

✓ A SUNDAY SCHOOL GATHERING.

Letter from Rev. N. Russell, our Missionary.

CANADIAN MISSION, MHOW,

For the RECORD.

May 16th, 1895.

IN THE hot season in India with the thermometer at times up to 115° in the shade, few things are likely to occur in the way of happenings.

It was not so much to break this monotony, however, as because all other seasons have been too much occupied, that we decided to hold a meeting for all our Sunday Schools, which are near to Mhow. These number eight and contain nearly 500 children. A committee had been busy examining the different schools for a week beforehand in their knowledge of the life of Christ, the Ten Commandments, etc.

Last Thursday afternoon in spite of the heat, the little ones and some big ones, too, came trooping in from all quarters, led by their teachers. There were a good many absentees also, as many are away at this season in the fields. Swings and a merry-go-round had been erected for the amusement of the children on the Mission compound. And a jolly time they had of it for a couple of hours, for Indian children enjoy their play just as much as English children, though they may not enter into it always so keenly.

After the swings we adjourned to the Church where recitations were delivered and some hymns sung, followed by two bright and telling addresses from Mr. Johory, of Indore, and the Rev. Mr. Fitch, of Ujjain, both officers of our S. S. Auxiliary Association. After this about 50 prizes were distributed to those who had passed a good examination or proceed regular in attendance.

The best prize was a very nice clock, presented by the Superintendent, Mr. Drew, to the boy who had done best in the large Sunday School. How grand it was to see so many of these non-Christian boys and girls coming forward to receive prizes for efficiency in their knowledge of the Bible. What hope there is for their future in such weekly teaching of the Bible. I am glad to say that many grown

up people also attend our Sunday Schools and learn the weekly lesson.

After the distribution of prizes a large supply of sweet-meats was brought out, and two or three of our Brahmin friends undertook to distribute them as all classes of people will take from the hands of a Brahmin. So with their hands and handkerchiefs full, the little fellows trotted off home well pleased with their afternoon treat.

In the evening the teachers assembled and we held a convention on Sunday School work. A fit closing for such a day.

How pleased the Sunday School children at home will be to hear that in far off India we sometimes have a day when the boys put on their clean clothes and come to the Mission to have, if not a picnic or a tea-meeting, something that is a mixture of both, and which, though quite Oriental is none the less enjoyable and long to be remembered. Perhaps some of you would like to send out some presents to be distributed to our Sunday Schools next year, if so you will have a share in making the children happy at their next gathering. Now would not that be worth trying?

NORMAN H. RUSSELL.

Cruel How children suffer from strong **Fathers.** drink through their parent's sin. Mr. Thompson, our missionary in Couva, Trinidad, writing of a boy in the school of our lady missionary there, Miss Fisher, says:

"The father of one of Miss Fisher's boys spent all his wages last pay day in a rum shop that is just opposite our manse. He even tried to force his little son, eight years old, to drink with him.

On an estate in this district, on a certain pay day not long ago, a father was drinking and making merry with friends, and made a mixture of several kinds of intoxicants with spices, &c., and gave his little son to drink, and all laughed at the spectacle of the little fellow staggering. These are a few of the pay day scenes here."

How many hindrances our missionaries have! You can help them by your prayers.