

principle of true religion, i. e., consciousness of the divine essence of human soul and respect for the life of every human being without any exception, and

" 2. To spread them as far as possible.

" I think these principles are virtually, if not actually, contained in your ancient and profound religion and need only be developed and cleared from the veil that covers them. I think only such a mode of action can liberate the Indians from all the evils which now beset them and will be the most efficacious means to attain the goal which you are now looking for.

" Excuse me for stating my opinion in such a straightforward way, as likewise for my bad English, and believe me

Yours truly,

LEO TOLSTOI.

" 14th July, 1901.

" P. S.—This letter is not written in my handwriting, because I am bed-ridden at the present moment."

MAHA BODHI SOCIETY OF INDIA.

The Maha-Bodhi Society of Calcutta has decided to open a Literary Section, the object of which will be: (1) To transliterate the Pāli Buddhist works into Devanagari and the other vernaculars of India, together with their translations; (2) To bring out popular editions of important Buddhist texts, with copious notes and explanations so that they may be read and understood by the Hindu people; and (3) To open a class for the study of Pāli Literature (which will be converted into a regular institution afterwards) at 2, Creek Row, where regular instructions will be given to the students who are willing to join. Pāli is one of the classical languages of India, whose history can be traced so far back as six hundred years B. C. The Buddhists of the Maha-Bodhi Society claim that while every attempt has been made to revive and spread the Sanskrit language both by the people and the Government, we have up to the present neglected Pāli, which for centuries together flourished in the whole of Upper India as the principal dialect, bequeathing to posterity a rich and valuable literature that dates back to the times of the Buddhist period when the ancient Universities of Nālanda, Takkhasila, Udanta-pu-ri and Vikramsila were flourishing.

Thanks to the exertions of the noble band of Orientalists, the subject has been fully appreciated and is being studied in the Universities of England, France, Germany, Russia, and America. To India, however, Pāli literature has been almost a sealed literature; yet a knowledge of the history of India is not at all complete without the knowledge of Pāli. For brilliant records of the achievements of kings and princes, the interesting history of the manners and customs of the people, and a faithful account of the internal government, are all to be met in this venerable and beautiful literature. The language is important alike to the student of comparative religion, history, and philosophy. Its study will at once reveal the glory of ancient Indian wisdom. The Society has undertaken the publication in Devanagari of Kaccāyana's Pāli Grammar by Pandit Satish Chandra Vidhyabhushan, M. A., and Dhammapada and Suttanipata by Babu Charu Chandra Bose.

The Secretary of the Maha-Bodhi Society says in a circular:

"To carry out the foregoing objects, viz., undertaking the translation of important Pāli works and bringing out popular editions of rare Buddhist books, and also establishing an institution where every facility may be given for the study of

this classical language, would require at least two thousand rupees annually. The work will be purely of an unsectarian character. The chief aim of the Maha-Bodhi Literary Section is to give the educated public an opportunity to come in contact with this splendid literature which is an inexhaustible mine of knowledge and an immortal legacy handed down to us by the sages of old. We ask for the help and co-operation of all who are interested in this work both in this country and in the foreign lands. Donations for the furtherance of the cause will be gratefully received and acknowledged in the Maha-Bodhi Journal."

All communications on the subject should be addressed to Ras Bihari Mukharji (Uttarpara), Bengal, Honorary Secretary, Maha-Bodhi Literary Section, 2, Creek Row, Calcutta.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

DIE DEBORAH. Eine deutsch-amerikanische Monatsschrift zur Förderung jüdischer Interessen in Gemeinde, Schule und Haus. Als Wochenschrift begründet 1855, von *Isaac M. Wise*. Cincinnati: Druck von The Razall Co. September, 1901. Heft 9.

Deborah, a German Jewish monthly, contains in its September number some theses by Rabbi B. Felsenthal, in which he explains the significance of Judaism, first in its wider sense as denoting the national community of Jews as a nation, and secondly in the sense of Jewish religion. Judaism, says Rabbi Felsenthal, is a universal religion; it is properly speaking a national religion, for without Jews there would be no Judaism. Nevertheless, Judaism, that is to say, the Jewish faith, contains universal elements, and reveals to mankind certain absolute and eternal verities. The historical task of the Jewish nation consisted in revealing certain metaphysical and ethical principles, and making them the common possession of mankind. The typically Jewish features, consisting in definite national symbols and ceremonies, such as the choice of the seventh day as the day of rest and edification, the Jewish calendar, etc., are merely national institutions and have no universal character. But they served as a basis by which the universal ideas manifested themselves and assumed a definite shape. He concludes that the ultimate triumph of Judaism would not consist in the consummation that all men should become Jews, but that the eternal truths of theism and the moral demand of a sanctification of life should be universally recognised as ideal powers, determining and dominating our entire life.

P. C.

The April, May, and June issues of *The Bibelet* series were: (1) "Lyrics from 'Ionica,'" by William Cory; (2) "Clifton and a Lad's Love," by John Addington Symonds; and (3) "Dear Love, and Other Inedited Pieces," by Algernon Charles Swinburne. The titles for July, August, and September are: "A Minor Poet and Lyrics," by Anny Levy; "A Painter of the Last Century," by John Addington Symonds; and "Proverbs in Porcelain," by Austin Dobson. These dainty booklets cost but five cents apiece, and not infrequently are accompanied with some illustrated supplement. (Thomas B. Mosher, Publisher, 45 Exchange St., Portland, Me.)

The eighth volume of the International Library of Social Sciences issued by Schleicher Frères, of Paris, is devoted to the life of the working classes of France, and treats of such subjects as the length of the working day, wages, the work of women, professional morality, modes of life, alcoholism, etc. (*La vie ouvrière en*