

Bishop Warren and myself baptized 300 at one service. Here is a picture showing a scene of this kind, which was most impressive. Two women led a blind old man fifteen miles to be baptized, and he was greatly disappointed to find that they had arrived too late. A special service was held for his benefit and he went home happy.

*Have any of the Hindoo priests been converted?*

Yes, several of them. This photograph presents four Methodist preachers who, not long ago, were heathen priests.



A GRADUATING CLASS OF THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS IN INDIA.

The second from the left is rather a remarkable character. I noticed him attending our services for a number of times. One afternoon he was sitting on the ground with his long matted hair falling over his shoulders, an object of indescribable filth and wretchedness. The hair had been allowed to grow for twenty years and was full of ashes, which had been plastered into it to keep down the vermin.

"What are you doing here?" I said.

He replied, "I want to become a Christian."

"When?"

"Right now."

"Are you willing to lose your hair?"

"Yes, cut it off right away."

The scissors were brought, and the sacred locks were soon shorn away. This man became a devoted Christian and is now one of our most successful Methodist preachers.

Here is an interesting photograph of a village choir of men who play on peculiar native instruments and sing wonderfully well. Their musical talent is encouraged and consecrated to God's work. If I were to bring this choir to Toronto, after they had sung once or twice, there would not be a building large enough to hold the people who would want to hear them.

*Are the native preachers of much service in extending the knowledge of Christianity?*

They afford very valuable help, and because of their intimate knowledge of the native character, and familiarity with the customs of the country, are often able to deal with heathen objectors more successfully than the missionary. Of course, they sometimes make mistakes which are occasionally amusing. Upon one occasion, when a great multitude of Hindus were gathered together, the missionaries became utterly exhausted in preaching to them, and as the people wanted to hear more, a young native preacher was put up to speak.

He commenced by saying, "What is it that makes the British people such a great nation? Once they were poor heathen just like we are, without any knowledge of the true God, but the American missionaries went over and preached to them. The Americans brought the light of the Gospel to

these British people and that is what makes them so powerful to-day."

This explanation had certainly the merit of novelty.

*Are the native Christians subjected to persecution by the heathen?*

They have to submit to many petty annoyances, but no serious damage is inflicted upon life or property. This is largely owing to the fact that India is under British control, and where the red-cross flag flies there is liberty and protection. With so many tribes, factions and castes in India there would be anarchy if the strong protecting hand of Great Britain should be withdrawn. Like all the other American missionaries I am enthusiastic over what England has done for this great country.

*Have you any Epworth League organization in India?*

I rather think we have, and a lively one it is, too. At the present times there are nearly 20,000 members of the Epworth League in connection with our Church. The young people are taking hold of the work very earnestly, and much good has been accomplished by their efforts. Once every two years we hold an All-India Convention, which is an occasion of much interest. At one gathering of this kind there were banners displayed bearing mottoes in twenty different languages spoken by delegates coming from various parts.

*What effect did the last great famine have upon missionary work in India?*

The people were very much impressed by the large-hearted generosity of the people of England and America, and they understood that it was largely through the influence of Christian churches that these gifts were sent to them. They are, therefore, predisposed to listen favorably to the message brought by the Christian missionary.

*What about the Plague?*

Well, the plague is a mystery. It is carrying off about 23,000 a week, and the doctors do not seem able to check its progress. They do not understand its nature and have not discovered any means of cure.

*Do you believe in Medical Missions?*

With all my heart. The natives have very little knowledge of medicine and trust largely to charms, astrology, etc., in cases of disease. Much good has been accomplished by our Christian doctors, but the difficulty has been that our evangelistic work has grown so rapidly, and its claims are so pressing that many of the medical missionaries have been forced to give up their own work and give all their time to preaching and pastoral labors. We can get converts wherever we can put in workers. The great need just now is for an increase in missionary givings, that more laborers may be sent out.

*Have you any Missionary News from the Philippine Islands?*

Eleven missionaries connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church are at work there, and although we have only been on the ground since 1900, we now have 8,000 members and it is safe to say that there are 20,000 enquirers after the truth. We have 35 chapels and churches built altogether by the people themselves. In some cases the natives have erected a little church before they have asked for a missionary at all. They have reasoned thus: "We want to know the truth and would like a Christian minister to come to us, but we must have a place for him to preach in, let us build a church."

The people of the Philippine Islands fairly hate the friars because of their greed and licentiousness. Dr. Stuntz, of Manila, says he never saw a friar walk alone on the street,