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No. IV.

**Missions in India.\***

"Oh! doomed victorics from thy wounds to rise,  
 Dejected India, lift thy down cast eyes;  
 And mark the hour, whose faithful steps for thee,  
 Through times' pressed ranks, bring on the Jubilee!"

**T**HE AREA of India is about 1,558,254 square miles, or half the size of the Dominion of Canada. From the northern extremity of the Punjab, to Cape Comorin in the south, it measures 1830 miles. Its greatest breadth is about the same. Its population is estimated at from 240 to 250 millions. The prevailing religions are Buddhism, Brahmanism, and Mohammedanism. The first contains many excellent moral precepts and maxims but, practically, it is utterly powerless to beget wisdom or virtue. It is a religion of atheism. Its doctrines of merit teaches its devotees to believe in the transmigration of souls. "If any man sin," it tells him to build a pagoda or carve an idol. It threatens him with degradation into a soulless brute. It leaves him without hope and without God in the world. Brahmanism is idolatry in its most debasing forms. It has 330 millions of gods, but no creed. Sun, moon, and stars are deified. Stocks and stones, or a lump of clay smeared with red paint, are converted into objects of superstitious reverence. The rites which it imposes are impure and sensual, and the effect produced upon the mind utterly debasing.

\* BROWN'S HISTORY OF MISSIONS: 3 vols, 1864. LIFE OF ALEX. DUFF, D. D., by Rev. Dr. Smith: 2 vols, 1879. Toronto, J. Campbell & Son. MISSIONS OF AMERICAN BOARD, by Dr. R. Anderson, Boston, 1874. THE MISSIONARY REVIEW, Princeton, N. J., edited by Rev. R. G. Wilder, formerly of Bombay. THREE QUARTERS OF A CENTURY OF MISSIONARY EFFORTS IN BENGAL, a lecture by Rev. Dr. Jardine, of Chatham, N. B., formerly of Calcutta.

Mohammedanism differs from the other two in that it is not idolatrous. It professes a reverence for the Supreme Being. But like all human systems of religion it is unsatisfactory. It does not meet the wants of the soul. It recognizes no divine mediator between God and man. Maintained by the sword, it exercises a cruel and despotic sway over the minds of its votaries. It is remorselessly intolerant and persecuting, deprives men of liberty, upholds slavery and polygamy, and degrades women to the level of the brutes. It is one of the most powerful Anti-Christian systems in the world, holding under its iron sway 176 millions of the human race.

A tradition prevails that Christianity was first introduced into India by St. Thomas the Apostle. However that may be, when the Portuguese arrived in India, A. D. 1500, they found a large body of professing Christians, with upwards of a hundred churches, who traced their history for thirteen hundred years through a succession of bishops to the Patriarch of Antioch. These Hindus resisted all attempts of the Portuguese priests to convert them to the Romish faith. "We are Christians," said they, "and do not worship idols." Some of them were seized and put to death as heretics. Their bishop, Mar Joseph, was sent a prisoner to Portugal, yielded subjection to the Pope and was sent back to India. Divisions soon afterwards arose among the people. The churches were scattered. After a time the inquisition was established at Goa. Many were compelled to embrace the religion of Rome, though a remnant still remains, retaining their ancient rites, liturgy and ministry, and are known by their former name—"The Syrian Christians of Malabar." In 1542 the famous Francis Xavier arrived at Goa, at that time the Portuguese seat of Government in India. He