as was certainly the case here on earth when Sunday, the 24th instant, God's people poured forth their lays of praise and thanksgiving over two remarkable baptisms that took place in Madras—one in connection with the United Free Church of Scotland Mission and the other with the C. M. S.

At 8.30 a.m., the College Church was full to overflowing with Christian and non-Christian people. A very large number of students, chiefly of the Christian College, were present to witness the ceremony of baptism of Mr. Audinarayana Iyah, B.A., B.L., District Munsiff of Shiyali, and his family. Mr. Audinarayana Iyah being himself an old student of the Christian College, the present students flocked largely to witness the ceremony, and were silent, reverent, though astonished spectators, of the unique event. In the course of the usual morning service, after the sermon by the Rev. P. B. Ragaviah, the pastor of the church, the Rev. Dr. Miller delivered a most touching address, in which he gave expression to some stirring thoughts which left a deep impression on his hearers. He said that that large gathering had met together to witness the open profession of the Christian faith of the heads of a family who had long ago given their hearts to Christ. The change of faith had been brought about by honest search after truth and in God's own time they had been led to make this open confession. God had not left the nations of the world without any witness. We are making a sad mistake if we think that one religion alone contains all the truths revealed by God. There are gleams of truth in every religion and there are witnesses to God's mercy and truth even outside the pale of Christianity; but it is nevertheless a fact that in the crucified and risen Christ we find the central source of all truth and those who recognize this fact in all its fullness are bound to make open confession of Christ. He spoke to the recipients of baptism, earnestly asking them to look up to Christ and not to the Church and its dogmas for their guidance and their salvation. After the exhortation Mr. P. Audinarayana Iyah with his eldest son was baptized by Dr. Miller.

Mrs. Audinarayana Iyah was then baptized by Mr. Ragaviah, who explained to her in Tamil what baptism meant and took from her the usual promises of loyalty and duty to the Master and to His Church. Then the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Audinarayana Iyah, presented their little ones, boys and girls, for baptism and they were all baptized by Mr. Ragaviah. Though severely simple, the service throughout was most impressive and the sight witnessed by those who were privileged to do so that morning, will not be forgotten for many a long day in Madras.

This unique event cannot fail to produce its results in God's own time. It is but the beginning of the realization of Dr. Miller's hopeful dreams, the first fruits as it were of the large harvest of souls in India, which his faith's eye saw years ago when he laid the foundation of the Christian College, and it is no wonder then that he was so deeply moved as he addressed his old boy.

Mr. Audinarayana Iyah has solved one of the most difficult problems that confronts some of the would-be converts to Christianity by waiting patiently for his wife and leading her also to Christ and many an old convert present on the occasion must have felt that they, in their day, had not the same privilege and pleasure of leading their families with them into the Christian fold. The service ended as usual with the benediction pronounced by Mr. Ragaviah.

The same day, at 4 p.m., the Zion Church, Chintadripett, witnessed another interesting ceremonial of baptism. This service was also crowded. The candidate for baptism was Mr. T. J. Kadirvel Nayanar with his wife and two children. After a processional hymn, the usual evening service was gone through, in which and in the baptismal service that followed the Rev. Messrs. J. S. Peter, V. Guanamuttu, J. Sathianadhan, M. D. Clarke and E. Sell took part. Before the baptism Mr. Nayanar gave a short account of the way in which he was led to seek Christ. It may interest our readers to know that the example of Mr. Audinarayana Iyah and family had been greatly helpful to Mr. Nayanar and his wife and hence the arrangement made for the baptism of these two families on the very same day. The sermon on the occasion was preached by the Rev. E. Sell, from the text—"I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." It was a most practical sermon and was translated into Tamil by Mr. Clarke for the benefit of those who did not know English.

STATEMENTS BY MR. AUDINARAYANA IYAH, B.A., B.L., AND MR. KADIRVEL NAYANAR.

At a meeting which was held in the Saththianadhan Memorial Hall on Sunday evening last at 6 p.m., Mr. Audinarayana Iyah, B.A., B.L., and Mr. T. J. Kadirvel Nayanar gave interesting accounts of their religious history. The Hall was crowded with Christian friends from all congregations and there was also a large number of Hindus. Mr. Audinarayana Iyah, who was received with enthusiastic cheers, said that he was not prepared to make a long speech, but he felt it his duty to say something about the steps that had led him to search the truth according to his own light, which consummated in being admitted that morning into the Christian fold along with his wife and children. He belonged to one of the most orthodox and oldest Brahmin families in Southern