

LETTER FROM INDIA.

COPIED FROM THE "MISSION DAYSRING."

HAUGE, INDIA, February 24, 1888.

My dear friends: I should like to show you how schools are carried on in the western part of India. They are smaller than those in America, and boys are usually those who attend rather than girls. Girls are thought good for house-work only, and they are put to work as soon as they get to be six or seven years old. If girls come to school we encourage them in every way often by giving them prizes of clothes. They are poor, and giving such a prize is the best way of helping them.

You would find nice school-houses in some towns, but frequently the schools are held in the town chowdries (public rest-houses). When there are neither school-houses nor chowdries, our country schools are held in the shade of some large trees, such as the tamarind or mango trees. Of course they do not study as carefully as you do, but they are learning how to do good work.

I want to tell you about a school in a town called Dahetue. It is a small town, and nearly all the children go to school. In all there are about twenty. I saw one girl among the boys. The school-house was built for these children only about one year ago. At that time the Hindus all said that the place was inhabited by the devil, and that he would give the Christians great trouble.

After some months, when the people saw that the children and Christian teacher and his wife had received no harm from his evil majesty, they gave a very apt reason, saying that the nails driven into the roof at the time of the erection of the building had pierced the devil's head, and he was dead! I think we would all be glad if the devil could be killed so easily. The children are all poor, but they are very eager to learn.

In order to go to school and work also the children have to manage in a way that few American children have to do. As soon as the sun rises the school-bell rings

and the children come flocking to school, and study till 9 o'clock, when they go to get breakfast. All day long they are obliged to go into the fields to help drive and feed the cattle. As the sun goes down they drive their cattle home, tie them for the night, and when the school-bell rings at 7 p. m. they again go to school. At this time they have to study by lamp-light. After school they get their supper. I am glad to say that these little boys did well in answering questions about the Bible, and did so well in their government examinations that the government inspector praised them very much. They deserved praise.

I expect some of these boys will go to the Normal School and become teachers themselves. Some of them who have studied arithmetic and grammar in the shade of large trees have become good teachers. Pray that the children in every town will love school and work as hard as the Dahetue children.

In behalf of the children studying in the western part of India.

Very truly yours,
K. F. HUME.

GREGORY THE APPLE THIEF.

One morning little Gregory looked from his window and saw, in the orchard of a neighbour, a quantity of beautiful red apples lying about in the grass, which a storm during the night had shaken from the trees.

Without stopping to think Gregory ran hastily down the steps, crawled through a gap in the fence into the garden, and filled his pockets with the apples. Suddenly the neighbour appeared with a cane in his hand. Gregory saw him coming and ran as quickly as he could to the broken paling, in order to creep through again.

But, alas! on account of his stuffed pockets, the young thief stuck in the narrow opening. The owner of the fruit pulled him out, and Gregory had to turn out his pockets, and, empty-handed and ashamed, go back to his home. *Be sure your sin will find you out.*