

My DEAR CHILDREN.

WOULD you like to hear some of our doings on Christmas day? Our new mission college is not yet finished. Scaffolding, brick, mortar, debris of all kinds, show that a building is under course of erection; but the eye of faith looks beyond and sees it complete.

This building, important as it is, does not compare in importance with that other building, which was suggested by the groups assembled within its walls. For their minds God's own truth is being laid, "Line upon line and precept upon precept" and we can look forward to the time when these precious souls will be "living stones" in Christ's Church, resting upon that sure foundation, Christ Jesus.

Over seven hundred children were present to receive rewards according to merit. An examining committee had gone through the school the week previous, and the results and prizes were made known on Christmas morning.

Each school was in a separate group seated on the ground floor of the large unfinished centre room of the college. There was no roof above, and India's sun never shown on a happier looking gathering of children and grown people than on that Christmas morning of '03.

The Christian girls in their white uniform, the Hindu girls in their bright colors, and the Mahratti girls in their own national costume added a charm to the gathering.

Boys were there of all ages, and the garments of some baffles description. The Christian boys like the Christian girls wear white to Church, and uncover their heads during service, while Parsee, Hindu and Mohammedan boys keep their heads covered. Some of the boys were nicely clothed, while many had merely a few tattered rags on their bodies, and on their heads immense turbans containing many yards of bright cloth.

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hand of a Brahmin, who was employed for the purpose, so that all castes might enjoy the treat. The whole cost of the prizes and sweetmeats (about twenty dollars) was met by the non-Christian community.

In the evening we had a—tea-meeting you would call it in Canada—but in India we say a "Khana." The proceedings began by singing, prayers and speeches. At 8 p.m. the benches were all removed, and on the floor were spread large leaves, something like Basswood leaves at home. On these the curry and rice were served. We sat on the floor beside them and ate our food with our fingers.

This done we had our hands washed by having water poured from a leathern bag which the waterman carries on his back. Next returned to the Church and had more hymns, speeches and prayer. When all was over we went to our houses feeling that, "Peace on earth, and good will to men," is for India as well as Canada.

MARGARET O'HARA.

MANNERS.

Did you ever think what beautiful manners Christ had? What a charm his recorded conversations have! How courteous his greetings and his parting words! Surely if we try to copy him at all, we should try to copy his manners, for they are among the least of the beautiful examples which he sets us.

Now one root of a perfect manner is love. If you have a heart full of love, you can never be rude, for you will not wish to hurt people's feelings. You will long to please people, to help and comfort them, and to make them happier; and so your loving heart will be constantly teaching you how to pay little deferences and respect to those whom you should honor. It will prompt the sunny smile and the appreciative word. 'Those little kindnesses called courtesies will be unfailling; and if you have a heart like this, such living will become the habit of your life, and then, no matter into what company you may be thrown, you will be equally unembarrassed; for when one has a heart which is full of the spirit of Christ, one cannot do much that is amiss.—*Exc.*