

Our Work Abroad.

NARSAPATNAM PREACHERS.

IF we missionaries, in writing home, have given the impression, and I fear we sometimes have, that we are doing the work in India, it is a false impression. The man, who, more than any others, and as much as all others together is carrying the Gospel to the hearts and homes of the people of India is the native preacher, evangelist, or catechist, as he is variously called. The missionary does an important and indispensable work, even as an evangelist, but he utterly mistakes his calling if he neglects his office as overseer, director, superintendent, bishop, leader, organizer and manager of the native forces and agencies, to discharge the duty of a native agent, as pastor or preacher, a work which only the native agent can do most effectively.

In this illustration we have a group of these devoted and capable men. He to the left and lower corner is Barnalu David. If king David was a man after God's own heart, this David is a man after the missionary's own heart. For years he has been pastor of the little church at Narsapatnam. His is an experience of 52 years of the grace of God. His conversion took place while an immigrant to the Mauritius islands, off the East coast of Madagascar. Returning from there to his native village of Bollagatham, three miles from Narsapatnam, he was rejoiced to find that missionaries had been there winning converts to his new found faith, and threw himself with great enthusiasm into the work. Here Mr. Garside soon found him and had him engaged as one of his helpers. His first wife, Sarah, was like minded with himself, and the two wrought with such zeal that a large number of the converts from the caste people during Mr. Barrow's time, were won by their efforts. So incensed were the

heathen at their success that they once attempted to burn them alive by locking them in their house at night and setting fire to it. Rather than leave the new converts and others for whose salvation they yearned, this brave couple remained in the village and slept on the ground, in the wet and cold of the cool season. Sarah was a most tireless and importunate preacher of the Gospel, instant in season and out of season, sowing beside all waters and never so happy as when she was presenting the loving Saviour to her people. She passed away in '98 and it might be said of her truly that the zeal of God's house had eaten her up. David's second wife, Lydia, is one of the finest looking women I have ever seen in India and a woman with a good deal of character and intelligence. She and



A GROUP OF NATIVE PREACHERS AND EVANGELISTS.

David occupy that lone station praying daily for the coming of a missionary to carry on the work as in the times of the Barrows and McLeods.

Above David, in the centre of the picture, is his wife and her brother, Kode Abraham. This Abraham is a brother of Sarayya who came from the Tuni field to me at Yellamanchilli when that station was opened 16 years ago, and like Sarayya he has an indomitable courage and a strong faith. They are both products of the Godavari Delta mission, which has as missionaries a body of men strongly in sympathy with the views of the late George Muller of Bristol,