

Young People's Department.

MISSION-BAND LESSON.

COCANADA—FIRST PART.

Leader. The subject of our study to-day is our first and principal station. I suppose you all know in what part of India the Telugu country is situated, and Cocanada is a city near the coast, and about 20 miles from the great Godavari river. When Mr. McLaurin went there in 1874, there was about 44,000 people in it, now there are over 125,000. Isn't it strange that we were guided to begin work to a city so like our own name. You know that Co is a prefix with us, meaning *with*; and who can tell with the help of Canada, what has been done, or what can be done to make the people better and happier. And now let us think of Cocanada in 1867. There is another name to associate with that date, beside Confederation and Mr. Timpany's sailing for India.

First. Do we know anything about anyone in Cocanada that year?

Ans. Yes. The same time that God was speaking to Mr. Timpany and saying to him, "Go and tell the Telugu about Me," He was speaking to a Telugu gentleman, known to us as Thomas Gabriel, and calling him also to the work of preaching. Gabriel had a good position in the Government service in Cocanada, and in 1867 he was sent to Bombay. On his way he stayed some time in Madras, where he met a Baptist minister who showed him that he ought to put on the uniform of Christ and enter His service. So he was baptized, and having had his eyes opened to see Christ and heard his commission "Go preach the Gospel," his heart was filled with an ardent desire to tell others about Him. His business took him back to Cocanada, and after leaving the office he used to go into the streets and preach. After a time he gave up his position and spent his whole time in missionary work. But Gabriel soon found out what we know so well, and that is that no regular work can be done without money. He was working alone in a great heathen city, and as he won one convert after another he had to have some place to meet, so after he had gathered about 100 converts and established a few schools he found himself in debt and felt he must have some society to back him. He first asked the English Baptists, then the American Baptists, but was refused. Then someone told him there was another nation in North America besides the United States, called Canada, and that Canadian Baptists were interested in the Telugus. He went to Ongole to see Mr. McLaurin, and pleaded his cause so warmly, that Mr. McLaurin sent such an urgent appeal to the Board at home—that he

was decided at once to take up the mission at Cocanada and make it our own. Thus it was through Thomas Gabriel that God led us to our present mission field in India.

Second. Who was Mr. McLaurin?

Ans. He was our second Foreign Missionary, and left Canada in 1869, to work under the American Baptist Union, although we undertook his support. After he had learned the language he was stationed at Ongole. In 1873 he baptized over 700 converts, but when Gabriel came with what he felt was a message from God, he willingly left this great field and went to shepherd Gabriel's little flock. After Gabriel had taken Mr. McLaurin over the field and showed him the villages where his converts were, his work was done. Mr. McLaurin went to Cocanada in March, 1874, and nine months after Gabriel, having served his generation, passed away to heaven. As he held Mr. McLaurin's hand his last words were, "Jesus is precious."

Leader. It was fortunate for us during those first years at Cocanada that we had such clever and self-reliant men as Mr. McLaurin and Mr. Timpany to act for us. For the people in Canada had had no experience in conducting a Foreign Missionary Society, and Mr. McLaurin had to decide a great many things for himself. One was the purchase of the fine mission property we have in that city. It is about 12 acres, and has on it a good house 60 feet wide by 44 deep, and a verandah 10 feet wide all around, and this with cook house, stables, wells, roads, etc., was bought for \$4,500! The house alone had cost almost double that amount. To this house every missionary from Ontario and Quebec has gone; and it has been the home of nearly all for some time.

Third. What success attended Mr. McLaurin's labors?

Ans. They were greatly blessed. He tells us how he felt at that time. "You cannot imagine how we feel face to face with the Devil. I have trembled with eagerness, and melted into tears as I have thought of it. I have sat in the prow of my boat and scanned vast stretches of country, with a populous village every two or three miles, containing hundreds of thousands of immortal beings who have never heard intelligibly the way of life, and I have gazed with a yearning heart upon the poor wretches as I saw them pass along the canal bank, and I knew they must burn in hell forever because there was no one to tell them of Jesus. Yet, I have sat on a cot in a house that in many places in Canada would be called a poor pigsty, and allowed the tears to stream down my face unrestrained as I looked upon these redeemed ones and heard them sing of a 'Father in Heaven,' 'A Blessed Elder Brother,' 'A Home Beyond the Clouds.' Ah! at such moments I felt Heaven very near." Is it any wonder that in 1874 he baptized 133. As soon as