

view. Our subject was the "Pilgrim's Progress," and the pictures of Christian reading the book, leaving his family and relatives, etc., were particularly interesting and suggestive in a town where several men of influence have had to come out and stand alone for Christ's sake and the Gospel. The slides were well explained, with special adaptation to the circumstances of the audience around us. Much interest was exhibited. Unfortunately, a shower of very heavy rain curtailed somewhat our preaching, and sent us home drenched to the skin.

3. *A Proud People*.—We had an interesting time at Rajapalayam, where a large community reside who wear the sacred thread and claim to be descendants of the ancient chatriyar, or warrior caste. It was not our first visit, and I knew some of the leading men there, having had a public talk on religion with them in a rest-house on a previous occasion. They gathered to hear us in great crowds, as it was the wedding season, and all were, so to speak, at home. One of the leading men came several times to our tent. He acknowledges that the Gospel is the true religion, but has no heart conviction. Pride of birth keeps these people back. There is one interesting case of inquiry, however. A poor Christian woman is employed as servant in one of these Raja houses. She took every opportunity of speaking quietly about the Gospel to her heathen mistress. And now this proud Raja woman has so far forgotten her pride as to come frequently to our little prayer house and inquire for herself the way of salvation. From all we hear, she seems a sincere and earnest catechumen.

Illustrations might be multiplied. Suffice it to say that a quiet work of "witnessing" to the Gospel is going on, and there have been accessions from heathenism during the year.

4. *Work among the Women* is not forgotten.—The other day Mrs. Walker went out with a pastor's wife and some Christian women to visit a large cotton press where numbers of women are employed. The manager kindly allowed them to hold a service in the room where all the heathen women were at work. With lyrics and short addresses they were able to interest the women and tell them the story of the Saviour. In some of the leading houses, they were well received, and the whole family gathered to hear their message.

North Tinnevely is a grand field for evangelistic work. We want help for this, as well as in building substantial churches in the more important centres.

An old Scotch woman is said to have criticized her pastor thus:—"Strange, good man, he is *inveisible* for six days of the week and incomprehensible on the Sabbath."

THINGS THAT ARE 'NEATH OUR FEET.

ORD SELKIRK was ridiculed, in 1812, when he said that these "Hyperborean Alluvials would some day maintain a population of thirty million souls," and his prediction is still far from being realized. Was the statement made at random, or was it a sound conclusion reached after a careful consideration of facts in Lord Selkirk's possession? Any thoughtful observer can see that Manitoba and the North-West Territory undoubtedly possess the two great requisites for the success of any people who devote their attention to agricultural pursuits—a pure, clear atmosphere and soil of exhaustless fertility.

That the soil of this western land cannot be surpassed for richness, is shown by farms on which wheat has been grown for forty or fifty years in succession without manuring, and also by the high average yield per acre. Statistics show the average yield in Manitoba to be double that of the United States.

Many causes have contributed to make this land a land of great fertility. For centuries, each year has seen the earth bring forth an abundant vegetable growth which, in due season, has been either destroyed by prairie fires or left to decay upon the ground. For ages, wild animals have roamed the plains in herds, and wild fowls have swarmed upon the numerous lakes and lakelets which dot the plain. The accumulations of ashes and decayed vegetable and animal matter thus left have gradually resulted in the great depth of rich, black, loamy soil for which Manitoba is noted. No wonder, then, that with this prolonged process of natural fertilization the land can be cropped for years without any artificial refreshing.

The upper black mould, which varies from one to over four feet in depth, rests on a subsoil of clay. During the cold winter season the frost sinks deep into the ground, and throughout the intense heat and droughts of summer the subsoil is kept moist by the slow melting of these deep frosts. The moisture thus generated penetrates to the roots of the grain and secures the crop, even though there may be no rain-fall for weeks before the harvest. Not only is the soil well adapted to agricultural pursuits, but needed sunshine is also to be found in this northern land when it is most required. An American writer remarks on this point: "Heat alone will not bring wheat to maturity, solar light is also needed, and the greater its amount the better the result; and from June 15th to July 1st, there are nearly two hours more daylight in Manitoba than in Ohio."

With such advantages, Manitoba cannot be checked. The tide of immigration is sure to surge in this direction sooner or later, although as yet, "We only hear the tread of *pioneers* of nations yet to be. The first low wash of waves where soon shall roll a human sea."

The Manitoban.