

MISSION BAND—INDIA.

Lesson II.

Hymns: "Christ Arose," "Hallelujah! He is Risen."

Scripture Lesson: "The Story of the Resurrection of Jesus."

Exercise by three members:—

1.

"Go and tell," the angel said,
When the strong ones feared and fled;
Then, by lips of tenderest mold
Was the sweet life-message told:
"Christ is risen!" Oh, rejoice,
Now unseal thy lips and voice;
Tell it over far and wide,
Life doth not in dark tombs hide.

2.

"Go and tell," oh, quickly tell,
News that will all fears dispel;
Empty now the sepulchre,
Thou must be His messenger
To assure the doubting one
Life is victor over stone,
Rolled away the barrier grim,
By the power threefold in Him.

3.

Yes, when Christ His mission burst,
Unto woman spake He first;
"Hail! all hail!" blest message greet,
Brought her prayerful at His feet.
Then in Christly tones He said:
"Go and tell, be not afraid,
Tell them that I go before
To unseal each prison door."

I. Let us now continue our study. Is our geographer ready with his map? Last day he marked the boundaries of India, and at the north the rugged Himalayas. These mountains are a protection to the people; they keep out enemies. They also form a source of supply of food and wealth by collecting and storing up water for the hot plains below. The monsoon, or regular wind, drives the moisture, exhaled from the tropical seas, northward. A native poet wrote that the great clouds were like flights of huge white birds. This moisture, after its long voyage through the air, strikes against these towering mountains, and is congealed into snow, which lodges on the heights, or is formed into rain, which pours down the southern slopes so that the rainfall is the heaviest in the world. At Cherra Junji, in Assam, the rainfall is 30 feet, enough to float the largest man-of-war. In London, England, the yearly rainfall is only two feet. In Thibet, beyond the Himalayas, scarcely any rain falls.

The mountains' southern slopes are

fertile. The upper ranges are bare, but a forest springs up wherever there is enough soil. Some dense jungles breed fever, and only a few rude tribes and wild beasts can live there. Ponies and mules straggle with their loads along the narrow paths cut out of the precipices. The muleteers are often accompanied by their hard-working wives. Would you like a climb yourself? Here are dense thickets of tree ferns and bamboos, tall trees clothed in mosses, ferns and flowering vines. Here are dark cedars, and there the rhododendron, growing as tall as a tree, and covered with pink and red blossoms in the springtime. You would think of Whittier's lines—

"Aloft on sky and mountain-wall

Are God's great pictures hung."

II. Shall we mark the rivers now? The Indus and the Brahmaputra rise near each other, in lovely valleys separated from India by mountains 15,000 feet high. The Indus has a great branch, the Sutlej, and they empty their mighty stream of water into the Indian Ocean, having travelled 1,800 miles westward, then southward. The Brahmaputra flows into the Bay of Bengal, 1,500 miles away from the Indus. This name means the Son of Brahma, or God. At a noted place of pilgrimage, Hardwar, the Ganges River issues from the Mountain-side. The Shastras teach that the Ganges was originally only in heaven, but a certain wise sage pleaded that it might be sent to earth, and he prevailed. Gunga, or the Ganges, was angry at being brought down from heaven, and Siva, the god, to save the earth from the shock of her fall, stood upon the mountain and caught Gunga in his bunch of matted hair and kept her there till one drop was permitted to fall on the mountain. From this drop sprang the most sacred river in the world. To bathe in Mother Ganges cleanses from sin; the Hindu lings to die upon her banks, and have the ashes of his burned body borne by her to the ocean. These great rivers are most useful, as they carry down so much soil, which as a top-dressing on the land, serves as a fertilizer. But sometimes they are terrible destroyers. The floods sweep off cattle and stores of grain and thatched cottages with their terror-stricken inmates.

III. Let us note some of the features of this three-cornered southern tableland, for in this section lies our own mission. Its eastern and western sides