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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 missionary, 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 beginnings 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 nov re-echoing the hymns of fraternal love. [11]