

# **INDIA IN CONFLICT**

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India in Conflict by P. N. F. Young & Agnes Ferrers

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**P. N. F. YOUNG & AGNES FERRERS**

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CONFLICT**



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# INDIA IN CONFLICT

BY THE REV.

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AND

AGNES FERRERS

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DEDICATED  
TO  
OUR INDIAN FRIENDS  
WHO, DESPITE DIFFERENCES OF RACE AND  
OUTLOOK, HAVE GIVEN US OF THEIR  
GENEROUS AFFECTION

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## PREFACE

IT is no easy task to write a new book on missionary work in India. Mr. Holland and others have done it too well. The best lines of treatment have been anticipated by abler writers, and it seemed to us that it would be better resolutely to try and forget what others have said and attempt to start afresh. Then, India is so huge and varied that scarcely any statement can be made that does not need tiresome qualification. Very few, again, can claim an intimate acquaintance with more than one or two corners of the work, and the writers of this book are not of the few. Next, the work of the Free Churches and the Roman Church is much larger than our own in India,\* and the absence of any specific account of their splendid labours must not be taken to argue any lack of admiration, but is simply due to limitation of scope. Almost all general statements to be made inevitably include a reference to the labours of others. We would disarm at the outset certain lines of criticism by the clearest disclaimer of any attempt at completeness. The following pages are partial, one-eyed, and perhaps to

\* By the 1911 census there were, in round figures, 332,000 Indian Christians of the Anglican Church; 2,239,000 of the other chief Christian bodies—*i.e.*, 845,000, excluding Roman Catholics. The Anglican rate of increase on 1901 was 8.6 per cent. as against an average rate of 33 per cent.

some—though we regret it—offensive. Every year the work of Missions grows more complex and specialized, in a sense more prosaic. For the most part, pioneer work is over, and the thrills that accompany beginnings are not for the present generation. And yet, if there be romance in a great task undertaken with what the world regards as absurdly inadequate resources in the face of overwhelming odds, the knight-errant of the Kingdom need have no cause to complain of India.

One word more in preface. It has seemed out of the question to make this book a detailed account of the work of even our chief missions in India. Such an account would be of interest chiefly to the few in intimate touch with missionary problems. But there is another, a wider reason for not doing so. In the last quarter of a century such wide-reaching changes have taken place in Indian life that the whole of our outlook has been revolutionized. The difference may be crudely put by saying that some years ago missions were more interesting—to the Christian—than India. To-day India is more interesting than missions. India bulks very much more largely to herself than she did, and we cannot see properly the task of the Church unless we see India herself with clearer eyes. The following pages may very well be more about India than missions, and yet be, for that very fact, more true to the right spirit of the latter.

A mere man cannot speak with authority on the most important side of Christian work in India—that amongst her women and girls. The author of Part II, though not herself a missionary, has not only held an important position in the Indian educational world, but also has had and made for herself many unusual opportunities of knowing what she is talking about.