

told them that if Venkamma was setting their houses on fire, she could easily set the thatch on fire too. Nearly all of the people were camped out, so as to save their goods in case their houses were burnt. I hope the evil spirit was somewhat alarmed by the vigorous language that Peter and I used, and that no more houses will be set on fire, as it is a serious business for these poor people.

When I was at Chettipetta the other day, Miss Taylor told me something that is both interesting and instructive. In a Brahman home that she visits is a young wife, who appeared much interested until her mother-in-law came to live with her. Then her mind seemed to be poisoned against the truth. She ceased to be so free with her lady visitor.

However, Miss Taylor continued to visit her as much as possible, and after a time was asked to teach her how to make a little cap for a baby boy that had come to the home. Shortly afterwards, Miss Taylor took a cap as a present for the baby. The young mother refused to take it from the lady's hand, and requested her to lay it on the floor. Miss Taylor said in reply "You must accept the present from my hand, or do without it." It was then accepted, but the giver was rather surprised to see the Brahman woman lay it down and pour water over it to purify it.

Here we see caste superstition conquering all promptings to ordinary politeness. The giver must be insulted before her back was turned to the receiver of the gift. How much grace do you think it requires to prevent one from turning away in disgust from people who act so meanly! "He is kind toward the unthankful and evil. Be ye merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

JOHN CRAIG.

Vuyyuru, 26-2-88.

From India.

After our long voyage we were glad to recognize the faces of our brethren, Davis and Laflamme, who came out on the steam launch at Cocanada to meet us. We drove from the steamer wharf up to the mission compound, where we found the gate decorated in honor of our arrival, while the girls from the girl's school were ranged on each side of the road; when we entered they struck up a Telugu hymn of welcome to the tune of "John Brown's Body." At the mission-house we were kindly received by Mr. and Mrs. Craig, also by Miss Hatch.

Since that time we have been studying the language. Brethren Davis and Laflamme have gone to Pentecosta for the hot months. Miss Hatch goes to Madras, from thence to the hills for April and May. Mr. and Mrs. Craig remain in Cocanada for a time; we expect to stay here also, the Eurasian church having been handed over to my care for the next two or three months.

We hold in that church a monthly missionary concert, in which we expect to study and pray for missions in all the world. The first night we took as our subject "Missions to the Jews," and saw that God's ancient people, the Israelites, were and are subjects of special promises, and were glad to know that the church was "beginning at Jerusalem" to preach, for special efforts are being made, with success, to bring the Jew to a knowledge of God's mercy in Christ Jesus. China was the subject of our study and prayer at our last meeting.

Would it not be well for us as Baptists to have another foreign mission interest, besides our Indian mission, in this country? We might choose a field not so far away as this and with a less trying climate, any one of the West

India Islands, or one of the South American republics which are really destitute of the Gospel and open to the missionary.

A new interest like this would help the work here in India, and also the Home Mission work in Canada.

Cocanada, April 1st, 1888.

ROBT. GARDNER.

Man's Work and God's Work.

In the little Telugu first-book, which we are reading at present, and which is prepared by the Christian Vernacular Education Societies for India, is the sentence "Man can dig a tank, can he make clouds and rain?"

One of the most important labors of the public works department in India, is the excavation of a sufficient number of suitable tanks, which are filled by the rains or from the rivers. In Cocanada it is very interesting to visit the large fresh-water tanks which are supplied with water from the Godavari river, and to see the stream of men and women who go there for water. No greater calamity could happen in this country than for all these tanks to go dry. In Psalm lxxxiv. 6, we have the psalmist saying, "Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well, the rain also filleth the pools."

Man can dig the cistern, but God must fill it. In like manner our hearts may become vessels for God's grace, a church may become a receptacle for abundant blessing.

The attraction of the tanks consists in the water they contain, so likewise the Christian and the church that is full of the Holy Spirit, men and women resort thither on account of the spiritual blessing they receive. A small obstruction may close the aqueduct that leads from the river to one of these tanks, so that it will soon become dry; a small sin may stop communion with God and render the heart dry and barren.

We can dig the tanks in the "Valley of Weeping," we can dig the well, we can prepare our hearts, we can with God's help cast out evil, we can prepare the church, remove the obstructions and wait for the blessing.

Revivals come down from above, the vessels are earthen, the receptacles are human, but the blessing is divine, the power comes from God.

Cocanada, April 8th.

R. GARDNER.

THE WORK AT HOME.

W. B. M. U. of the Maritime Provinces.

The Ex. Board held its third quarterly meeting, of this year, on Wednesday, May 9th. There was a good attendance of members. The Treasurer's report showed that the amount pledged by the Union had been paid up to date.

Communications were read from Mrs. M. W. Williams, Miss Amy Johnson, Mrs. Churchill, Mrs. Archibald, Miss Grey and Miss Wright. From the missionaries letters we gather the following extracts.

The hot season bids fair to be exceedingly severe. Cholera has already broken out in a number of the villages, in one of which Miss Wright reports 15 deaths one day. The small pox scourge is also carrying off many of the people. She and her Bible women have been out touring, and found the women more ready to hear than on previous occasions. Miss Grey is also encouraged in Zenana work, but cannot visit all who are willing to hear. She is anxious to have more Bible women.

Mrs. Churchill had been alone at the station for four