

two Bible-women had on their list about fifty women. Then Mrs. Duthie took it up and the work spread rapidly, both among the Sudra women, where it had been begun, and also amongst the silk weavers and Mohammedans. Amongst the silk weavers the difficulties seemed almost insurmountable, and again work had to be given up. The Mohammedans also are, as a class, very averse to Christianity, and when the Bible-women first went amongst them, their books were burnt and they were forbidden to enter the streets. But now all that is changed."

Regarding the state of things in "The Present," Mariamie spoke as follows:

"As you have just heard, the result of the first six years' work was that fifty women were learning to read. At the present time, including those who have died or removed to other places, more than 2,000 women have been taught to read the Bible and about 644 are learning. Formerly there was much opposition; now doors are opened in every direction, and no objection is made to our speaking of Christ and His salvation. Instead of having to sit in the cowshed, we are invited to the verandahs of the houses, and sit down with the women while we give our lesson. The men who broke our umbrellas and tore our clothes, will now pity us for having to walk in the hot sun, and tell us to wear shoes! When we are teaching in the houses, men in high official positions will sometimes come in, and after saying 'salaam' kindly and respectfully to us, will stay and listen to what we are saying."

After giving some particulars about the work amongst the silk weavers, Mariamie went on to say: "The commencement of zenana work amongst the Mohammedans is very interesting. For some days the Bible-women walked up and down their streets without speaking a single word about religion or distributing a single tract. But one day one of their priests invited them to come into his house and teach his wife, urging upon them, however, that it must be done quite secretly. Gradually the knowledge that one woman was learning leaked out, and others wished to follow her example. Soon a hundred women were being taught. The work went on well for some years, but the distribution of a tract against Mohammedanism so incensed some of the leading men that it had to be entirely stopped. Mrs. Duthie is, however, hoping soon to begin again, and is only waiting for a suitable opportunity and a suitable worker."

"The change wrought in many of the women who have learnt under us is very striking. Instead of spending their time in quarrelling and foolish talk, many of them will now, in their leisure hours, read good and useful books. Many know the story of Christ from His birth to His resurrection, and are also very fond of singing our Christian lyrics. Many who used to say to a stock: 'Thou art my father,' and to a stone: 'Thou has brought us forth,' have

now learnt to say: 'Our Father which art in heaven'; and some will even pray in their own words.

"During the last two years there has been an important development of the work in the more remote villages. Two of the Bible women are sent out from time to time on itinerating tours to speak about Christ and to sell portions of Scripture amongst the people. Many of them are in utter darkness, and not able even to understand what we say to them. When we speak about their souls, they will sometimes ask: 'What is a soul? Can we buy it in the Bazaar?' Some are not able to pronounce the name of Jesus. Several have heard of Christianity for the first time, and already we see results from our visits. They listen attentively and ask us to come often. Some have been induced to go to the nearest chapel on Sundays, and learn there, and some have been baptized. We praise God for all encouragement given, knowing that though we sow in tears we shall reap in joy.—*The Chronicle of the London Missionary Society.*

#### THE BANNER CHURCH IN GIVING.

REV. WILLIAM ASHMORE, D.D.

Here in the capital city of the Sandwich Islands I have found the banner church of Christians for missionary giving. Just think of finding it here in these islands so recently heathen instead of in New England so long Christian.

We got here about 4 o'clock. It was prayer meeting night and we thought we would go. So away we went, two Baptists and two Presbyterians. We were surprised at the size of the audience, though that can be surpassed in many places at home. A great room of itself, big enough for a church; and for many a city church, too, was filled with people all out for a prayer meeting.

It was an inspiring and a sympathetic audience, as we discerned at once. We found at the reception after the meeting, when our hand-shaking with the crowd began, the church had a heavy infusion of the descendants of the old missionaries who had evangelized Hawaii; the Judds, the Bingham, the Gulicks and others. To our surprise and delight, we found also the daughter of that honored and sainted missionary in Siam, Dr. Bradley. She is now a mother in Israel. When we knew her in Siam she was a child up to her mother's knees in height, and we have seen her pulling herself up with her two little hands to get her eyes high enough up to see what was on the table.

Well, here is a missionary church. They are carrying on a Mission of their own in the Gilbert Islands; sending money to the American boards also. Last year they gave forty thousand dollars to carry on their Board Mission. You see, I write out the sum, for if I put it in figures you might say I had