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A Leper Women's Prayer Meeting.

(By Mrs. E. G. Horder.)

Every two months the European missionaries at Pakhoi, instead of meeting together on Saturday for Bible reading and prayer, separate, and attend one or other of the five Saturday half-holiday prayer-meetings conducted by the Chinese. One will go to the leper men, another to the leper women or girls' school, a third to the teachers and male Christians, and so on as we are able.

To-day, thinking the leper women would be far too shy to lead the meeting in the presence of the missionary, the writer went fully prepared to conduct the meeting herself and give the Bible address. However, Tai-Che, whose turn it was to lead, was fully equal to the occasion, and it was a real joy to listen to this dear woman, after she had read forty verses from St. John vi. in her Romanized* Testament, giving a simple Bible talk on the Feeding of the Five Thousand.

In speaking of our Saviour supplying the need of these hungry souls, she reminded her listeners (there were twenty leper women present) that formerly she herself, and most of them, were beggars as well as lepers, and their need was great, but Christ found them. He inclined the hearts of English friends to help the poor lepers by building this nice home and sending the money to feed and take care of them. Christ brought them to the Asylum, and now he had brought most of them to himself.

Tai-Che spoke so earnestly, and yet so

many of the others also prayed. They offered intercessions for their Christian fellow-countrymen in the north, many of whom are in situations of great danger; they prayed that peace might soon reign,



TAI-CHE: A CHRISTIAN LEPER WOMAN.

and that the plague and famine in India might soon be arrested. Some prayed for the missionaries connected with us in the work here, some of whom are now in Hong-Kong, and others in England. They asked for a blessing also upon the services on the

heard the name of Jesus. Now he is their strength and song and has become their salvation.—(Church Missionary Gleaner.)

A Canadian Missionary

WRITES AN INTERESTING LETTER FROM INDIA — SPEAKS OF THE WORK DONE BY THE POST OFFICE CRUSADE.

The following letter from the Rev. H. F. Laflamme, formerly of Morrisburg, Ont., will interest many 'Messenger' readers.

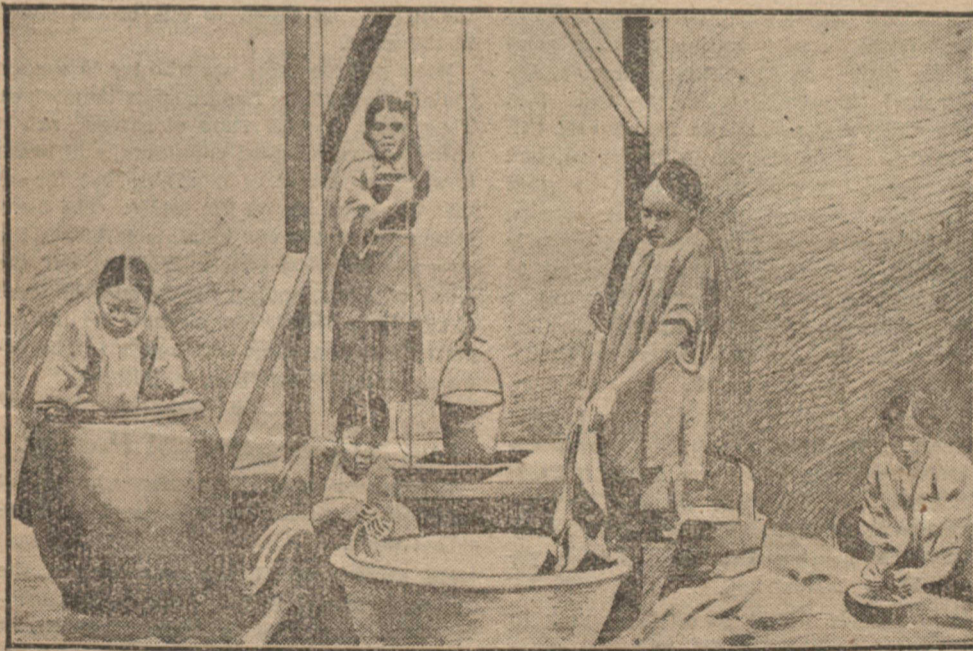
Cocanada, India, 19-2-'02.

Dear home folk.—Having just unpacked the box of papers for the use of our reading room and general literature work, which father sent from the kind friends all over Ontario and from some parts of Quebec, I want to say a word to you about the value and the appreciation of this branch of the work.

I have sent off this morning a lot of the Sunday School papers to Mrs. Nirfar, the matron of the Timpany School, who is the superintendent of the English Sunday school and the deaconess of our little English church, for use in that school, and have asked her to send them into all the homes. During the next few months these papers will be eagerly read by a large circle of the people in that community, who will not know where they have come from, but who will appreciate them very much. The fact is that the people have an appetite for reading, and if they cannot get good they will take the bad, and the devil and his emissaries see that there is plenty of that around for them to have. Among the Christian people of America there are great stacks of papers and periodicals and other literature, which is littering up their homes, and for which they have no use, and yet which is too good to destroy. In India we have a population which is learning English, and which in its effort to get that education spends all it has and is unable to provide itself with good literature or which may not have the mind to spend on that of which it does not know and in which it is not interested. To that population these papers and books come as a great boon.

I gave a bundle of the 'Youth's Companion' to a young graduate, who will take them home and after reading them carefully himself will select from them very helpful and useful articles and send them down to the next large town and they will come out translated into Telugu and circulate in one of the Telugu semi-weekly papers published there. He has articles from the Ram's Horn, which is sent to him by post from the office every week by some one in the postal crusade movement, and this morning I came across half a dozen of his articles translated in that way from the 'Ram's Horn' as I was looking over the exchanges that come to my table as the editor of the 'Ravi.'

Others of your papers I shall send down to the reading room, where after they have been read they will be distributed to all who make a purchase, be it ever so small. This plan prevents the papers being taken



LEPER WOMEN WASHING CLOTHES AND DRAWING WATER, PAKHOI

simply, that one just praised God for what he had done for her and the rest of the poor sufferers.

Tai-Che led in prayer twice. The meeting was then thrown open as usual, when

*The Chinese learn to read their own language when printed in alphabetical form, generally called 'Romanized,' more readily than when printed in the innumerable Chinese characters.

morning. The hymns sung were translations of 'The great Physician now is near,' and 'I am Jesus' little lamb.'

Out of the thirty-two leper women inmates of the Asylum eleven are baptized communicants, and all take their turns in leading the weekly prayer-meeting.

Truly we can praise God for what he has done. Five years ago none of these dear leper women, with the exception of two, who had been in Missions schools, had ever