

Sister Belle's Corner.

For the Little Folks who read this Paper.

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS,—Shall we visit India to-day in our thoughts? The LINK often tells us about schools for girls in that distant land. Some of the bright-eyed little folks who go to school in Canada would like to see the teacher with her girls all around her. It is found best to take the scholars as boarders—to feed and clothe them if the parents are willing. The girls learn more than they could if they were day scholars, and are kept out of heathen customs. At first the teacher had no school-house, and the girls had to come for a few hours only. Mrs. Timpany told me about the school at Ramapatam. The girls were dressed alike, wearing white "quakes" (a kind of dress) and pink jackets. Most of them sat on mats on the floor, in place of chairs or benches. One little girl was named Susan. I will tell you part of her story to-day. Her name used to be Zana-dama, meaning "wild," and if you had seen her as she was then, you would not have wondered at the name. She had ragged clothes wrapped around her, and carried a large stick in her hand, for she used to take care of cattle on the hills. Her hair was tangled and matted as if it had never been combed. No one would have thought she was a nice child. One day Mrs. Timpany was talking to a group of girls in the village in which Susan lived. She told them about the girls' school at Ramapatam. This ragged, dirty little girl asked if she might not come. There was no room for her, just then, but after some months she came. During this time she had heard the native preachers tell about Jesus, and had learned to love Him as her Saviour. When the missionary came again to that village, she, with five other girls, came to be baptized. He had a little prayer-meeting with them in his tent, and each of the girls prayed. Then he saw that they were trusting only in Jesus, and that their sins had been forgiven for His sake. Soon after they came to the school. Those whose names were bad had them changed to English names. Susan is a very good girl now, and loves to pray. If she lives to be a woman, she will do much good as a teacher or Bible-woman.

In these schools the girls learn to read, write and cipher; also other book-learning. Then they are taught to cut out, mend and make their own clothes, and to be clean and neat. When they go back to their homes, other girls and women can learn these things from them. So many dark homes will be made full of light, and many precious souls will be found in Heaven by-and-bye, through God's blessing on this work in India.

All it costs to keep one of these little girls for five years in such a school is about one hundred and twenty-five dollars. Remember that your coppers help in this work. They buy books, and send teachers to these heathen girls. Perhaps you will study harder in your own schools for this little visit to India.

Good-bye, boys and girls.

SISTER BELLE.

Brantford, April 19, 1879.

Ongole, India.

Rev. W. B. Boggs, of Nova Scotia, who was sent out by the A. B. M. Union in answer to Bro. Clough's appeal for help, has reached Ongole, and writes a long and interesting letter to the *Christian Messenger*, in which he says:—

One of the hills in the vicinity of the town is known among the missionaries as "Prayer meeting Hill," because on its summit, overlooking the town and the surrounding country, Dr. and Mrs. Jewett, and some native Christians from Nellore, knelt nearly thirty years ago, and prayed for the conversion of the heathen around them.

Ongole has a population of about 8,000, chiefly Hindus and Mohammedans, for though we read about many thousands of Christians in the Ongole mission, we must not suppose that most of them are in the town of Ongole. There are only about two hundred professed disciples of Christ in this

town.—The mission field which is worked from this station as headquarters, is about one hundred miles from East to West, and seventy-five from North to South, and the 12,000 Christians in the Ongole Mission are scattered throughout that region of country. There are Christians in about four hundred villages—very few in some, and larger numbers in others. But there are still probably upwards of a thousand towns and villages within the above mentioned bounds, where there are no followers of Jesus at all.

Bro. Clough settled here about thirteen years ago. At that time there were scarcely any Christians in the place, and the Telugu mission was known as the "Lone Star Mission." Since then large numbers have been brought to Christ from time to time. Last year the ingathering was astonishingly great. In the year 1878 no less than 9,606 persons were baptized upon a credible profession of their faith in Jesus as the only Saviour of sinners. 2,222 were baptized in one day, last July, at the town of Velumpelly, ten miles north of Ongole, and it may be interesting to some of your readers to know how long it required to perform the ordinance. Bro. Clough tells me that it occupied about 9 hours. There were six administrators, but only two at a time. They relieved each other when necessary.

The ingathering still goes on though the numbers are not as great as a few months ago. Four hundred were baptized in December. Last Sunday evening I had the privilege of baptizing fourteen disciples. About thirty persons presented themselves as applicants for the ordinance. After an examination, which lasted nearly all the afternoon, fourteen were received, and the others were advised to wait for a time until they could give clearer evidence that they understood the leading truths of the gospel and trusted in Christ as their Saviour.

There are multitudes all around who are ready to embrace the Christian religion, but care has to be exercised in receiving them as most of them have been, up to this time, so utterly ignorant of the nature of Christianity.

The work of this mission is especially among the great masses who belong to the lower castes, and are poor and ignorant. The gospel is preached to all classes who will hear, and genuine converts are welcomed from all grades of society; but the great work of the mission is to carry the glad tidings to the vast multitudes of helpless, hopeless, neglected ones. The Brahmins, who compose the highest caste, are the Pharisees of India; and just as it was in the Saviour's day, they reject the truth, while many of the common people hear it gladly. And O what a blessing the religion of Christ is to these poor, degraded, despised people! It is the dawn of hope and happiness to them, and often the beginning of better days as far as this life is concerned. One of its first results is to awaken a desire for knowledge, and they begin at once urgently to request the establishment of schools among them.

There are at present a great many village schools in operation in different parts of the field. Here in town a large mission school is maintained, having five native teachers and nearly 150 boarding pupils, young men and women, gathered in from the Christian villages of the surrounding country. The object is to instruct those especially who expect to become preachers and school teachers. The most promising ones every year are sent to the Seminary at Ramapatam, where more advanced Biblical instruction is given.

There are thirty-eight native preachers employed on this field, but when we think of the immense number of villages, we may ask, "what are they among so many?"

MISSIONS IN CHINA.—According to Dr. Legge's Professor of the Chinese Language and Literature at Oxford, there are 13 English and 11 American societies now laboring in China; there are 400 missionaries (including wives), 91 central stations, 511 out-stations, 372 churches, with 13,035 mem-

bers. In a letter to the "CHRISTIAN MESSENGER," from Rev. Wm. George, dated Jan. 23rd, he states that he expected to leave Burma for his native Province, Nova Scotia, in a few weeks, and will probably arrive here in June next.

Bro. George has been doing successful mission work in Burma for more than eight years past, having during that period baptized over 80 Burmans, and formed several churches, opened several chapels, and superintended a considerable day-school work.

The health of Mr. George's family has been much shattered, and the American Union, under whose auspices he labors, has kindly granted him a much needed vacation.

THE MECCA OF THE BURMESE.—"The great thing in Rangoon," says a young missionary who has just reached Burma, "the Mecca of Burmese, is the Shway Dagong, or the Golden Pagoda, said to be the oldest, largest, and costliest in the empire, if not in the world. It is said that the Burmese spend more money in a year on this one place than the Baptists of America give to evangelize the world."

CHRISTIANS IN SAMOA.—Missionary enterprises ought not to be considered unproductive, so long as we have such testimony as this: "Thirty-six years ago the island of Samoa had a population of 34,000, all of whom were barbarians. The population now numbers 80,000, the majority of whom are Christians. In the theological seminary are sixty students, and twenty missionaries are sent out every year to the neighboring islands."—*United Presbyterian*.

A CURIOSITY COLLECTOR in Boothbay has a Chinese god marked "Heathen idol," and a gold dollar marked "Christian idol."

It is better, like the apostles, to be poor, yet making many rich, than to be rich, yet starving precious souls by not giving them meat in due season.

LETTERS FROM MEDIA.—Just as we are ready for the press, a very interesting letter from Mrs. Churchill has come to hand, which, with one from Rev. J. Craig, must be held over till next month. —[Ed.]

WOMEN'S BAPT. FOR. MISS. SOCIETY OF THE CONVENTION WEST.

Receipts from March 25th, to April 23rd, 1879.
Port Hope Circle, \$24; Alexander St., \$18 35; Stratford, \$9; Timpany's Grove, \$6.25; Jarvis St., \$4.35; Theodora, \$3; Coll. at Quarterly Union Meeting Toronto, \$2.12.—Total \$67.57.

Special for Chapel at Cocanada.
Port Pope, \$102.50; Jarvis St., \$15.50; Simeon, from a friend of the Mission, \$5; Timpany's Grove, from Mrs. Mason, \$2.—Total, \$125. Total receipts \$192.57.

EMILY LAIRD, Treasurer, 232 Carleton St.

A CORRECTION.—The sum of \$5, from the London Adelaide St. Circle, was intended as an extra help for the Chapel School House, and should have been among the Special Contributions acknowledged last month. E. I.

CANADIAN MISSIONARIES IN INDIA.

MARITIME PROVINCES.

Rev. Rufus Sanford, A. M., Bimlipatam.
" George Churchill,
" W. F. Armstrong, Chicnicole.
Miss Carrie A. Hammond, Bimlipatam.

ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

Rev. John McLaurin, Cocanada.
" John Craig,
" G. F. Currie, Tunt.
" A. V. Timpany, Cocanada.

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