

To the Circles in Ontario.

MY DEAR SISTERS,—May I remind you, through the LINK, that now, in the time of the greatest anxiety and the deepest straits which our Telegu Mission has ever known, of the necessity laid upon every one of us, whose hearts are interested and who have labored in the past, to help on this work for the Master—to be even more earnest and active, and especially more prayerful, than ever before. Our missionaries need our prayers; think of the few that are left, toiling in that hot, unhealthy climate, often discouraged and perplexed, *always* overburdened; and can our prayers help them? Yes; the prayer of faith can and *does* help, for “it moves the arm that moves the world.” More laborers are wanted, and has not our Lord said, “Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he may send forth laborers into his harvest?” Now, that the long, dreary winter has given place to the beautiful, bright days of summer, the opportunities to enlarge our work at home are increased; this is the best time to form new Circles. Let each realize her responsibility, and do what she can to interest the careless and indifferent, for it is to be feared there are many such.

Since the annual meeting in October, I have only received notices of the formation of seven new Circles, Dalton, Fingal, Walkerton, Park St. Church (Brantford), Poplar Hill, Waterford, and Westport. —If there are any others, will their secretaries kindly notify me, giving the date of organization and the names of officers. I am in correspondence with a few friends in different places, from whom I expect to receive favorable answers. It is well, when the Home work can be combined with the Foreign—one should support and strengthen the other. I wish to make a slight alteration in the notice in last month's LINK about life memberships. It was stated that the Treasurer, Mrs. Elliott, had charge of the certificates, and also that she would receive money sent in instalments to make life members. It has been found that this plan will give a great deal of unnecessary labor to our Treasurer, whose duties are already very onerous, therefore it has been thought best to ask the Treasurers of Circles to retain all money sent in for this purpose, until the full sum of \$25 is obtained, which should then be sent to Mrs. Elliott. Also, please notice that all applications for certificates should be sent to the Recording Secretary, Miss V. Elliott, 99 Pembroke St., instead of to the Treasurer.

LIST OF PAPERS IN THE EXCHANGE DRAWER.

“Family Worship among the Telugus,” written by a Samulcotta student; “Sunday at Samulcotta,” “The Bible for Ourselves and for our Work,” “Madagascar,” “Dawn of Day in the Southern Seas,” “He shall have Dominion from Sea to Sea,” “Caste in India,” by a returned lady missionary; “Christian Activity,” “Woman's Work in Mission,” by Mrs. Timpany; “Reasons why we should make the Monthly Meetings interesting, with some hints as to the best means of doing so,” “Short Sketch of Keshub Chunder Sen,” “A Hot Day in India,” by J. R. H.; “Some Inmates of an Indian House,” “Lutchee's Nose Jewel,” “The Telugus and their Country,” “Missionary Colloquy, for four young ladies,” “Missionary Colonization,” by Miss Muir. These papers are in my possession, and can be obtained at any time. I have also a number of copies of Rev. John Craig's leaflets (1, 2, 3), of Mrs. Gates' paper, “God's Purpose and Our Privilege,” of the “Twenty-one Millions of Widows in India,” of “Our Foreign Mission Work,” by Mrs. Freeland; and of “Foreign Missionaries at home.”

11 Gerrard St. West.

C. E. ROSE, Cor. Secy.

Children's Department.

School-Life in Damascus.

BY MISS IDA HINMAN.

Would not the school-boys and school-girls of America like to get a peep at school-life in the strange old city of Damascus?

First, let us look at the school-houses: they are built long and low; when we enter, we see that they are not fitted up with seats and desks as ours are; but the scholars sit on mats on the floor, with their legs crossed. Our way of studying would seem as strange to these children as theirs does to us.

Usually children remain at home till they are ten years old, when their school-days begin. Sometimes a little boy, like some American boys I know; does not want to go to school, but would prefer to stay at home and play. Then his mother tells him that if he will go to school his teeth will become golden. This usually has the desired effect on the young Syrian, and he trudges off to school. If he studies well his teeth *will* become golden—in a figurative sense, at least; but he finds, to his disappointment, that his whiting ivories really never change into the bright metal.

School commences in Damascus at two o'clock in the morning,—the Eastern two o'clock which corresponds to our eight o'clock; and the session lasts until six, or our twelve, when the scholars have a recess for dinner. They do not have a play recess in the middle of the session, as you have.

The first lesson a pupil is taught, on entering the school, is due respect to the teacher, and the proper manner of saluting him. This is done by the scholar kissing the hand of the teacher, and placing it on his forehead. The children repeat their lessons aloud in a sing-song tone of voice. Children, as well as older persons, when singing, always place a hand on the cheek, and lean the head toward one side.

The boys and girls attend separate schools. The punishments for breaking the rules at school are very severe. If a child is guilty of only a slight offence, the teacher commands him to kneel down on the floor, and stretch out his hand at arm's length, and remain in that position ten or fifteen minutes. In case he offends more seriously, his feet are placed in what is called a *falag*. This consists of a stick, to which a rope is tied at both ends. The feet are placed between the stick and the rope, which is rolled up, turning the soles of the feet of the little criminal upward, to receive the blows from the teacher's stick.

Altogether, I do not think the American school-children would be willing to exchange life with the little Syrians. Yet Syrian children have their pleasures, and enjoy playing games as you do. One of their plays is called the “pebble” game. It is similar to your game of marbles.

If you will take your Bibles, and read the account of the wonderful conversion of St. Paul, given in the ninth chapter of Acts, you will see that it was to this city, of which I have been telling you, that Saul was led when struck with blindness. Here he stayed for three days and nights, without eating, until Ananias was sent to him, when he received his sight, and was filled with the Holy Ghost, and went forth to preach his newly-found religion.

—S. S. Times.