

of 'The United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.' This was 'The Honourable East India Company,' which under successive charters made history on a great scale until, after the Mutiny, it was brought to an end in 1858.

It has been seen <sup>1</sup> that from the first the East India Company were at pains to make provision for the spiritual welfare of their employees. When the new Company was incorporated in 1698, the terms of its charter were almost the same as those of the charters of the old Company, with the exception that a provision was inserted for the maintenance of ministers and schoolmasters. This was found no obstacle to the amalgamation of the two companies, for 'the old Company, though not bound by such a provision in any of their charters, had fully recognised their responsibility in that respect. A chaplain had always formed part of the establishment at a principal station or factory, and various books of divinity were sent out from time to time. . . .'<sup>2</sup> The provisions were accordingly continued, after the companies had been united, the intent being to have a chaplain at every large factory and on every ship of 500 tons and upwards, and where, as at St. Helena, schoolmasters were required, to provide them also. The chaplains, of course, varied greatly in character and kind. There were among them men who should never have been employed, as well as others who succumbed to temptation and a hot climate. We read of a man who, after he had been

<sup>1</sup> See above, p. 22.

<sup>2</sup> See *Charters relating to the East India Company*, with Preface by John Shaw (Madras, 1887), printed for the Government of Madras. The quotation is from the Preface, p. xiii.