

pioneer work among the women and girls of Neemuch city may help you to appreciate the progress made. When I opened the first girls' school two and a-half years ago now, the girls were afraid to remain in the room alone with me. Nor were the women much less suspicious and frightened. It was months before I had any regular attendance. Numbers of both women and girls came in daily, and, after a careful scrutiny of the room and its occupant, and a multitude of questions which usually began with "Has your *shadi*—marriage—been made?" they went off again. But the singing of *bhajans* soon attracted some who wished to learn to sing them, and gradually several girls were induced to learn to read. For a week or two I began to consider myself established, but the Brahmins evidently feared the same thing, for, going from house to house, they forbade the women to learn *bhajans* or the girls to read! What followed was sufficient to cool the heat of the enthusiasm I brought from home half a year before. Not a girl came to read, and few women came to visit me for over three weeks, during which time I went every day and turned the school-room into my study! But the God in whom I trusted heard my many prayers, and gradually the girls began to gather in again; and I may say the few women who came to me during those trying weeks are among my warmest friends still.

About a year ago now I took the girls to the river bank, just outside the city, for a picnic. A pleasant and profitable morning was spent, but alas, it was to end in anything but a pleasant way. The Christian teacher sent to her house, which is in the city, for drinking water for her little girl. The woman was seen by the friends of the girls, as she passed through the city on her return. At once the cry went round like wild-fire, that the girls were to be made drink that water in order to break their caste. Mothers, grandmothers, and brothers flew to where we were assembled, shouting and jabbering as only natives can,

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