

## MISSION FIELD.

## MISSION WORK IN INDIA.

The Rev. T. Walker, late curate of St. James's, Holloway, who recently went out to Tinnevelly, has just sent home his first annual letter, and as he is a novice in the missionary field, with no definite work of his own to record, he sends his first impressions of the work which he finds in progress there as the result of the past labours of God's faithful servants. He says that all that he has seen existing there in the shape of a Native Church fills him with gratitude to God. "But this Native Church has reached the stage when it needs strengthening by the special prayers of friends in England, and by the constant 'touch' (if I may call it so) of the parent stock. It has not reached the stage of the missionary 'enthusiasm.' He adds that it is the earnest prayer of all who are on the spot that Bishop Sargent may long be spared to direct it. Speaking of his own feelings Mr. Walker says:—"I should like to express my thankfulness for the privilege which has thus fallen to my lot. There is no shadow of regret as I look back. The fears entertained about my health have hitherto proved groundless, and I have been quite as robust in India as I was in England. This may be an encouragement to other young clergy at home, whose friends at present hold them back on the score of risk to health. Then, again, I have found in the mission-field a very real 'communion of saints.' I shall always thank God for bringing me to Palamcotté, into the midst of a little company of devoted missionaries. For the example set before me by Bishop Sargent and by the other missionaries both of the C.M.S., and C.E.Z.M.S. I owe Him a deep debt of gratitude. To me, coming from a warm centre of Christian love and unity in England, this has been no trifling boon. I ought to say that Bishop Sargent has been like a father to me, and his advice and kindness have been invaluable. One thing more it is only just to say. I never had any special wish to come to India, China, or some other modern field, with its romantic surroundings, had more attraction for me; but now I can see the wisdom of the choice of those in whose hands I placed myself for guidance. To come to India as a missionary means to love India and to desire to win it for the Master. Romance aside, I am sure that it is well for young clergymen, like myself, to place themselves unreservedly in the hands of those who know best the needs of the foreign field. I can only say, looking back, that it has been good for my own soul that I am as I am and where I am, and that I can recommend the king's foreign service (though it be but barrack service, like mine at present) to the Junior Clergy Union at home.

Nothing good is to be obtained here below save through sacrifice.

## EASTERN EQUATORIAL AFRICA.

We understand that a letter has been received by the C.M.S. from Bishop Parker describing the condition of certain villages he has visited in the neighbourhood of Frere Town, and giving the conclusions he has arrived at with regard to future work in that district. These the Bishop states as follows:—

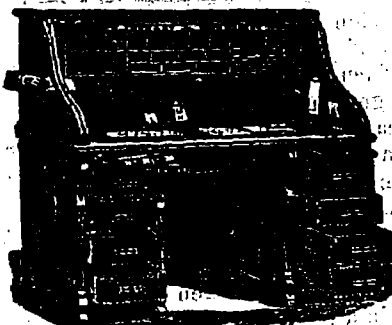
(1.) That it is not advisable to lead out a colony from Frere Town to any part of the Giriama country.

(2.) That it is not desirable at present to build in this district any mission house, or have resident there what you may call a station missionary. I think if a missionary settled down like this, he could hardly prevent runaway slaves (most of them men who had really misbehaved themselves) from coming and putting themselves under his protection. He would thus unintentionally displease their masters, give a handle to the Swahilis to make mischief against us, and so close the open door for the Gospel which there now seems to be among the Giriama.

(3.) That it is undesirable for the C.M.S. to have anything to do with Fuladoyo, which keeps on growing larger from continued fresh accessions of runaway slaves, and is already divided up into "two towns."

(4.) On the other hand, that the C.M.S. ought to preach the Gospel in this district. They should remember the scattered Christians there, some of whom have already lapsed back into heathenism from neglect. Here is a fine field for itinerating missionary work. The state of spiritual darkness and degradation of the people is, I think, more pitiable than anything I have met with in India. We do not want them to be left to draw their notions of God and His Book from the Swahilis. I was also pained when one man turned round to Mr. Binns and said it was a lie that Christians are required to give up drunkenness, for Europeans get drunk. We want to get in now and place before them the truth in all its beauty before they get perverted notions of it, and they will then find out that we are truer friends to them than the Swahilis, and we shall win their confidence. I understand from Mr. Binns that itinerating Missions, such as I am recommending, are new in Africa; there details will have to be shaped as the work goes on. But our immediate want is another man to take up this work, for I am told that no portion of the Scriptures has yet been translated into the Giriama language, and no missionary now in the field knows that language well, though Mr. Binns knows a good deal. I ask definitely if the society is prepared to make a sustained effort to spread the Gospel in Giriama.

That "God shall wipe away all tears" is only another way of telling you that nothing in heaven will cause the sorrow which brings tears.



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