

prayer and another hymn I read the 13th chapter of 1st Corinthians, explaining it and asking questions as I read. I trust we all realized more than ever the importance of having genuine love toward God, and toward our fellow-men.

In our business-meeting we received a brother by letter from the Rangoon Telugu Church. His name is Benjamin. I have employed him as a preacher. Then we attended to the three men who had come to be baptized. The members present voted for their reception. After that the question of collections came up. A month ago I provided two villages with boxes, so that they might have a collection every Sunday when they meet for worship. The boxes were brought in last Sunday and were found to contain very fair contributions.

I have provided three more villages besides Akidu with boxes, so that I expect a good contribution at our next meeting. The church voted one rupee a month to a sick brother who is living on the compound here. After the above business was disposed of, we took a rest for ten or fifteen minutes in order to stretch our legs. There were about fifty present at the Lord's Supper beside a number of spectators. At 5.30 p.m. the people went to the canal bank, where I joined them after a little delay. There I read about Christ's baptism and spoke about His divinity, and also about the reason why He submitted to the ordinance. I found the canal a very convenient place for baptizing as it is deep and had a nice hard bottom where it passes our compound. I had baptized twice before in Akidu, but it was in a tank on the other side of the village. After changing my clothing I talked to some of the Christians for a while, and finally sat down to my four o'clock dinner at 6.30. But one could afford to miss dinner altogether once a month for the privilege of a day in His courts. I think the Christians in this region are beginning to realize that they are Christians. If they appreciate our monthly meeting as much as I do, it must be a joy and a blessing to them.

The weather has been very dry, splendid weather for building, but poor for crops. However, I think the bottom fell out last night, as it has been pouring much of the time since yesterday at 9 p.m.

JOHN CRAIG.

Akidu, 9th Aug., 1881.

### Chicacole.

DEAR LINK,—Instead of my usual letter to you this quarter, perhaps your readers will be interested in the first report of my two Bible women.

The name of the elder is Papamah. She is the mother of my school teacher, and has been with me about six months. She seems an earnest loving Christian.

That of the younger is Heniamah. She was here when I came to this station; has rather an interesting history, and I may give it to you some day. She has gone out with me, or with another woman, more or less during the past year, but I never felt like calling her a Bible woman, or putting her fully into the work till the first of July. I have them both in the Bible lesson with the young men in the morning, and nearly every afternoon finds them out in the town or adjacent villages.

I have only been out once with them during the month; then we certainly had a good time. I will translate their report and it may speak for itself:

#### REPORT.

July 2.—To-day we went to Godavery street, where we talked some time about the Gospel. Several people listened, and one said, "Yes, your words are true; there is one God, we do not know much about Him, so worship many."

Another said, "You say there is one God, but there is no God who is helping or sustaining us; we simply live."

"Look here, before God made you He made heaven and earth; the sun and all the fruits and produce of the earth for your benefit. He has done no less than this for your good and happiness, yet you say He does nothing." She dropped her head and was silent, while we told them of another token of His wonderful love.

July 5.—To-day we went to a village called Arrisavilly. Found near the house of a former soldier a number of women and children, and while we talked of some things in Matt. xv., more than a dozen women came together. As they listened the eyes of one filled with tears as she said, "We know we are all sinners, but must we depart from the way our forefathers have walked? This is hard." "God is kind to you." Just then her husband came, and with anger, commanded her to go into the house. "What was she crying for? Did she too want this new religion? What did she know about things?"

July 6.—Went to another village to-day, and when we were having a pleasant time with the women, the men came, became very angry, and began to tell Hindu stories.

Went once more to Arrisavilly and a number of women listened attentively. Recently two asked what they had to do in this matter? "What must they do? You must believe now in the Lord Jesus Christ who is able to save you; then in this world and the next you shall be happy. You must give up idol worship, for these images are only wood or stone, and worship the Creator and His Son Jesus Christ." Then they saw some men coming, and turning away hastily, said, "Come again but now we must go."

Next day, while talking to more than a dozen women about a verse in John, 2nd chapter, one asked, "Ah Ma,\* how do you know all these things?" "My dear friends, God has given us a book by which we can learn about our own hearts and His love to us. This book was not devised by man, but is God's own Holy Book and written as He taught men by His Spirit. This is the only book God has ever given to us." "Ah Ma, you must be very happy to know about God in this way, how can we learn?" "We were once more wicked than you. I gave plantains, and coconuts to be placed at the feet of an idol, and worshipped once as you do now; after a long time I learned the true way of salvation." After further talk they asked when we would come again, and we left them.

July 10.—Went to Bundeponam to-day, and after reading a few verses from Luke to both men and women, one man arose and asked, "If all these idols in the temple were without life?" "We do not know whether the God who made all things has a form or not." "But you say if we worship these idols in the temple we receive no good." Without further talk the women laughed, made a noise, and went away.

So the report goes on to the end of the month; sometimes one thing, sometimes another. I have not time to translate more, nor have you further space to spare. As visits are repeated in the different houses I hope that some will hear. Only the Master, whom we try to serve, can give His word the power to move these dark hearts. I have always wanted to have Bible women at work, and I hope God's best blessings will rest upon these two, and those whom they try to teach.

C. A. HAMMOND.

Chicacole, Aug. 2nd, 1881.

\* Ah Ma is simply a respectful phrase, do not know that it has a real equivalent in English.