

My Dear Sisters:—

You have been hearing from time to time about the meetings which have been held at the Clock Tower. The controversy between the Mahomedan and the Christians, has made a great stir in the Town, and the subject of religion seems to be the topic for conversation everywhere. For years past the Gospel has been faithfully preached in Bimlipatam, but never before has there been such a good opportunity for reading and explaining the Scriptures to the common people as has been given through this blasphemer of the Lord Jesus Christ. The questions asked by him, had to be answered direct from the Bible, because his criticisms were made mainly upon the contradictions (?) in the New Testament.

Day after day the same questions were brought up, and even when the truth was made clear, he would not admit it. When he read a passage from the Bible, he read in such a way, that a very different meaning would be understood by his hearers. For example in Galatians 3. and 13. he passed over the words "*for us*," and emphasized the last part, "cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." This perversion of the Scripture gave the Christians an opportunity of presenting the passage in its true light.

The Mahomedan has gone to Rangoon, and the meetings have been discontinued, but before he went a-

way the crisis came. On Monday the 4th of Nov. he was especially loud in his denunciation of the New Testament, and sarcasm of the Christian religion. Among other things he said, "I am going away, and after I am gone, can any one say, that the Mahomedan was beaten. You are my witnesses," he said to the audience. Then the oft repeated challenge to meet in some Hall' get a chairman, and have his criticisms discussed publicly was again given. This he did not want to do. He much preferred the Clock Tower, for his power, over a certain class lay in his ability to ridicule and blaspheme the name of Christ. But some of the leading men among the Hindoos took it up. They said, "This is a good word. Let us get a Hall, and ask the Sub-magistrate to be Chairman." The Mahomedan could not back out, and on Tuesday morning it was decided to hold a meeting at 5 P. M. in our Chapel, the Sub-magistrate readily consenting to be chairman. Then the preparation began. Notices were sent round, and the Chapel put in order. The large platform placed between the two front doors, so that those in the siderooms could hear. Long before the time for meeting the people began to come in crowds till the house was full. Every bench and chair available on the Compound was carried over to the Chapel, and yet many had to stand during the two hours the meeting lasted. Some