

had led here by a stick. He was very polite as usual, for after he had received his dole he folded his hands and put them to his forehead as a mark of great respect.

After these two had gone I had time for breakfast and to do several different things before ten o'clock when the poor widow, who has four small children, came for her portion. This time she only brought two of them with her, a puny babe only a few months old and a little boy of two years. As I noticed the latter I almost shivered and asked what was the matter with him? He was just skin and bones. Oh he had been having fever and had not enough to eat.

The young man with elephantiasis did not come. His condition is pitiable. One of his feet is about the shape and size of an elephant's. This disease is said to be caused by drinking bad water.

Now I want to tell you about a little girl who used to come Saturdays. One day last cold season I found such a lot of people waiting for grain; I called Mr. Corey to see if he thought they were all worthy of help, for it seemed to me that some of them were able to work. He soon told several that they ought to have gone to the rice fields to work. Just then I noticed a bright, pretty girl who looked well, and said "See this girl, she is strong enough to work," (I was looking at her face) but my husband said she is a leper. Surely she is not a leper! but yes, a glance at her feet told me the sad truth. Poor child, so happy and bright looking and yet like Naaman a leper.

It is hardly necessary to say she got some grain and did whenever she came, but she does not come now, for one day I was looking out of a window when I saw her standing near and acting so queer. I watched her for a little while. She would put her hand under her cloth and then withdraw it as though undecided as to what to do. This she did several times. Finally I saw what she had in her hand, a colored letter block belonging to one of the children. Just then she saw me and dropped it. I left the window without saying anything, but after a little went back again. She had gone but the block was there.

I cannot tell you how my heart was touched by this little incident for it meant such a struggle between right and wrong to her. Probably it was the first time she had ever had anything of the kind in her hand and it would have been such a treasure to her. Moreover the majority of the low caste people in this country have had so little moral training that they would not hesitate to appropriate for their own use almost anything, provided they were sure they would not be found out.

Saturday afternoon, the 14th, the people were here again this morning, and several of the poor Christians during the forenoon, for help in different ways.

The rains have almost entirely failed and the peo-

ple as a rule have but little to eat. Some families even now have scarcely one meal a day.

The prices are high, just double ordinary prices, and rising every day. If rain does not come within the next two weeks the rice crop will be an entire failure. As it is even with good rains there will only be a quarter crop. For sometime, the last week especially, the people have been begging us for work.

As the rains have failed there is no work in the field so the people have no way of earning anything with which to buy food, although there is plenty of grain in the district, for last year the crops were good. Yet as things are even the richest classes find it hard to lay in a supply of grain now as the merchants are holding it for higher prices so are willing to sell only a little daily.

As famine seems imminent we confess our hearts ache when we think of the suffering that must be endured by the people and if we feel thus how must the people themselves feel who can only look forward to such intense suffering from hunger.

Pray for them, and for the Christians too who even now are feeling the effects of the high prices and scarcity.

CLARA L. COREY.

Sept. 14, 1901.

A Mission Band has been organized by Mrs. Brown, at Springhill, Kings Co., N.B., with a membership of twenty-four; President, Miss Macmackin. A Band has also been re-organized at Hatfield Point, Kings County.

A Young Ladies' Mission Band in connection with the Baptist Church of Amherst was organized on Monday, Nov. 11th, with an enrolment of twenty names, with more to follow. President, Mrs. F. Cain.

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