

A Letter from India.

THE HOUSE OF THE EPIPHANY,
BARISAL,
E. BENGAL.

Dec : 3rd. 1910.

My dear Miss Harris :

Thank you so much for that pretty *cold* little picture of Yale which reached me just at Christmas time. It was very nice to have a little bit of Yale coming to me then, but it makes me quite cold to look at it and does a good deal towards reconciling me to not being there. Perhaps that sounds rather ungrateful but there are many times when I long to look in at you and see you all and the beautiful place again. I am glad this place is as different as it is—it is also very beautiful in its way—but there is not a hill or a sign of one within hundreds of miles and the beauty is of wide stretches of country—rice fields, graceful palms and bamboos, picturesque huts and people, beautiful wide calm rivers everywhere, and lovely sunrises and sunsets.

I expect Sister Althea will have told you something of my life at Barisal, so I will try and tell you something about the very interesting Christmas I spent.

For three weeks before Xmas I was out in the district with one of the other Sisters—that means going round to the different villages in the rice fields and getting our people ready for Christmas. One of the Oxford Mission Brothers would be working in the same villages. Then we have what we can in the way of Christmas Services in each place.

In some places the water is not off the rice fields yet, and you have to go about from house to house in little boats very much like dugouts—that is a very nice way of doing things—the difficulty comes when there is not quite enough water for the dinghy—then there is nothing for it but wading which is exciting work because it may be just mud or you may get a stretch of water up to your knees or more : On such occasions you take a boy to carry your books and you yourself are armed with a long thick bamboo, with which you can tackle most things.

There are a great many primitive kinds of canals all over the place and over them if they are deep you have bamboo bridges