

Canadian Missionary Link

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AN EASTER SONG

No hint or whisper stirred the air
To tell what joy should be,
The sad disciples grieving there
Nor help nor hope could see.
Yet all the while the glad, near sun
Made ready its swift dart,
And Calvary and Easter Day,
The darkest day and brightest day,
Were just one day apart.

A song of sunshine through the rain,
Of spring across the snow,
A balm to heal the hearts of pain,
A peace surpassing woe.
Lift up your heads, ye sorrowing ones,
And be ye glad of heart,
For Calvary and Easter Day,
Earth's saddest day and gladdest day
Were just one day apart!

—Susan Coolidge.

MISS MARTHA ROGERS

During the years 1798 and 1801, a large group of families belonging to the Society of Friends, settled in the New Market Valley, near Toronto, and carved themselves out homes from the forests which covered the country. Among these Pioneers were the grandparents of one who for years has been entrenched in the hearts of Ontario Baptists, Miss Martha Rogers, whose death occurred in Toronto on January 10, 1925.

Miss Rogers was born in 1848, and for the first twenty-eight years lived with her mother, widowed early in life, at the old home-stead on Yonge Street. She was a sister of the late Samuel and Elias Rogers, and after the death of her mother, went to live with the former brother in Toronto.

During all these years she had been actively engaged in the work of the Society of Friends. In 1884, she took the position of Matron at the College in Pickering, which she held over a year. Then she became Matron of a school for immigrant girls at Niag-

ara-on-the-Lake, and after that, Matron of the Missionary College in New York City. It was about that time that the desire to become a Foreign Missionary in India grew in her heart, until at last, she applied to the English Friends' Foreign Mission Board for appointment. But, as there was no opening with them, she accepted appointment under the Baptist Foreign Mission Board of Ontario, and went to India in 1889, having the previous year joined the Bloor Street Baptist Church, of which she has been a member ever since.

With characteristic fervor, she entered into all the work which she found to do, first in Cocanada, while learning the Telugu language. Writing to the "Link" in 1891, she said: "I have been teaching, daily, Bible stories to a class that Miss Baskerville sends me, and on Sabbath I have a school in a Malapilly, two in fact, though when I started, I intended to have only one, but there was a Madigapilly near, and I thought I could gather all together, but found it impracticable. So I have schools, numbering in both places about 60 children. It is such a relief to be able to speak a few words to the people in their own language, and to give them God's word."

Later, she was transferred to Tuni,—the first single lady Missionary at that Station,—and in January, 1892, she wrote that she was beginning to feel at home and to enjoy the work on that field. She started schools for girls which, with all the discouragements incident to irregular attendance on account of the many Hindu festivals, were nevertheless continued, and as girls' schools always do, they opened homes for Miss Rogers and her Bible women. She toured the Tuni field extensively, going from village to village with her Biblewomen, or on horseback, visiting villages where Preachers were stationed. Her bungalow was always open to women who went "to see" and on one special festival occasion, in two days she had nearly five hundred visitors.