

## AND WE HAVE LIGHT:

fact, I could have danced for joy. Mr. and Mrs. Higgins and Miss Hinman welcomed us at the station, and were pleased to see us after our long journey. We soon made our way to the bungalow, about one mile from Waltair. What do you think was in store for us? From the beginning of the compound to the bungalow the driveway was lined on each side with children from the different mission schools of Waltair and Vizagapatam! What a sight it was! Some holding flags of welcome, and there were "Salaams" and "Good morning" from those who could speak English. How they like to speak English when they can! Nor was this the end of our welcome, for when we reached the bungalow we were adorned with flowers, after which the children performed in many ways, singing, drilling, etc. Everything was done in Telugu, and when I heard them singing and talking as fast as their tongues would allow them, I wondered if it would be possible for me ever to speak so that they could understand me. However, the following morning we were soon settled down to study. It was such a happy welcome for us. Why, Royalty couldn't have received better! The bungalows are built very large, and altogether different from the homes in Canada. The rooms are two or three times as large, and twice as high. Our bungalow is situated upon a hill, with trees surrounding us on every side. My impressions were altogether different of India regarding scenery. I thought nothing could look so beautiful with so much sin around, but my ideas changed immediately; in fact, we would have to remind ourselves frequently that we were in India—apart from the people and the huge palm trees, other things seemed homelike.

No sooner had we settled than we were reminded of Christmas approaching by the closing exercises of the mission schools. Such occasions as Christmas entertainments never occurred to me. I was amazed, and I'm sure you

would have been in seeing caste girls and boys doing their part in such an excellent way, condemning their own religion by their singing and reciting with gladness of Christ's birth and His love. We saw while visiting the mission schools over 1,200 girls and boys under Christian influence and teaching. Think of what this means in days to come! How eager they are to learn! In one of the schools an oral Bible examination was given by one of our missionaries. Question upon question was asked, and every one answered. Oh! that the study of our Bible was made as interesting in home and school, that the children would learn to love and know the word of God, in Canada as well as in India.

The native Christians themselves are very devoted and true to Christ. In their prayer meetings, song services and church services they are very eager to pray, and pour out their hearts' desire to God. Do we not lack communion with our Saviour in our Canadian prayer meetings and church services? It appeals this way to me as I see our native Christians so earnest in prayer.

Many friends would be wondering in what way we spent our first Christmas in India. Perhaps you thought of a lonely one, but let me give you a happy surprise. Miss Flora Clark invited us to Vizianagram to spend Christmas Day with herself and Mr. and Mrs. Higgins. On arriving, we found there twenty-one in the party, including eight children. You can imagine what a jolly time we had. About 4 o'clock Christmas morning the native Christians awakened us singing their Christmas carols and playing the tom-toms; the music is very different from ours—it is lovely to hear them singing songs of praise, but when one feels sleepy it is not very welcome. Santa Claus was very good to us all; in fact, he gave Mr. Gordon and me a very delightful surprise by handing us many lovely gifts from many of the missionaries. Upon our return home again,