

ed forward for many years to the day when there should be a missionary and a separate field in the district. Now his hopes had been fulfilled, and it was something to see his joy and satisfaction as he conducted us to the various sites and the different functionaries of the place, and especially to see his flock, whom he had called together at dark in the little chapel. Even then I was struck by the spirit of the true shepherd that he showed; and well he might, for most of these were, humanly speaking, the work of his own hand, and there was very little about any of them from birth to death that he was not aware of. Afterwards, when the conference had given us the privilege of being Old Abe's first local missionaries, he used to dispose himself in a chair on the veranda of the bungalow, or at the door of the tent when we were on tour, and, in the gloaming, tell me of the early days, when the great Dr. Brown and he had established the work in the river islands; how he had acquired the site for the bungalow and the various village school-houses; and, in fact, all the joys and sorrows of a pioneer of Christ. It would have been a pleasure merely to listen to his Telugu, for he had a distinctive style both in speaking and writing, and this gave him a great hold over the caste people of the Divi Sima. Many of them were his personal friends, and very few were the Islanders who did not listen with respect when he spoke. I well remember how, when during my absence one hot season the Christians put on an evangelistic campaign, I came back to find them unable to contain themselves for happiness, and how Abraham especially recounted with a glowing face how the group, led by himself, had been invited by Brahman schoolmasters to address their scholars, and to instruct them on the verandas of their homes. And

well they might, for if ever character and true, gentle worth were written in a face and life, they were in the face and life of Todeti Abraham.

Old Abe had his weaknesses, and one was along the line of ruling his own household. Not that any of them went seriously wrong, but the mild and magnificent eye that held unruly villagers in check seemed to fail somewhat in its force within the walls of his own domicile. His family was large and expansive, and though I never got them all straightened out in mind, I could recognize any of them among others. The second Sunday I was there Abraham was leading the service, and half his family was spread over the floor in front of the congregation, giving an excellent example of how not to carry on in church. I bided my time till one of the most obstreperous, in his orbit came within reach, and then taught him a new and painful use for the hymn-book. The effect on the peace-breaker was all that could be desired, but his father was deeply mortified, and although he never mentioned the matter to me, and though he was far too big a man to resent my action, it was some time before he fully recovered his poise. I ought to go on and say that his youngsters are making a most enviable record for themselves wherever they go, and have long ago made up for any grief they caused their father in their early years.

A real trial came to Abraham when the field began to grow, and young men, efficient and pushful, were put in charge of various sections of the work. Hitherto he had been everything everywhere, but now other churches were being established, whose pastors did not always take kindly to advice that would have been very good for them, and the boarding school and other heads showed a