

## Akidu.

## THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

(From the "Baptist.")

During the first two weeks of this year the occupant of the new Mission House at Akidu was busy from morning till night trying to make his abode beautiful and comfortable. Since the end of September, only about a week of working days had been passed in Akidu, so that things were in nearly the same condition at the end of December as they were three months previous. Considerable varnishing, whitewashing, etc., had to be done in a hurry.

The evening of Saturday, the 14th January, found the house in fair order and occupied by a man who ached all over. Sunday morning did not bring the expected guests, but on Monday morning they appeared bright and early. The new missionaries did not come, but I suppose they were tired of travelling. Mr. and Mrs. Churchill with their little girl; Miss Hammond; Mr. Sanford; Mr. Currie; Mr. and Mrs. Timpany with their little girl and my baby, made up the party that I met on the canal bank. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday were spent in conference on various subjects. Full verbal reports from the several stations occupied much of the time. In all 245 baptisms were reported and a membership of 877. One cause of gratitude was found in the fact that during the past year we have obtained a New Testament that we can conscientiously circulate. Some time ago, I set the Sermon on the Mount as a lesson to be learnt by heart, promising a copy of the New Testament to every one who would recite the three chapters correctly, either separately or all at the same time. Thirty-four books have already been won in this way, not only by preachers and teachers, but also by scholars in the village schools. I shall not be content till sixteen more go and increase the list to fifty. I know of a few Christians who are studying hard to win the book.

Next year we hope to meet at Bobbili, if it is the Lord's will. Bro. Sanford left on Thursday morning, but the others were kind enough to favor Akidu with their presence till Monday morning. On Thursday and Friday we had our first Telugu Association, with the delegates from the Tuni, Cocanada, Akidu and Gunnanapudy Churches. We had reports from the various churches, also from the colporteurs in regard to their special work. Then there were two or three sermons at different points in the proceedings. When the question of place of meeting for next year was brought up, the brethren from the Gunnanapudy Church were anxious to have the Association meet with them next year, but it was finally decided to meet at Cocanada, with the understanding that the Gunnanapudy invitation be accepted for the year following. A good many women were present, so that altogether there must have been fully 150 Christians at the meetings. Three men from a new village were baptized here on the 15th, and on the 21st three more men and two women, from other places were added to our church. To-morrow I hope to start out for a tour with my tent.

JOHN CRAIG.

Akidu, 30th Jan., 1882

## Bimlipatam.

## MRS. SANFORD COMING HOME.

Mrs. Sanford, under date January 17th, writes thus to the Secretary of the Central Board of the W. M. Societies of Nova Scotia:—

Since I last wrote you, five from the school have been

baptized. I think in my last I mentioned to you their desire to follow Jesus. We are much pleased to have them gathered into the fold, and hope and pray, as I know you will, that they may be kept from the temptations of Satan. We do hope, if their lives are spared, to see them useful men and women in the Mission.

Last week we had a visit of two or three days from Mr. and Mrs. Churchill, also a shorter one from Miss Hammond, who came in from the steamer, and spent a night with us. Three days ago, they all, in company with Mr. Sanford, left for Akidu, to attend the Conference. I felt that I must forego the pleasure of meeting with them this year, as the extra work preparatory to my going home, which must be done by myself, is quite enough, with my other cares, to use up all the strength I have left. After their return next week Miss Hammond is to pay us a good visit. She is not looking very well, and I hope the little change and rest will do her much good. She thinks this is all that she requires. I wish that I could say the same with reference to myself, for I would like very much to be able to remain a year longer at least, yet I feel well assured that it would not be wise to try and do so. No definite plans are made with regard to the voyage home as yet, except that we will not leave until some time in March.

## Chicacole.

Mr. Hutchinson, the newly arrived Missionary, sends a very full report to the Board of the state in which he found this station, from which we extract the following:

"The Christians, and even the heathen at Aukulathampara, where Bagaran Bayrah lives, have long been desirous of having a school taught by a Christian teacher. The Naidu, or head man of the town, a new convert, favours the project. We learned to-day that he had caused 40,000 bricks to be prepared for the building, which is also intended to serve as a place of worship. He will relieve the Mission of either part or the whole of the expense of building. James, one of the boys of Miss Hammond's school is to go there as a teacher. We hope that he will be partly supported by the native Christians and others whose children may attend.

Suthena, who gave Miss Hammond considerable trouble during the early part of the year by his caste prejudices, and who absented himself from the Mission for several months has returned. He had always refused to eat with the other Christians. He came back, however, seemingly penitent, and, as it happened, on the day before a feast which Miss H. had planned for the Christians. Of course he was asked to eat. When the hour came he sat down with the others and ate food prepared by those of lower caste than himself. On Sunday he preached on the Prodigal Son. He is beginning well, and if he remains steadfast will prove of great assistance until I get Telugu. Appayah is still with Brother Sanford, where he will likely remain.

Bagaran Bayrah came in on Saturday in time for Conference Meeting, and was with us over Sunday. He administered the Lord's Supper. Next month I hope to be able to administer the sacrament. One of the new converts who came with him is a fair sample of all, I fancy. He thought that, being a Christian, he was too good to work at his former trade—carpentering. Nothing would suit him but preaching. As he had no education, I differed from him in that particular, and have induced him to try his hand for a while longer at his master's trade.