

## Our Work Abroad

### REPORT FROM MISS KATE McLAURIN Powers Awaiting Release.

"We have visited in more of the high caste houses of Cocanada during this quarter than we did in the previous one, and consequently we have become deeply interested in some of the younger women, especially whose powers of intelligence and leadership are so evident that one would fain see them released to serve their day and generation as one feels they were meant to. In one retired Tahsildar's home we met his youngest daughter, a girl of 17, who became so interested in the Biblewoman's lessons that she sought a Bible for herself, reads it and asks questions that take some answering. She is keen and wide-awake, absolutely refuses (so far) to marry. What will be her future? She has a widowed sister, quite young. We did our best to persuade the father to send them both as day pupils to our Boarding School here, under Miss Pratt, for further study. But he says he cannot go against public opinion. One cannot help but feel their powers are going largely to waste for lack of development and use. And not a few others we meet. The higher up in society one goes, the more frequently one meets them, and the more helpless they seem to be to break the bands of custom and live a life of fulness and service. Although even in Cocanada there are fine women who have broken their bands, and who take a more or less public part in civic life and still retain the respect of the public, these seem all unaware of it. Some old prejudice somewhere in the family keeps them back. I feel that I would like to devote myself to them, show them the way out.

#### Caste Girls' School.

The Caste Girls' School is growing. The number on the roll is 125 now, as against about 85 before the hot season. This growth demands a stronger staff of teachers than I estimated for. Good work is being done. We had a very successful prize-giving and concert before Christmas, when about 300 mothers and other women relatives were present. A very nice program was given by the children. All the arrangements, decorations, preparations, rehearsals, as well as

choice of selections, were taken in hand and successfully carried through by Miss G. Krupavati, our new Headmistress, without any help from me. I hardly gave it a thought. And it all went through without a hitch, perfectly. It is a great comfort, as well as a real strength to our work, to have such a Head-mistress. She is one of our own girls. Her father was a house-servant to the Chutes in Akidu when she was born. Her mother is one of my Biblewomen. Krupavati was educated at our Mission Schools up to matriculation, and then took training at Rajahmundry. She is a jolly, clever, sensible girl of real ability and tact, sincere wholesome piety and interest in all our Mission work as a whole. We could do with a whole tribe of her kind.

#### Work Among Christian Women.

Our visits to outside villages, this quarter, have been mostly for the purpose of visiting the women of our congregations, in an endeavor to line them up for definite service. One visit does not accomplish much for people who have never thought of themselves in connection with Christian work. But we expect to keep on. In Evangelistic Campaign fortnight, several women volunteered and rendered daily service, both in Cocanada and nearby villages. Six of these volunteers gave their services as part of the fruit of our weekly Bible classes with them at their homes in a Petta (hamlet) close by our compound. This rejoiced my heart."

K. S. McLaurin.

#### Welcome Home.

A very interesting letter from Miss Farnell, written in March, gives an account of her arrival in Samalkot last November, and of the warm, loving welcome which the missionaries and Christians gave her. The following is a short quotation: "As I left the train, the Biblewomen placed garlands of bright red shoe-flowers and purple everlasting around my neck. You may imagine how well these colors blended with my rather bright pink dress! As we approached the bungalow, we saw the boarding boys, with their masters, lined up from the gate to road, and heard them sing—'Victory, victory, hallelu-