

the following notices in the *Madras Native Herald* of 29th May:—

Conjeveram and Chingleput are not only centres of most baneful superstitions and abominations, but they are so far removed from those moral and religious influences which are set a-going in Madras for the emancipation of the Hindu mind, that we often felt a strong desire to visit our branch schools there, at least two or three times a-year, with the view of infusing fresh energy and vigour into the minds of our teachers and scholars, and of attempting to reach the consciences and hearts of adults, by conversations and addresses in their own tongues on the vital truths of the gospel. But owing to the nature of our work at Madras, which is rapidly multiplying on all hands, and on account of the afflictions and trials by which the mission has been again and again visited, this desire was never fully carried into effect. As was intimated in the last *Herald*, accompanied by eleven of our Christian catechists, teachers, and students, the native missionaries, the Rev. Messrs. Rajahgopal and Venkataramiah, started for Conjeveram on the evening of Friday, 21st May. We paid a passing visit to Ponnamalai, where we met with soldiers from different parts of the country—some of them belonging to H. M.'s 84th regt. from Trichinopoly, some from Madras, and others from Bangalore. One of them recognised us as members of the Free Church Mission, and told us that he was often refreshed and edified by ministrations in our church, and spoke most affectionately of Mr. Anderson—This was one of the pious soldiers of H. M.'s 84th regt. Another, quite of a different character, also recognized us as preachers of the gospel whom he had often heard in Fort St. George. On conversing a short time with him, we found him to be a backslider from the ways of God, in which he once rejoiced to walk, unable to bear close dealing, he left us abruptly on a false pretence.

We arrived at CONJEVERAM at 5 P.M. on Saturday. The sight of the golden city revived many recollections in our minds. Often have we passed through its long, irregular streets, sometimes in the dim twilight and sometimes in the fresh morning. Sometimes have we entered this stronghold of Satan singing the praises of Jehovah, whose name has been blasphemed and dishonoured in its streets and dwellings from time immemorial, and at other times by thinking

and conversing with one another on the omnipotent power and glorious grace of our Immanuel, who shall one day utterly abolish all its idols. The towering pagodas and the numerous smaller temples and muntapams, which caught our eyes at every turn as we passed through Coimbatore, made us feel that the city, with all its busy activities, was wholly given to idolatry. The aspect of the whole place impresses every one capable of enlightened reflection with feelings of awe and distress.

All the teachers, monitors, and scholars were waiting for our arrival most anxiously. The glow of affection in their countenances, and the hearty welcome with which they received us, refreshed and made us forget for the time being all the fatigues of a tedious journey. After giving them full intimation of our purpose to spend the Sabbath and Monday among them, and after requesting them to publish our object to their friends and relatives, we retired to the bungalow.

On Sabbath, at 10 A.M., we all went down to the school-house, and began our labours by praise and prayer to Him who made heaven and earth. The hymn of praise which was then sung, was a portion of the 115th Psalm. In a city like Conjeveram this Psalm has real meaning, and tells with power on the mind and conscience. The whole number present was nearly three hundred. The present numerical strength of the school is most encouraging, and it is a sure indication of the onward progress of Bible education.

We spent about six hours in examining all the classes in their Scriptural studies. The main object we had in view in these examinations, was not only to reach their hearts by direct appeals of the truth; but to ascertain the actual progress of the different classes in their studies since the school was re-opened in February last.

The first class of the English school studied during the last four months, in the Old Testament, the whole of Genesis, and twenty chapters of Exodus; in the New Testament, three chapters of John's Gospel, and the whole of the Assembly's Shorter Catechism. They passed, on the whole, a fair and satisfactory examination in the Scriptures.—There are some very able and energetic lads in the first class. Their minds are thoroughly trained and imbued with the life giving truths of Christianity. The