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PREFACE

Assam is seldom thought of as an important
missionary field. In fact, few Christian workers know
anything about Assam, although the martyr mission-
ary, Winfrid of Germany, is said to have prayed in the
eighth century:

*"O merciful God, who willest all men to be saved.
And to come to the knowledge of the truth,
Have mercy upon the Assamese.
Hindus and Mohammedans,
And all the inhabitants of Assam."*

The American Baptist Foreign Mission Board at
home which was directly in contact with the begin-
nings of Christianity in Assam did not look upon it
very hopefully. Indeed, several times they considered
seriously the giving up of the work which had been
started, because of the slow progress during the first
few decades of Christian activity. It was thought that
the wild head-hunting tribes of Assam never would
submit to the Prince of Peace! In the last few years
this conception has been changed considerably, due to
the fact that a great revival has taken place. Thousands
of people have accepted Christianity as their religion.
Whole tribes have exchanged their weird head-hunting
chants for the harmony of Christian hymns. The
mountains that formerly echoed with blood-curdling
war cries are now re-echoing the hymns of fraternal
love.