

have surrounded me since my coming to India. I trust that you will still pray for me. Pray that I may have increasingly the consciousness of His presence, that I may know Him and His power, that I may partake of His spirit of whom it is written: "A bruised seed shall He not break. . . . He shall not fail nor be discouraged till he have set judgment in the earth."

### AKIDU.

**Miss Selman.**—The convention year is drawing to a close, and we have the opportunity of again bringing before you the work in which we are engaged.

With the exception of the hot season we have spent much time on tour among the villages. Early in the year Miss Corning came to take over Miss Robinson's work. Miss Marsh too came to Akidu while she is studying Telugu, so our Akidu family is a little larger than usual. We are happy to have such a nice large bungalow, and we can accommodate another lady too if you will send one.

In January we were favored with a visit by Miss Alexander. We are always delighted to welcome Canadian visitors. I had Miss Alexander's company for a few weeks on tour; she said she enjoyed it all very much, but was a little nervous about the leaky boat, she feared we might go to the bottom of the canal.

One trip to Avangedda, in company with Dr. Hulet, was very interesting and Miss Alexander learned a Telugu text while riding in the ox-cart. We were sorry that she could not stay longer and see more of our work, but cholera prevented us at that time from visiting many larger villages.

During the year I have had two very interesting visits on the Ellore canal. There are some villages there where numbers have lately become Christians and it is a great pleasure to work among them, watching their growth in Christian knowledge.

On our first visit, the women were too shy to come to the service, shy because they feared the ridicule of heathen neighbors. When we were there two or three made a beginning. On our next visit, a large number were regularly attending service. They joined

heartily in the singing, and answered many questions intelligently.

The work among the caste people too has become very interesting. Indeed, as soon as my boat is sighted, we are welcomed and called to many homes.

I have in my possession three charms that were taken from the persons of women, when they had listened to our message.

While working near Pulla, the day came when Subarayyadu, the snake god, should be worshipped. Numbers of women and children, with hair oiled and combed, wearing pretty colored cloths, and bright, showy jewelry, came along the canal bank near the boat. They went along the path, peering this way and that way, to find the snakes' holes. It began to rain a little, and many of them in a hurry to get home, did not go far, nor did they find what they sought, but hurriedly threw under the bushes the milk, eggs, flour, etc., that they brought for offerings, and off they ran home. In conversation with some of them, they frankly declared it was all a farce, but it was expected of them, and they did it.

We find in every part of the field a great desire to hear and learn and many have given up the old customs. It is our privilege and duty to give them the Gospel that satisfies and never grows old.

One of my aged Bible-women is sick, and will not likely be able to tour again. This leaves me only one touring woman. There are some who do work near their own homes, but they have homes to care for, and can not tour with me, neither can they go about to the villages where teachers are badly needed.

I have been trying for some time to get some Christian women who are widows to come into our boarding school and take a training for Bible-women. I have the prospect of getting one to begin.

And now a word about the boat. The "Glad Tidings" was built for Akidu field by Mrs. A. A. McLeod in 1893. It is very hard to keep it in repair, as the bottom is in a bad condition. Some personal friends have promised to send money for a new boat, and it is with great pleasure I look forward to hav-