

will come out fully, for I think they have turned to God. Doors and windows for three school-house chapels were taken out on the boat and left in the villages where they are building. A house costing Rs. 1,000 gives these people as much trouble as one at home costing \$2,000, and I might add will be as much blessed of God. In one of the villages, Nullur, over 40 miles from here by boat, the Christians who were only a few in number had a hard time of it. They stood firm and every time I go to the village there are some baptisms. This time, among the candidates were the head man of their hamlet and his wife. I was not a little gratified to hear some remarks of the teacher to the following effect: The Christians are saying, "When we were heathens, we worked all the time and sometimes in questionable ways we got all we could—now we give up all work every Sabbath, sometimes spend some days going to Cocanada to meetings there. When the Missionary comes here we do little or no work for a day or two. Christians come and we give them food. Every month we have a collection for something or another. And yet, we are better off than we were before." "He that hath ears to hear let him hear." Our entrance into one of the new villages, Alamora, was after this wise. Months ago a group of people stood at my study door. Among them was a young man gone clean out of his mind. The relatives had brought him to me to see if I could do anything for him. I carefully enquired into the case, told the friends what to do, and gave some medicine. I took the chance to talk with them a long time about Christ the world's Saviour. They went away. Some two months ago my people brought me word that the young man had recovered and that his brother who had come to me and the young man were believing and wished to be baptized. The brother was baptized, and I have no doubt the whole family will come. The village is a nice large one, and the family large and influential. The head man of the Nullur Christians mentioned above, is uncle to this family.

Akidu.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOLS.

DEAR MRS. HUMPHREY, I see it is time for me to send you my half yearly report on the progress of my village-schools, and I suppose I may add any items in regard to my work in general, if they are likely to interest you.

I am at present touring on the south west half of my field, the same section that I visited in November last. I have been out all this month and expect to remain out till the beginning of March, that is, some seven or eight days more.

I have visited nearly all our villages where we have Christians, and many that our preachers visit regularly, but where as yet none have professed faith in Christ.

This is the nineteenth village that I have visited on this tour: I wish to see eight or nine more before I return to Akidu.

Of course where there are schools, I have examined the children to see how they were progressing. At present we have in all fourteen schools. I think the average attendance must be about two hundred. But this refers only to the past three or four months. Before that there were not so many schools. Of the two hundred pupils, about one hundred and forty are young men and boys and the remainder are girls. The proportion of girls is still rather small, but it is better than it was a year ago.

Yesterday I saw the school at Gunnanapudy. The sexes are evenly divided in it, there being ten boys and ten girls. Of the other schools, in some four or five there is the same happy state of things, but in others the proportion of girls is small, and in one or two there are no girls at all.

The ordinary studies in these little schools are reading, writing and arithmetic, and in some of them the girls are taught to sew.

Some months ago I announced my intention of giving a copy of the New Testament to every one who would learn by heart and recite the Sermon on the Mount. You will be glad to hear that a large number of Testaments are likely to be won in this way, and that most of them will go to scholars in our village schools. I have already given thirty-four books, and others have been won. The Gospel of Matthew is being used as a reading book in many of the schools. The pupils all learn to sing a few nice hymns. Perhaps I should add that many of the scholars are children of heathen people.

The pupils are very young as a rule, but there are a few young men among them. I was particularly pleased a few days ago, when I visited Tarakaturu, one of our villages, to find three or four young men learning to read. These are all Christian young men, hence they may become teachers in their own and other villages. By their zeal they shew that they have good stuff in them. Their studies have been carried on chiefly at night, after the day's work was done.

In the villages connected with the Gunnanapudy church I hope to see the schools carried on without our support before many years pass by. Yesterday I had quite a pitched battle with some of the leading men over this question. The young woman who teaches at Gunnanapudy receives only a present of a few rupees once a year. But her husband receives Rs. 6 a month, as he is a preacher. In two other villages the young men have been receiving Rs. 3 a month, and in other three villages the teachers have received Rs. 4 a month. These villages are all in the Gunnanapudy church. After this month, one of the teachers who receives Rs. 3, is to receive nothing from me, and the teachers who have received Rs. 4, are to receive Rs. 3. If the Christians in the various villages cannot help to keep the teacher to the extent they should, I proposed that the church vote a rupee or two out of its collections for that purpose. Most of the villages have already a collection box, and I am urging on them the necessity of every member giving something every Sunday. The amount brought in for January was nearly Rs. 5, but if all give even a very little, two or three times that sum will be raised, there being over three hundred members in this church. Finally, I reminded Peter and his deacons of a promise I made more than a year ago, to give as my contribution a quarter of all they raised. I made this agreement in order to spur on the members to increased liberality.

Next year I hope some of these schools will be inspected and receive a Government grant.

As I told my Gunnanapudy friends, the money taken from their district will go to some more needy place.

Your \$200 brings Rs. 280, so that although our teachers are paid for only ten months, you see that Rs. 48 a month is not a very large amount to divide between a large number of schools. With Christian love to all, yours sincerely,

JOHN CRAIG.

On tour, Peyyairu, India, 22nd Feb.

Who can help on Missions?—All can pray; most can give. Many can go.