

OUR TELEGU MISSIONS.

A building for school and worship is very much needed in Cocanada. The rent, about \$300 per year, is a large sum to pay for what to a very limited extent, and in an unsatisfactory manner, meets the wants of the mission work there. A good house could be built for \$2,000: part of this sum has been raised, and the rest is most urgently needed. Cannot some of our friends send liberal donations for this object. Mr. and Mrs. Currie are now at *Tuni*, 40 miles north of Cocanada. They very much need help for building and mission work.

Over 100 were added by baptism to Cocanada church last year. We are unable to give the number added to the several missions under brethren Armstrong, Sanford and Churchill.

The Ladies Board of the East are going to supply these brethren and their wives with necessary buildings in their several stations. They expect to send out a young lady, Miss Hammond, this autumn. Possibly Mr. and Mrs. Boggs may also return. Mr. & Mrs. Timpany, and the Telegu young lady, Miss M. Amelia Keller, expect to return the first of September. Miss Keller's passage, and Mrs. Timpany's, as far as possible, will be paid by the Toronto Ladies Board. We wish the finances of the Society of the West, would have enabled Miss Lightbody, of Brantford, to accompany the departing missionaries. But we live, in the hope that we may welcome her in the near future, in India. Certainly, the women East and West have abundance of work before them. And now those who, up to this time, have stood apart with folded hands, now link them in the golden chain that is being extended to India's degraded daughters. *Let the Gospel shine into the homes of India!*

PROGRESS OF FEMALE EDUCATION IN INDIA.

Ten years ago, it is doubtful if there were in the District of Hoogly, ten native ladies who could read and write. Now, the ladies in every respectable family can read and write.

Out of about 3,000 women baptized by our Telegu missionaries of the Missionary Union and Canadian Mission, during the past ten years, not a woman could read a word. More than 1,000 of them, I presume, can read now.

APPRECIATING CHRISTIAN BOOKS.

"The missionaries of the Free-Baptist Mission in Orissa find some encouragement in the dissemination of literature. "Our books are much sought after now," writes the Rev. J. Phillips, "often by name, although they are generally sold now." He contrasts this with the state of things some years ago, when books would be taken only to be returned or torn up. Mr. Marshall, of Balasore, reports that "the Bible, which in the early times of the history of our mission, was considered so unholy a book as to defile the man who would touch it, is to-day, sought after as no other book is sought. It has already become the book among Hindus of our stations." Mr. Phillips, of Jellasure, met with an educated Babu, and asked him what he thought the religious future of India was to be. The Babu considered the question a hard one, but said that idolatry was doomed. "It is impossible for the Hindus to remain idolaters. Atheism could never satisfy a people for any considerable length of time. I have little hope of Brahminism. Its votaries are already very much divided against themselves. I myself could be a

"Christian if I could believe in the divinity of Christ." Such testimony is not, we think, infrequent now."—*Indian Evangelical Review.*

Orissa joins the Telegu country on the north. Some of the work of our mission extends where the Oryia language mingles with the Telegu.

STEALING FIRE.

"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality to Jerusalem, I Cor. 16:1-3." Many explain this as a divine command to raise their own church expenses while it was a command relating to the needy beyond.

Correspondence.

Under date of June 21st, Mrs. Claxton, President of the Montreal Women's Board, in a private note, writes *anent* their recent quarterly meeting: "Miss Muir gave a distressing account of our missionaries in India. It cannot be possible that they are so needy. We have sent three or four hundred dollars since March. In all, I think, we have sent thirteen hundred dollars now towards the girls' quarters. . . . We are working away, and though we cannot boast of so many circles as the Western (Toronto) Board, we have more circles and have raised more money than last year. The people in the country are interested, and have sent more money." The above record shows what can be done, when there is a mind to work.

Mrs. Pearce, of Strathroy circle, writes to Miss Erskine Buchan:—"Our circle meets on the first Monday of the month. I read your letter, and we feel quite interested in having a paper which would contain news from our own mission. Please tell Mr. Timpany we can take ten copies, praying God's blessing may rest on it to stir us to more active interest in our heathen sisters."

The Secretary at Whitby writes:—"There are only nine members, but I must say that our meetings are full of interest, and the attendance is very regular, and all seem to be greatly interested. We are looking hopefully on for a grand future. I only wish we could get something written on our own mission work in India. It is very hard to get anything of interest." The church at Whitby is small but the sisters evidently do not think that any excuse for not working.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER OF REV. G. PEARCE TO "THE FREEMAN."

Ramapatam is a small village and bazaar on the Coromandel Coast, one hundred and fifty miles from Madras. The place was formerly a civil station, and some good buildings had been erected here for the accommodation of Government officers. Some eight years since the Government abandoned the place and sold the premises to a native, who in his turn sold them to the Mission at a very low price. In view of what has since occurred, the obtaining of these premises by the Mission may be regarded as a very providential event. The position

has opened to its operations a very successful field of labor which I am now about to detail.

The baptized converts in connection with this station are now upwards of a thousand.

The two Missionaries occupying this position are the Rev. R. R. Williams and the Rev. A. A. Newhall. The former has a large Theological Seminary of more than one hundred young men and women gathered not from Ramapatam only, but from the several stations of the whole Mission and sent in by the brethren. To the training of these pupils he devotes his entire time and strength.

The special charge of the Ramapatam portion of the Mission is in Mr. Newhall's hands, and consists as in ordinary cases of the superintendence of native Evangelists, of which he has many, itinerating for the preaching of the gospel in the cooler months of the year, and, although not now the pastor of the Church, attending to the numerous applicants for baptism brought in by the native preachers, etc. All this is abundantly sufficient for one man's strength, but at the time of our visit the famine and the weakened condition of the Mission by death, and other causes, have added immensely to his burdens, and may well cause anxiety for the future unless he be speedily reinforced with help from America.

Of the work of famine relief, I must add a word or two hereafter.

On the first Sunday after our arrival, we attended in the morning a Sunday School held in the native chapel, a building capable of holding at least four hundred persons.

This school consists not of mere boys and girls but embraces the whole Christian population residing on the compound, hence men and women, and some of them quite aged, were seen under instruction.

One feature of this School interested us much. It is a rule here, that each person on the compound, whether young or old, shall learn verses of Scripture—those who can read, a verse every day, and those who cannot read, four verses in the week, for help in which they are indebted to the kind offices of their brethren and sisters of the station.

The verses are repeated at the morning school, the hearing of which occupies of course a large portion of the time of the teachers. This is not only a rule, but also a practice, as we had evidence while looking around.

It pleased us much to hear an aged native woman who could not read repeat with ready fluency the verses for the week.

In all this as well as from other means of instruction carried on here, we say with delight that the training of the Christians at this place in divine knowledge is carefully and laboriously attended to, a fact which augurs well for the future of the people of the Mission. At 9 o'clock A.M., the ringing of a bell invited us to attend Divine service in the building before mentioned. The audience was large, the place being well filled. The exercises were conducted not by the Pastor, but by a native minister, a man of middle age, and who is the head teacher in Mr. Williams's Theological Seminary, a person evidently of much preaching power, and as I was assured, of considerable attainments. He certainly was listened to with great attention by his audience. This good man, a convert it is believed of the Mission, owes his attainments to the care bestowed upon him by several brethren and not the least to his connection with the Theological Seminary, and position therein. I learned from the brethren that he was highly loved and respected for his general character.

Immediately after the close of this service, the Church convened for the purpose of the examination of candidates for baptism. It occupied fully two hours of the forenoon and the whole of the afternoon, the result of which was the acceptance of forty-nine persons. The native Pastor of the Church, bearing the American name, of Newton White, (being a protégé of a gentleman of that name) now presided. After prayer he delivered rather a long address regarding the object that was now before them, especially the important enquiries upon which they were entering.