

The Christian Watchman

GEO. W. DAY, Proprietor.

BY PURENESS, BY KNOWLEDGE—BY LOVE UNFEIGNED.—ST. PAUL.

REV. E. B. DEMILL, A. M. Editor.

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Original Contributions

The Conquest of India.

The above subject is a difficult one to compress within the narrow bounds of a single Essay. To do it will be necessary to hurry rapidly along, touching only upon those events which have chiefly contributed toward it. When we consider the vastness of the country, the density of its population, its remote situation, the innumerable circumstances which crowded rapidly upon one another during this unequalled conflict of races, the idea of reducing so great a subject to so small a space seems almost ludicrous. A history in detail would be impossible, and nothing is left but to give a brief and simple statement of those events which are visible to all as the leading causes in placing India in her present position.

Oriental countries possess a strong and peculiar attraction for our minds. Opposed to us in thought, manners, everything, they seem almost to belong to another world. Between what we know and what we imagine about them, they occupy a strange position in our thoughts. Their wonderful history, their venerable civilization, their strange arts and stranger sciences; their vast and populous cities; their kingdoms which have risen and fallen away; their warriors and armies which have overrun continents, these all mingle together in our conceptions of the East—sufficient causes for our deepest interest. Romance, too, comes forward and throws around it her bewitching influences. We yield to the spell, and involuntarily receiving fancy for reality, we endow the East with all the wonders that we read of in the Arabian Nights or the tales of old Venetian travellers, making it the land of mystery, of untold marvels, and of boundless wealth. But besides this we find still higher attractions in the East. It was the primal home of our race, and this the source to which can be traced most great human inventions. The fountain of error and of eternal truth, while Buddha, Brahmin, and Mohammedan seek in her the origin of their false religions, the Christian views it reverently as the spot chosen by the Deity to unfold his divine revelations.

Of all Eastern countries India stands forth as the perfect type of Orientalism. All its characteristics belong pre-eminently to her. If we revere venerable age, we find this in India. She is the oldest of all living nations. Peopled immediately after the dispersion of the human family at Babel, she was coeval with the earliest patriarchs. Her present civilization has continued the same for nearly 3000 years, her history can be traced back nearly to the Flood. Races, kingdoms, and languages had risen, flourished and expired within her borders, while all our modern nations were wandering tribes. Even the hoary monuments of Egypt cannot equal in antiquity the sculptured caverns of Elephanta. India possesses, also, a most remarkable literature, and her Sanscrit language is the mother of the principal European tongues.

Now is India less remarkable for those religious systems which she has spread throughout all Asia. Brahminism, so full of grandeur and absurdity, whose chief doctrines are founded on the Vedas written 3000 years ago, is Hinduism to the core, and still flourishes in no other country. While the purer and more pliable Buddhism which numbers as its followers one third of the whole human race, emanated, no less from India, being merely an offshoot from Brahminism.

If you would have the most varied and attractive natural beauty, you will find it here, for nowhere is nature more prodigal of her charms. The mountains are the loftiest and most sublime on earth, the valleys verdant, the plains luxuriant. Interspersed among them are hills and dales of marvellous beauty. Rivers flow everywhere to water the land, to fertilize the soil, and to promote commerce. The plane, the palm, the sandalwood, the mahogany, trees the most precious, with all the rarest fruit and most costly spices, grow with boundless profusion in this their native home.

If nature has thus been lavish of her beauties she has been equally generous in her civilizer gifts. From this source the ancients derived their chief supplies of gold and silver. In all ages her waters have yielded the largest and purest pearls. For diamonds the mines of Golkonda were long ago a proverb, and the "mountain of light" that now flashes from the crown of Victoria, is an Indian gem.

Thus everything that is most rare and precious has India for its home. Well may we take her as the type of that exhaustless East which

"With richest hand
Showers on her kings barbaric pearls and gold."
To her ancient and modern times alike point as the source of their chief trade. Their great commercial centres were those cities which were so fortunate as to be the channels for Indian traffic. Tyre, Sidon, Palmyra, Carthage and Alexandria, drew their prosperity directly or indirectly from this country; and Venice became what she was, not from innate bravery or enterprise, but because this same exhaustless East, "Poured in her lap all gems in sparkling showers."

Here, then, we arrive at the cause of India's conquest. We have seen her attractions, among which boundless wealth was pre-eminently. It was

Our Interests in Burma.

Our consciences say Amen, as we hear the solemn charge addressed by Christ to his church: "Go ye into all nations." Not only conscience, but all our sympathies impel us to obey. The foreign missionary field even excites a degree of enthusiasm, which the equally important sphere of operations at home, fails to awaken. All that is deplorable in the moral condition of the heathen, all that is new or strange in their manners or way of living, all that is delightful or unpleasant in their climate or circumstances, combine to render them objects of interest to us. Their deep depravity—their singular customs, their peculiar civilization, their frozen or torrid zones, even their distance from us, all excite emotions within us. When we hear from them the Macedonian cry, and when we see the missionary in response to this call, leaving home, civilization and all that makes this mortal life sweet, hard must be the heart that does not beat with emotion; dull and cold the spirit, which does not reply, "God speed the missionary."

No foreign missionary field is to us so interesting as Burma; and this is not without reason. In our childhood we heard of Judson and his heroic wife—they were told all the story of their early missionary life—a story more interesting than any romance. The religion of the Burmese is better known to us than that of any heathen people. The history of the mission to this nation has been frequently repeated to us. No missionary names are more familiar than those of Boardman, Abbot, Wade and Mason. In no country has more success attended the preaching of the word than in this; where the Christian can point to thousands of converted Karens.

Besides we have a personal interest in Burmah. A native of our own province labored in that land, and made it an additional object of interest and subject of our prayers. His labours, though impeded by sickness and other obstacles, were not altogether in vain, and so long as there yet lives in Burmah any, to whom Burmese, directly or indirectly, was the means of spiritual good, so long our sympathies, our exertions, and our prayers, are not unprofitable.

But yet another tie connects us with that Empire. Brother Arthur Crawley is telling them, his, born in our land, educated, converted, called of God to preach the Gospel, and to undertake the work of a missionary, in our own college, is now giving his life to the Burmese, teaching them of the eternal God, and the only mediator, from time to time, we hear of him, and from him, and it is a pleasure for us to learn, that among the many self-denying, earnest, and successful missionaries in Burmah he is by no means the least efficient. Though sent out from our American brethren, we feel for him none the less sympathy, remembering that he is one of our own race and flesh of our flesh, that our college is the school in which he was educated, the temple in which he with many others first learned to worship God; the Cross where he heard the Macedonian cry. All these circumstances direct our hearts to Burmah, prompt us to enquire what the Lord is doing there, and summon us to ask what he would have us do for them and for our brother Arthur Crawley in Henthada.

The Home Mission.

As a denomination we are not yet fully aware of the importance of this province as a field for Christian labor. It does not follow because there are here no heathen temples, or mosques, or synagogues, that there is but little work to be done. The province is none the less missionary ground because its inhabitants are nominally Christian. It is really lamentable to reflect how many sections of our country are wholly destitute of the preaching of truth and how many thousands seldom hear a gospel sermon.

At no future period of our history will the same amount of missionary exertion result in the same degree of success as now. Every year or month of neglect will leave a gap which never can be filled. Redoubled exertion hereafter will not remedy the consequences of present carelessness or indolence. It is true of a province or kingdom, as it is of an individual, that early training in the right direction will ensure a continuance in the well doing. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Youth is the season of training. "Just as the twig is bent the tree is inclined." When habits have been formed, and when the mind is pre-occupied, it is very difficult to effect any change in the actions, or the thoughts. Now this province is young. The ideas, the customs of the people are unsettled. But in a hundred years from now will it be so? What a difference in this respect may be noticed between us and the inhabitants of the State of Massachusetts.

How much more stiff and immovable their manners and ideas compared with ours. We contrast a native of New Brunswick with an old countryman, the one emotional, eager in inquiries, ready to change his views or habits—the other stolid, unyielding and unchangeable. The home missionary wherever he goes finds ready hearers, even though their views and his in some points may differ, they listen, and are open to conviction. —*Zelus.*

The Bible Class.

To all who are of an age to take an interest in the grand truths of the Christian religion, we most earnestly recommend the Bible Class. Every Baptist church should, for the benefit not only of those whom it seeks to lead to Christ, but also for the spiritual advancement of its members, maintain an institution so much in harmony with our principles, and so admirably suited to our advancement.

The Kingdom of Heaven.

The prophets of the Old Testament continually looked forward to a mysterious kingdom, which was to set up in the latter days. In the most glowing language they predicted its future glories, the splendor of its king, the happiness which it would afford, the wide extent of its borders, and the perpetuity of its duration. The prospect cheered these men of God, while their state and religion, seemed to be on the verge of destruction.

When the Israelitish people became enslaved to the hated Gentile, all their veneration for the religion of their fathers, all their longings for deliverance from bondage, all their thirst for revenge, combined to rivet their attention on these predictions of the prophet, and to inspire them with a burning desire for the appearance of the Messiah and the establishment of the new order of things.

When John the Baptist came, he announced to listening thousands, that the kingdom of heaven was at hand, and in view of it exhorted to reformation of life, and submission to baptism. When Christ came, he did not at once announce his true dignity and office, nor did he proclaim that the kingdom had come; but at a later period when converts had been made, he distinctly announced that he was the promised King, and all his language in reference to the kingdom, implies that it had been set up, that its powers were working in some hearts, that it was struggling with mortal and fleshly enemies, that it was already achieving glorious results, also that it was the duty of men, to seek first admission with in the precincts of that, to this end they must put forth every possible exertion.

This kingdom is a great reality. It is the substance, of which the Israelitish Kingdom in its palmist days, was only a shadow. Though essentially different from the kingdoms of this world, yet like them it has a king, laws, forces, tribunals, rewards and punishments, victories and defeats, aims and enterprises. It is not the church; it is far more extensive than any one church; and while it embraces all true churches, may easily be conceived of as including many who are not connected with any visible organization.

To obtain a clear and comprehensive view of this kingdom, we must regard it as containing two vast realms—the one in earth, the other in heaven; the one the kingdom of grace, the other the kingdom of glory. The members of the earthly realm are continually passing away into the upper sphere; to them "there is no death, what seems so is transition." The inspired writers sometimes have in view the terrestrial, and sometimes the celestial state, when they allude to the kingdom of heaven, frequently, also, the mind of the writer is fixed on the earthly kingdom, when it shall have overcome all its enemies. Poured on the race all its blessings, and fulfilled all that holy men of old wrote concerning its history.

Here then we have a kingdom, established by Jesus Christ in the days of his flesh. Now it is important for us to know who are its subjects. How is admittance to its privileges and blessings to be obtained? In view of it John and Jesus both taught the necessity of a reformation in heart and life. The King himself has distinctly pointed out the terms of admittance. The subjects of earthly monarchs become such by what accident of birth, but one must be born anew, before he can be a member of the kingdom of heaven. Earthly kingdoms number among their subjects men of all degrees of moral character, but the heavenly kingdom includes none but those whose righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees—none but those who are poor in spirit—humble, child-

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