

Neighboring villages and melas, the railway station, a Sarai frequented by Pilgrims, and a sort of wood market just outside of the city where large numbers of Bheels gather from day to day, during part of the year, have been visited as formerly.

Among those who have professed faith was a Mohammedan, who for a long time earnestly pressed for baptism but was kept back—perhaps through excessive caution—was employed on the new railway and is said to be now at a distance from Rutlam; another Mohammedan, a Hindu and a Bheel have drawn back more or less completely; others are still kept on probation and under instruction.

Communicants received on profession of faith (besides the two above mentioned and one of our own orphan boys who has for years professed faith but first was admitted to the Lord's table while in school at Indore) have been two—Lakhshimibai's son, Vithal, baptized in Mhow some nine years ago, and John, a blind lad, who tells me he had before communicated in the Methodist Church, but who brought no certificate. He seems a genuine believer, is learning to read nicely the books prepared for the blind, and is already useful as a helper.

Our fellow laborers, Mr. O'Brien and the native helpers, have our full confidence and warm regard, and have been a great comfort.

REV. NORMAN RUSSEL'S WORKS IN MHOW.

My first report is hardly capable of as great interest as I hope the subsequent ones may prove to be.

My year of preparation was spent almost entirely in Indore, with occasional visits to most of the other stations. Though feeling it my first duty to conquer the language, I did what little I could to help Mr. Wilkie with his many duties, and I may say I found the former made much easier by my attempts at the latter. I spent three, and for a while four, hours a day in the College with a bright eager class of young Hindoos, men whom I have learned not only to admire but to esteem, and if my brief experience is worthy consideration, it must be to add another testimony to the benefit to our cause from such intellectual and religious contact with the more promising class of India's youth.

Another work I was exceedingly interested in was that among the children of Indore city and neighbourhood. The little band of native workers at Indore are fully alive to the importance of this work, and are lending their aid to its fullest development.

Before going on to speak of Mhow, I feel it not only my duty but a privilege to acknowledge the unremitted kindness of all the friends at Indore, and more particularly of Mr. and Mrs. Wilkie,

during my stay among them. Their consideration and thoughtfulness made what is usually the most trying period of a missionary's experience a time of the greatest pleasure and profit. I was sorry to leave Indore for several reasons; principally in that it left Mr. Wilkie with a burden of work one man cannot possibly overtake; a matter however which I trust the Church will soon see its way to remedy.

I was appointed to Mhow by resolution of the Council and Presbytery at their meeting in November, and took over charge in the beginning of December, and if it does not seem paradoxical after the foregoing statement I cannot but rejoice in the appointment and in the promise of much and fruitful work which the field affords. My co-workers here are Miss Ross and Miss Dr. Fraser, and I think we all feel that in coming to Mhow we have come to ground well prepared for us. More particularly in this true of the girl's schools in Mhow, Pensionpura and Kisanpura, whose good standing and efficiency are no little credit to their former teachers. But I need write nothing about the work of the ladies, which will be fully reported on by themselves, except to say that the zeal with which each of them is developing her own sphere, though it augurs well for the work, will, I am afraid, be too great a strain on their powers of endurance, and I hope that next fall will see the way open to another lady worker being sent to help us in Mhow.

My own special work is of three kinds—school, preaching, and congregational work.

School Work.—The Bazaar School, with Harbhajan and Anand (the latter supported by West End Bible Class, Toronto) for teachers, I found in good condition. Its numbers have steadily increased since December, the roll now being seventy-five. The fact that the Parsees carry on a large school work in Mhow, backed by a heavy money grant from the cantonment, diminishes considerably our hopes of speedy development. However, as they do not teach the Bible nor in fact give any moral instruction, we cannot give up the fight to them. We have great hopes of our own school being a success; by far the larger proportion of children in Mhow go to no school, and from these we hope to add considerably to our numbers. We have added to our forces a teacher in Marathi—Salaram. I also take the Bible class myself and examine the classes occasionally in other subjects. I aim to bring the school at present up to middle school standard, from which the step to high school will be comparatively easy.

We have opened a new school in Guzar Khara, a village about a mile from Mhow; it is in charge of Walaji, and is at present very promising. The number on the roll is 25, all of whom pay fees and buy their own books. They learn the Bible daily. On Sunday the school numbers at times 60 to 75. We have also opened a school among