

FOREIGN LETTERS.

LETTER FROM MISS ROSS.

INDORE, July 17th, 1886.

Since I wrote last, Bhiekie, the brightest and most attentive little girl I had in school, added her name to the already long list of married children. Her mother had told me that she would send her to school for a year subsequent to her marriage. Her future mother-in-law, when in Indore, on one occasion came to the school; she also said that Bhiekie would continue attending. I was so glad to hear her say so. The marriage took place. I expected Bhiekie to return a few days after the close of the ceremonies, which occupied nearly two weeks. However, as waiting was apparently in vain, I went to her home. Her mother said that Bhiekie could not come now, as her caste was better than that of the people in whose house the school was. I thought that was merely a false excuse; so after I had put several questions, she said it was not because of caste. She then spoke of the work to be done; I reasoned with her on that point; she then confessed it was not work. Other reasons were assigned, which proved to be as unreal as the former. At length she said if some one came from the mother-in-law's house, and stated before her that Bhiekie could go to school, she would not prevent her; now that she was married the mother-in-law had control over her, and that she had told them they could not allow Bhiekie to come to school. I felt so disappointed, as I was looking forward to having her attend for some time. I said I would go and see the mother-in-law myself about the matter. I did so, but she was loud in her assertions against her coming, and quite elated by her refusal. It seemed to be very gratifying to her that I had taken the trouble to come by train, and she had said no. Soon after leaving the house I saw Bhiekie's husband; he appeared to be seventeen or eighteen years of age. He had Bhiekie's hymn book in his hand; he looked at it in a very kindly way, and said that he would be very glad to have her continue her attendance, but that he had no voice in the matter, as it was what his parents said would be done.