

as being a somewhat unfamiliar object in this locality, a considerable crowd of people from the village had assembled, and were sitting on the ground quietly watching the movements of our party. Here was an audience already gathered, and at our door, so without losing time we sang a hymn, and commenced telling them of the way of salvation. They listened long and attentively, acknowledging the truth of all that was said, some of them expressing their desire to become Christians.

The home of the second of the two men baptized last month is in this village. He has met us once at his own home since we came, and although very busy just now, as this is the planting season, has called on us twice at the camp. He has had to endure some little persecution in his family, as his father and elder sister are very angry with him for having been baptized. From what I can gather, he seems to lack the courage needful to defend himself in his new position, and is too easily intimidated. Otherwise, I believe he is trying to live correctly, so far as he knows how. Just emerging from heathenism he has much yet to learn, and may be expected to acquire strength with increasing light and experience. Yesterday morning we went to the mala quarter, and at the door of this man's house, preached to a large crowd of people who stood in the street. The great majority seemed to be women and girls, as probably many of the men had gone to work in the fields. It was saddening to think of so many living in such awful ignorance and degradation, whose lives might be made measurably bright and happy by saving grace. Could not something be done for these women? I thought that if we could send a Bible woman here for a few days, or a few weeks, perhaps something might be effected. But thus far, we have not been able to fully supply the need of that kind of work nearer home, and how could we send any one here? However the way may be open to do so sometime. Although these mala women are not shut up in zenanas, they still seem to need the agency of Christian women for their evangelization. Degraded and ignorant as the men of this class usually are, the women seem to have sunk to a lower depth, and need more patient and sympathetic teaching than they are likely to receive from male evangelists.

Yesterday afternoon we preached to the people of a neighbouring village, and again to a large number gathered at the tent. Visited another place this morning, and spoke to an attentive and interested audience. Thus far we have had a very satisfactory time. With scarcely an exception, the people have given us a respectful hearing, and have shown a remarkable readiness, I might almost say eagerness, to learn the truth. Oh that the Spirit may come, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live!

Two assistants are with me—Abel and Francis. They are comparatively new to the work, but enter into it with commendable zeal and enthusiasm. I hope they will prove such men, as the Lord can use for turning many to righteousness in this region.

G. F. CURRIE.

June 27th, 1881.

The following is from the very interesting letter in the *Baptist* to which Mr. Currie refers:

About three weeks ago I observed a stranger present at our Wednesday evening prayer meeting. At the close of the service, on inquiry it was found that he had come all the way from his own village, thirteen miles distant, to learn from us the nature of our work, and obtain from us whatever benefit we might be disposed to impart. He had heard something about the mission, and had received a vague impression that its object was in some way to pro-

mote the welfare of the people. To ascertain more particularly what we were doing, and to take advantage of whatever help we might be ready to afford, he had come to see us. I felt at the time that there was something extraordinary about his coming, and hoped that it was the result of a God-given desire to obtain something better than the bread that perisheth, but I had been so often disappointed before as to the real motives of inquirers that I was not very sanguine in this case. However the man remained with us a day or two, and in the course of many conversations had opportunities of learning about the way of life. He did not seem at all disappointed when he found that we were not prepared to give him material assistance, appeared deeply interested in the doctrine of salvation through Christ, the only Saviour, which was evidently news, and good news, to him. While he was here, one of my helpers came to me saying that he thought the man was a sincere inquirer and asked to be allowed to accompany him to his own village, so as to have further opportunity of teaching him and his people. He went, and after two or three days returned with an encouraging report. A few days later I went myself to the man's village, was more than pleased with his clear testimony of faith in Christ, and encouraged him to come to Tuni on the following Sunday to receive baptism, which he promised to do. Another young man in a neighbouring village, who had previously expressed a desire to unite with us, was also visited and he too agreed to come to the station at the same time. Knowing how often similar promises had been broken, we did not feel very sure of them then, but still had considerable hope of seeing them here at the time appointed. Proving honourable exceptions to the general rule, they kept their word, and were both here yesterday (Sunday). They attended all our services, were examined in the presence of the church, and accepted. At sunset I had the privilege of baptizing them, and in doing so made use for the first time of our new baptistery. The case of the first of these two men seems to me to be one of peculiar interest. The way in which he came to us at first, his ready acceptance of the truth, and the apparent earnestness he has manifested since, are all quite remarkable. In older stations doubtless similar cases frequently occur, but with us it was a new experience. Another singular thing respecting the case of this man is the fact that he came from a village which none of us had previously visited, and of even the existence of which we knew nothing. We had visited and preached in scores of villages in various parts of the field, had been several times in the neighbourhood of his village beyond it, and on different sides—but somehow that particular place had been quite overlooked. Yet from the numerous localities where the Gospel has been repeatedly preached we have looked almost in vain for sincere seekers of salvation, from this unknown and unvisited village there comes one whose conduct and experience during the few days we have known him, indicate, so far as we can judge, a genuine work of the Spirit. This seems wonderful. But I presume Christian workers everywhere are more or less familiar with similar instances of the Divine Spirit working among men in ways and places unexpected. The second of the two candidates received yesterday, has been led in the direction of the truth by Christian relatives, some of whom are connected with the native church in Cocanada. I trust both will prove centres of Christian influences in their respective villages, and that many of their friends and neighbours will ere long be induced to follow their example. We especially desire the prayers of the brethren and sisters at home in behalf of the work opening up in these new localities.