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*A Church in Struggle*

Dharmaram Publications, Bangalore, 1984. pp. xviii 302 (27 pages of Bibliography and 6 pages of Index). No price given.

The western colonial powers started arriving in India at the close of the 15th century. The most ancient Christians of India had been living here with a sort of mixed identity, claiming apostolic origin in the first century and having relations with the East-Syrian Church of Persia, and at the same time integrated with the socio-cultural *milieu* of this country. The community was perhaps well on its way to an evolution of its identity into a fully Indian Church. Their encounter with the Christians of the West from the 16th century onwards gradually developed into a conflict and confrontation, as the colonial forces and the missionaries patronized by the colonialists appeared to the Indian Christians as a challenge and even a threat to their