

PROSELYTERS FROM INDIA.

Heathen Buddhists Preparing to Convert New York.

THE IDOLATERS' PROGRAMME.

War with Christianity Under the Shadow of the Cross.

RESULT OF ENGLISH RULE IN THE ORIENT

A Temple to the Grand Lama to be Erected Here.

DOCTRINES AND COMMANDMENTS.

... ..

From time to time vague intimations of a movement on the part of enlightened Buddhists of India to send missionaries among Christian nations have been made public, but nothing definite could be learned on the subject until recently, and it now remains for the Mesopotam to announce that the novel campaign has been resolved upon. Buddhist dignitaries of the various Asiatic countries, whose religious systems were in existence far ages before our era, have of late years come to view the working of the Christian system with the greatest attention, and as far as can be ascertained, they have not been favorably impressed. Silent observers among them have noticed, they say, that when the ancient beliefs were followed, before the advent of the Gospel or its attendant civilization, people were moral and God-fearing, but since the introduction of Christianity immorality and drunkenness have followed. In this matter the Sandwich Islands are pointed to as a case in point. When first discovered they had a population of nearly 800,000 souls, but civilizing influences have reduced this once prosperous nation to less than 70,000, and this within a hundred years. Contact with Christians here, at least, they contend, has proved fatal.

On the great continent of India this "march of progress" has been viewed with sorrow and distrust, ever since the English occupation brought the people in contact with Christianity. Through the Christian missionaries have labored zealously, their converts have been very few, except with the youth of the country. The educated Indians, however, have almost invariably refused the new doctrine for themselves and their families, saying if Christianity admits of the immorality and depravity it has brought among them, they want none of it.

THE NATIVE STATESMEN OF INDIA. recognizing the facts, have long sought for a way to cure what they consider the evil, and as they cannot confer it upon their own soil, they have resolved to attack the stronghold of Christianity abroad. Knowing that Christians will continue to come among them, they have determined, they say, to attempt to teach them their ideas of morality, honesty and society. After mature consideration, it has been decided to send missionaries to all Christian countries.

THE MISSIONARIES. For this purpose, Mamma, Moolie Thackeray and Teribides Jaderjee, the former from Benares, and the latter from Lahore, were sent out here about five years ago, ostensibly upon a private commercial tour, but really upon a tour of investigation, in order to report upon the condition of the world, and see wherein they could advance the moral and religious status. These missionaries were well versed in the English language, and their appearance attracted more attention than would that of any other foreigners. Their visit was widely noticed in the newspapers at the time, and they were the recipients of much hospitality in all parts of the country, where they were admitted into the best society, and very freely discussed the religious question in all its phases. They finally sailed for India, via England, in the steamer Java. Upon arriving in England these gentlemen met others upon the same mission, and together they visited the various countries of Continental Europe. After a thorough investigation they agreed upon a report that was not complimentary to the Christian nations.

A REPORT NOT FAVORABLE TO CHRISTIANITY. A MESSAGING reporter a while ago visited an interested party who was in India, at Lahore, at the time the report was made, and from this source the tenor of the document was learned. The missionaries spoke particularly of the prevalence of prostitution, gambling, and murder in large American and European cities. Copies of the American papers were also taken back by the missionaries, and the morals of the people were pointed out by the various accounts of poisonings, forgeries, murders, drunkenness, robberies, suicides, divorces, adulteries, infanticides, etc., and also the fact that in every hotel there was the sign, "Valuables must be locked in the safe," and every public house or place of assembly displayed the inscription, "Beware of pickpockets." Such things were not known in heathen countries; so, for the "love of God and the benefit of humanity," it was immediately resolved to make an effort to convert Christians, and induce them to return to the original morality and beliefs of the ancient world.

ARRIVAL OF THE MISSIONARIES. For this purpose Buddhist missionaries have been sent to America, England and Australia, these countries being deemed the ones most in need of regeneration. Two weeks ago the three advance missionaries accredited to the United States arrived in New York, and after some examination of their future field of labor, they departed for Chicago. The course of the visit in the latter city is not known, but it is known that from there they proceed to San Francisco, in order to confer with their fellow-religionists on the Pacific coast. The names of these missionaries are only known to a few interested parties, who refuse to disclose them for the present. They will return to this city a few months hence, and through their advent may not be publicly announced for some time, they will make all necessary preparations for their future labors.

A SENSITIVE TEMPLE IN NEW YORK. The programme, as understood from the most authentic sources, is to purchase a large plot of ground in this city or its immediate neighborhood, whereon to erect a sacred temple, for the celebration of the sacred ritual and other ceremonies connected with Buddha. Here will be celebrated the cosmic rites of the Pagodes, according to the ancient Veddo Ritual, as found in the "Tripitaka" and "Sutras" of Kapila. When the temple is complete

LAMAS OF THE SENSITIVE CASTE. will be sent over to educate and instruct the people in the highest mysteries of religion. Among these priests will be those of the order of Dalai-Lamas, who alone are the possessors of the ancient sacrificial mysteries. These will perform the great Karma sacrifices and the new moon offerings. Besides the temple, there will be established in various districts

LECTURES AND DEBATE-SHOOLS. where moral instruction will be given to all comers to induce them to abandon their present immoral and heathenish lives, and for this purpose the most important parts of the Kautilj and the Tanjur—the sacred Tibetan canons—will be brought over here. Moral ethics will also be taught from the "Dharmapadam" or the Footsteps of the Law, a volume which contains the direct utterances of Buddha.

So great an effort will, of course, cost a large amount of money, but the parties at the head of the movement

ARE RICH, and can readily afford to undertake the expense. There are many princes among them, whose names are concealed for political reasons, but the Gulikwar of Baroda, whom it is said, received the Prince of Wales with decorations upon his person valued at over £2,000,000 sterling, and the Maharajah of Patiala may be mentioned. With such wealth as this at its command a failure is not anticipated.

This same movement was begun in England some years ago by Rajah Bahadur Roy, a distinguished Brahmin, but he died in 1888, and the matter has not been followed up until the present.

IN AUSTRALIA. efforts are now making, in connection with those in this country and England, as will be seen from the following extract from the Maryborough Advertiser, Queensland, Australia, of a late date:

At a numerous meeting of Chinese residents in Melbourne, it was resolved, in view of the deplorable condition which prevails in Australia, a mission in Victoria to bring the despised heathenism the knowledge of God's law, and of the pure moral life which he taught. "The object of the mission proposed is to enlighten the heathen of Victoria, and to give also of reorganizing the heathen efforts of British missionaries in China, the Chinese residents of Melbourne propose to send English-speaking mandarin into the metropolis and country towns of Victoria to wear the turbans, if possible, from the degrading worship of that God who bears the name of Mammon. Our sacred works call us "continent (urgencies) contentment, joy, much, contentment, continual joy. To the contented, even poverty is joy. To the discontented, even wealth is a vexation." Now, we propose among the idolaters and Pagans call themselves Christians, we are much surprised and so contentment. Therefore we desire, as follows being created by the same divine Power, to bring our Victorian heathens to a knowledge of truth as it is in God, and convert them from the error of their ways.

The mission thus proposed is now well established, and it is reported as having accomplished much good. Although Confucius is not strictly a Buddhist, having lived much later than Buddha, his moral precepts are accepted implicitly, not as divine utterances, but as moral guides.

THE BRAHMI-DOCTRINE. It must be understood that the doctrines to be taught by these missionaries is not that of which so many superstitious and absurd stories are told, for such religion is only practiced by the most illiterate. Its name has been taken by the Brahmins, or the "Society of God." This is a reform movement, and is now the real theistic church of India. The movement was commenced some years ago by Rajah Bahadur Roy, a distinguished reformer of the Brahmin caste. An advanced scholar, he was well versed in the Sanscrit, and because convinced that the Vedas taught a system of pure theism. His teachings were therefore against the idolatry of all religions. He also encouraged education, and free thought, and got an end to many of the barbarous practices then popular in India. When the Rajah died in 1883, the leadership of the society fell to Baboo Keshub Chandra Sen, and under him the most liberal doctrines have been advanced. They are called the "Unitarians of India." It is claimed by the "Society of God" that Brahminism became defiled through the course of ages. Hence, the reform is aimed at sacerdotism, and to remove many of the unmeaning ceremonies and rituals that have gained credence. This is the form of Brahminism that is now to be advanced throughout the world.

SUMMARY COMMANDMENTS. The following commandments are expressly enjoined on all Buddhists, and which, it will be seen, are almost similar to those of Moses:

1. From the meanest animal up to man thou shalt not be animal whatsoever.
2. Thou shalt not steal.
3. Thou shalt not covet the wife of another, nor his concubine.
4. Thou shalt speak no word that is false.
5. Thou shalt not drink wine, nor anything that may inebriate.
6. Thou shalt avoid all anger, hatred, and bitter language.
7. Thou shalt not indulge in idle and vain talk.
8. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.
9. Thou shalt not harbor envy, nor pride, nor revenge, nor malice, nor the desire of thy neighbor's death or misfortune.
10. Thou shalt not follow the doctrine of false gods.

These are the precepts of the heathens, but there are others. "To honor thy father and mother is better than to pay worship to the gods of heaven and earth." "If a child should carry father and mother, one upon each shoulder, for a hundred years, he would do less for them than they have done for him." These

passages of the law have become proverbial among the people. Buddhism is not exclusive, but, on the contrary, the Buddhists gladly admit both Christians and Mohammedans to their temples.

THE RITUAL. The ritual of Buddhism is the same as some of the Christian churches, and upon this point can be quoted the words of one of the early Catholic missionaries to China. He says: "There is no country in the world where the devil has so successfully counteracted the true worship of the Holy Church as in China. These Buddhist priests burn incense, wear long gowns, and wear long beards, resembling some of the fathers. They live in the same manner as with us." There are some 80,000 Buddhists among the Chinese in California, and here the Asiatic missionaries hope to find a source from which to spread their doctrine.