

AMONG INDIA'S STUDENTS

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Among India's Students by Robert P. Wilder

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ROBERT P. WILDER

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STUDENTS**

Among India's Students

BY
Robert P. Wilder, M. A.

"In Him was life; and the life was the light of men."



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Preface

To the student, India represents a wealth of philology and a maze of philosophical systems.

To the statesman, India is a nerve centre of the world. "The true fulcrum of Asiatic dominion," says Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of India, "seems to me to increasingly lie in the Empire of Hindustan. The independence of Afghanistan, the continued national existence of Persia, the maintenance of Turkish rule in Bagdad are one and all dependent upon Calcutta. Nay, the radiating circle of her influence overlaps the adjoining continent and affects alike the fate of the Bosphorus and the destinies of Egypt."

To the statistician, India means one-fifth of the inhabitants of the globe, for the Bombay Presidency has the population of Spain, Holland and Norway; the entire population of Brazil can be accommodated in the Central Provinces; the Madras Presidency and its native states have within them more people than there are in Great Britain and Ireland; the inhabitants of Sindh and the Punjab equal those of Austria; the population of the German Empire can be placed in the North-west Provinces and Oudh; and Bengal has within it as many people as there are in the United States of America.

To the ethnologist, India means thirteen races, from the Aryo-Indic to the Dravidian, speaking ninety languages and dialects and divided into eight religions.

But to the Christian, India is the court guarded by "the strong man fully armed." It is the

place of opportunity, since it is under a Christian government which guarantees rights of residence, freedom of speech and protection from violence. It is also the place of responsibility because it is in the state of transition and will adopt western civilization without western Christianity unless the Church of Christ move forward more rapidly.

We have been urged for several months to publish this little book as a testimony to the importance and difficulty of reaching India's educated classes who are the ones best able to help or hinder the evangelization of that great Empire; and as an evidence of the necessity of employing personal interviews to win them to Christ.

We believe that this volume will show that the worker among these students does not need to attempt to settle the metaphysical difficulties of these young men, but can accomplish the most by a simple and direct presentation of the life and teachings of Jesus.

We hope that the pages which follow will elicit more thoughtful and persevering prayer for India's educated classes, who will not receive the Gospel unless 'the Lord open their hearts to give heed unto the things spoken.'

R. P. W.

3 West Twenty-ninth Street,
New York City.

June 10, 1899.

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Among India's Students

I

THE STUDENT FIELD

THERE are 30,000 students in colleges which grant the degree of Bachelor of Arts, or some other professional degree, and 70,000 in the two upper classes in the high schools. The number is increasing. During the ten years from 1873 to 1883, 23,472 passed the entrance examinations and 2,391 obtained the B. A. degree, and from 1881 to 1891, 41,467 passed the entrance examinations and 7,159 obtained the B. A. degree. It is estimated that there are now at least 3,000,000 English-speaking natives in India.

India has five universities, modelled after the University of London. These universities are merely examining bodies and though not themselves places of instruction, determine in a high degree the courses of study in the colleges. The largest of these universities is in Calcutta, the capital of the Empire, where there are twenty-four colleges and seventy-four high schools. This university examines over 10,000 students annually. To the number of actual students in Calcutta should be added at least 30,000 more who have been students; many of whom are now employed in Government offices or in business. Next to Calcutta in the order of importance as an educational centre stands Madras, then Bombay, Lahore, and Allahabad. In addition to these