

ways; wherever a little child is without its proper protectors, there, if the child is attractive, or shows promise of being afterwards attractive, you have a little child in danger. All over S. India, so far as we have gone, there are men and women on the watch for such children. Any price from Rs. 28 upwards may be paid. Each case is decided upon its own merits. The sale of a child for such a purpose is illegal, but money is not passed in public. The necessary proof is unobtainable. The woman who buys the child calls her her own daughter, and can easily get witnesses to prove the relationship. As the Indian Penal Code stands, we can do little through it. It is impossible as a rule to prove that the owner's purpose is evil. You cannot prove an intent. In a recent case where the evidence was morally conclusive, the Judge said action was impossible because of the impossibility of getting the necessary proof. It is not an easy question for Government to touch, but we believe that something more than is provided at present is needed, and that when our Government does move, it will find itself backed up by the best men in India. The nation has a conscience, and surely an appeal to it, such as would be created by an amendment of the Penal Code, would find a response somewhere. But whether it would or not, God would be behind us in this matter, and would, we believe, carry us through.

In the meantime there is much to do. It is true that until pressure is brought to bear upon those responsible (the priests and the Temple women) pressure, either from outside or from inside, the trade in little children will go on. Pressure from outside, caused by a new and very carefully enforced law, seems distant. How would such a law be enforced if it were passed to-morrow? Pressure from inside, caused by a quickened national conscience, also seems distant. The reform movement moves but slowly in the villages. But it cannot be that this whole generation of Temple children must pass unreached. There are 12,000 Temple women in S. India. Most of these women have adopted at least one child; many have adopted two. A child much over ten years old who has been for long under Temple influence is usually too old in Temple life to be counted a little child at all. She cannot be put among ordinary children, unless she is an exceptionally simple-minded child. So that the next ten years must see a whole generation of little Temple children pass into Temple girls, (and that means, humanly speaking, passing out of reach in a very real and awful way) unless within the next ten years we reach them while they are children, innocent little babies and innocent little girls. How are they to be reached?

I shall be very grateful to any one who can suggest ways of reaching them. The path is all untracked. Any suggestions will be welcome. At the outset we have to face strong opposition. If Satan can hold on to these little ones for a few more years, he knows he probably has them in a special sense for his own possession. Our plan, in so far as we

have one, is to tell everyone we can get to listen about the Temple children, and about our readiness to take them if they can be found. We tell our Christians, pastors, school-masters, Bible women, workers of all sorts, our servants, fellow-travellers in trains, or on the road, anyone who will listen. We tell our Hindu friends, men and women, pressing upon them the wrong of the whole matter. We try to get at their hearts about it. Several of our children were brought to us through the intervention of Hindus.

We find that though it does not do to seem in a hurry, there should be no delay in getting the child, and carrying her out of reach of her people as soon as ever we have the chance. A day's delay, even a few hours' delay, may mean losing the child altogether. There is no opportunity which needs to be more promptly bought up out of the hand of the evil one than the opportunity to redeem a little child from this particular kind of destruction.

But behind all, and through all, we pray. When we hear of a child we hold on to her by prayer. We are holding on for twelve little ones now, who seem absolutely out of reach. Three of them have been already "married to the god." Will all who feel moved to do it pray earnestly with us for the fate of these young children—such dear little children often, that one wonders any one could have the heart to hurt them.

Our hope is that eventually each language area will have its own Temple children's nursery, if it is found that in that particular district such children exist. These little ones require a special sort of mothering. When their back ground is considered, the reason is obvious. Till such nurseries are opened, we will welcome any little child, and adopt her into our family, if the missionary interested in her is sure there is a real need to save her from danger. Sometimes, even where there are no large temples, it will be found that little children are obtained for wrong purposes. In North India the Society for the Protection of Children is at work, but in South India nothing is being done on a large scale, and there is room for all who love little children to do something for them. Some can perhaps adopt such children themselves. Those who are unable to give the personal care involved in that can help to find them and send them to those to whom this special work has been given; and all can pray and help by that sort of sympathy which is help indeed—"Baptist Mission Review."

#### "THE HOMES OF OUR LADY MISSIONARIES IN INDIA."

The lights were burning in the church, the people flocked up the steps, and as they entered talked in loud tones to each other, as people do who are deeply in earnest.

This was the night that three missionaries were to be set apart for work in India. Many went to the meeting with thankful hearts.