

Clough took up a Bible and it opened to these words in 1 Cor. i., 26-29. "Not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called; but God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world and things which are despised hath God chosen." As he sat thinking over what he had read, Mrs. Clough came into the room with her Bible opened at the same text. God had shown them their duty—their work was to be among the low caste. The other missionaries thought he had made a mistake, but God's blessing was upon his work. Converts came from 25 to 100 every year, then from 200 to 300 every year, then 400 to 500 a year, and then 500 to 1000 a year.

In 1876 the great famine began. The South West noonsoon failed. The failure of these rains would, they knew, cause a great scarcity. Anxiously they waited for the later rains, but they too, failed, and famine with all its horrors was upon them. Government began relief work, digging a canal of 200 miles. Dr. Clough took a contract of three miles. Government supplied money, huts were built along the canal, a medical man was placed there, and every endeavor made to bring the starving people where they might receive help. The natives say "if it is fated for us to die we shall die and it is of no use for us to go away to die." "Some god is angry with us and if we undertake to flee from his wrath something worse will come, and what is the good?" But Dr. Clough and his assistants were persistent in their entreaties and many came. The sick were put on litters and carried where they received care and food. Each band of workers was under a preacher, and when tired out would rest while the preacher read to them from the Bible. On Sundays the entire company gathered about Dr. Clough's tent while he preached to them, and thus the seed was sown. In this way the months passed until 1878: Friends in England and America learning of the terrible needs of the people, established relief funds and supplied money. Their donations were generous for their hearts were large and full of pity for the starving multitudes. With money thus given, the natives bought grain and then went home to sow and wait for harvest. It had been a terrible time, but through the devotion and consecration of the Christians God wrought a miracle.

For the year and a half that the people were receiving government aid no regular missionary work was done—none were baptized and none were received into the church. But now the people would not stay away, they came in swarms. Dr. Clough asked them to wait till they received more instruction, and until their crops came. But they said, "We know you are not going to give us money, and we are not coming for money. But when we were down on the canal you told us about Jesus. We have believed in him and discarded all our idols. There are two months before we can receive anything from our fields. The cholera and small-pox are prevalent and many of us must die, and if we die we want to die with everyone knowing we are Christians. We don't want to die with this stigma on our heads—we want to be baptized and remembered among the people of God." Dr. Clough could do nothing but comply with their request. The first day 500 were baptized, the second 2,222, the third about 800, making about 3,500 in three days. Urgent messages came from villages far and near, to go out and baptize many who were not able to go to Ongole and before the close of December nearly 10,000 had followed Christ's command.

In 1867 the Ongole church was organized with 8 members, in 1885 the membership numbered 25,000, the mission stations were increased to 13, and schools had been established in which were 4,000 children.

But about this time ten missionary families had to give up because of illness or death. The appeals to America for men to take care of this vast work in India were met with the answer "We are doing all we can for you, but men don't seem to be willing to go to the Telugus," and so three or four years passed. Then, while feeling despondent about missionaries, a greater spirit of revival was felt. Converts came in from villages and told about many who were forsaking their idols. 352 were baptized one Sunday and Dr. Clough sent these to their villages to bid other converts come to Ongole on Sunday, December 28th, when he would see them. This was in 1890.

On the evening before the 28th, long before dark they began to come. On Sunday morning the chapel would not hold one third of the people who had come by thousands. The meeting was arranged under the trees near Dr. Clough's bungalow, and he used the steps of his verandah for a pulpit. His text was "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." These gracious words fell with power on the hearts of that vast company, many of whom had come a weary way on foot from villages 50 or 70 miles distant. For almost an hour and a quarter they paid closest attention to Dr. Clough as he spoke of the love and tenderness of Him who gave this invitation. Then after listening to the evidence of those who had come for baptism, Dr. Clough and his helpers, between the hours of one and six, baptized 1,671.

And still there were many in the villages waiting to publicly confess their change of heart. Dr. Clough made a tour through the country and about 2000 were baptized early in 1891.

Then Dr. Clough, who sorely needed a rest, decided to come home in order to get 25 men and \$50,000 and return to India in a year. Before leaving Ongole a large farewell gathering was held, where Hindus and Christians united in praise of the work done by Dr. Clough and a hope that he would soon return to them restored in health and strength. One speaker, a native but not a Christian, said, "According to the Shastras he should not have stirred out of his house that day, but whatever the Shastras could prohibit him, they could not prevent his being present to do honor to one who had done so much good to the people and country."

Dr. Clough came home, got his 25 men and \$50,000, and was about ready to start for India when he received a request to raise another \$50,000 for educational purposes. He also raised that amount and will soon go back to India and the work that lies so dear to his heart.

In India the fields are white, the harvest waits, but the laborers are few. "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature; and lo I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

"The blackest clouds make ever briefest stay,  
Not long obscured in every cheering ray,  
For the great undistinguished sun doth keep  
His way unhindered, while they frown and weep,  
And when their tears and threatening are all gone,  
Behold the light victorious, shining on."