



The Mission House at Ramachandrapuram.

#### A HISTORY OF THE WORK ON THE RAMACHANDRAPURAM FIELD.

As far back as 1878, Mr. McLaurin visited Muranda, a village on the West side of the field. He also sent Josiah Burder to tour over portions of this Taluk and to spy out the land. While thus engaged Josiah visited the village of Nalluru and there he met a man who had heard something about Jesus Christ being the true God. He listened attentively to Josiah and soon after found his way to Cocanada and was baptized. His name was Patulu Jacob. As far as I can learn this was the beginning of our work on this field. Patulu Philip a brother of this first convert is now deacon of the Baptist Church in Nalluru. In 1880, Mr. Timpany, while touring, baptised a few others in both of these villages and left a preacher to shepherd them and propagate the Gospel. Thus the Word was preached and the Christians increased in number, till in 1882-83 they with the help of the missionary built little school-house chapels with mud walls and thatched roofs. The building of these two primitive places of worship marked the second stage in the progress of the work. Mr Timpany was a man of enthusiasm and zeal and soon turned some of his boat pullers into preachers and placed them in various parts of the field to sow the seed and gather the harvest. His death in 1885 cast a gloom over the work, and some

who had come with mixed motives lapsed back into heathenism but the great number remained firm in the faith. In 1887, Mr. Craig took the third step in advance, when he organized churches in Nalluru and Muranda, and separated the Christians in this Taluk from the Cocanada Church, which was 30 miles distant from these villages and to which they seldom came for the Lord's Supper. Since then these churches have been centers of light around which those desiring to find Christ might gather for instruction and worship. In 1888 Mr. Craig moved to Akidu and the writer was appointed to assist him in caring for the Cocanada field, of which Ramachandrapuram Taluk was a part. And in 1889 we were left in charge of all the work on the Cocanada field, including the present Peddapuram and Ramachandrapuram fields. That year about 90 persons were baptized and added to the Nalluru and Muranda churches. It soon became evident that Ramachandrapuram must have its own missionary as the Taluk contained about 200 large villages and a population of about 250,000 souls. There were no Christians in Ramachandrapuram itself and it was not nearly so large as some other villages in the Taluk. But it was central and had a Post Office, a Hospital, a Police Station and all the Taluk Revenue offices with a Sub-magistrate's Court attached. These advantages led us to choose Ramachandrapuram as the most suit-