

“Another point is this: instead of going away for hundreds of miles and so leading the people to think that perhaps we should never return again, we thought it our duty to take a central place and work it up well, by which we might be known. So we went from house to house, and spoke to men, women, and children, and we used to read and sing to them and thus we made friends with them. They then asked us to speak to the chiefs, as they wanted them all to come back to the ancient and true God, as they call Him. After more than a year of prayer and hard work and much anxiety, the Lord gave us the first fruits. Three young boys were the first who were instructed and baptised in Christianity. They had seen the prayerfulness of my colleague, and the earnestness and intensity with which he worked, and the same spirit went into the hearts of the Sonthal lads, who prayed day and night for the conversion of their parents and relatives; and the Lord has listened to them, because their friends and relatives have been converted. After a time there were some girls became Christian, and they commenced to pray for the conversion of their parents; and the boys in their house, and we in our house, and all of us prayed together, and we said, ‘There is no necessity of saying many words to the Lord. It is according to the agony felt in our souls for these people that he will convert them.’ And He has done it. The Sonthal chiefs laughed at us. We said, ‘The prayers that these boys offer up to the Lord will change your hearts too.’ And so it seemed to be. After a time the Lord changed the heart of the heathen chief, and then some of his people.

“We have at last between 600 and 700 communicants, after six years’ labour. The money they used to spend upon drink is now put into the mission-box, and the women, instead of keeping their ornaments, have brought them and laid them at our feet, and said, ‘Sell them, and put it into the mission-box.’ This is not worthy of applause, my friends, but it is worthy of being copied. There is not now a boy, girl, man or woman, who does not preach the gospel. What I wish to impress more particularly upon you now is, that we are now under no pecuniary relation to them. They build their own chapels, support their own pastors and teachers, and they have, in addition, formed a missionary society to carry the Word of God 2000 miles away to other people. Is that not worthy of being listened to? My heart burns within me when I think of the immense wealth we have in the European countries, which we might bring to bear upon those myriads. What right have we to monopolize the Word of God, and not give it to anybody else? I have to request you ladies to think of the misery of your sisters in Sonthalistan, and of the possibility there is of your carrying the Word of God to them. There has been a good deal of talk about missionaries not doing their duty. I am not going to define what missionaries are. If you want more missionary spirit among your missionaries,