

missionaries and just missed seeing Mr. Laflamme, as we came by an unusual route in order to avoid those regions under the ban of the plague. At Vizianagram we met Mr. and Mrs. Gullison and Mr. Morso. They seemed in good cheer.

I had read about the low mud huts where the hens are at home and the cattle freely enter—and here they are. At every turn I see the bejewelled, painted, scarred faces of the heathen. I had decided not to allow myself to be either seriously shocked or surprised by the strange "sights and sounds,"—yet when one comes face to face with heathenism as it is the shock is inevitable. All that I had ever heard or read gave me but a comparatively slight idea of the darkness that covers this land. But there is a real source of joy and real inspiration to engage in this work with a more abounding earnestness that is found in the fact that the light has dawned. I was delightfully impressed with the first Telugu service I attended. It was on Xmas day, that about 85, majority heathen, gathered in the pleasant mission chapel, situated in the heart of the town. The routine of the service I might be able to describe but not the spirit of earnestness, joy and love which was plainly manifest in the words and presence of these native Christians. Although the language was not understood, yet I "took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus."

The other day I went with Miss Clark and the Bible-woman to visit a village some miles away. As the huts are all connected quite an audience can be easily gathered, providing there is a disposition to hear. Some of the women eagerly listened to the "old, old story of Jesus and His love"; others were far more anxious to learn whether we were married or ever hoped to be. Among those who seemed to be seeking after the truth was quite an elderly man who is now living on a pension and spends his time in gratuitously teaching the boys of his village. Some of these boys gathered around and how eagerly they read aloud tracts given them—thus the seed is sown.

I believe that we have every reason to press on in this glorious work. Among the eighteen million Telugus along the coast there are over sixty thousand church members. Although only three hundred of these have been won from the two million Telugus on our own field, yet the signs now betoken a bountiful harvest. We cannot expect to reap that which we have not sown. (1) Lord Jesus, may we be faithful! We rest in Thy faithfulness. Yours in His service,

MABEL E. ARCHIBALD.

January 3.

FACTS FOR CHRISTIANS IN THE HOME LAND.

(Taken from an article on Church Finances in American Baptist by Rev. Mr. Steeve.)

It is said that while salvation is free, Christianity is a costly thing. It is true thank God, and pity 'tis not more abundantly true; until like its founder Jesus Christ we could say, "I lay down my life." And then having made our sacrifice, sing,

"All I have I give to Jesus
It belongs to Him."

It is true Christianity is a costly thing, and has been sustained at the sacrifice of more gold, more labor, and more life, than perhaps any other institution inspired by God or supported by man. It cost the early Christians poverty and shame; it cost the Covenanters home and

poverty; it cost the Christian Spaniards the heroes of the royal inquisition; to the Huguenots it meant sword and flame; to the pilgrim fathers it meant wilderness and want; to Polyarp it meant a martyr's stake; to John Bunyan it meant prison walls; to Coligny it meant a hangman's gibbet. It cost Paul his popularity; it cost James his head; it cost Jesus Christ His crown. Aye Christianity is a costly thing! What has it cost you?

Religion costs this Continent \$24,000,000 yearly, and that does seem a very large sum. Surely preachers are an expensive luxury! But by no means the most expensive. . . . This Continent consumes in strong drink \$1,500,000,000 annually; in tobacco \$700,000,000 annually; in dogs \$75,000,000 annually. . . . We spend as a nation, one dollar for the preacher; three dollars for our dogs; thirty dollars for tobacco; and sixty dollars for rum. Christianity may be costly, but how about dogs, tobacco, and rum?

The Central Illinois Association in the U. S. has 17,343 members who give at the rate of \$15.41 per member per year. The Toronto Association, the best in Ontario, has 4,865 members, and gives \$7.36 per member. The Western Association of Ontario, the poorest in the whole province, has 2,185 members and gives \$6.14 per member. According to last year's book this province has 28,600 members, that give \$107,453.86, equal to \$3.75 per member.

True Christian giving is prompted by love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now it is evident that if our giving be prompted by a desire to please Heaven, the many obstacles that seem to retard our benevolence will have no influence with us. A man says "no other member gives a tenth, why should I?" I ask what has another man's stinginess to do with you? You are not giving because others give, or don't give, but for Jesus' sake. A brother said, "Mr. A only gives ten dollars, and he is worth more than I, so I will only give five." Pray what has Mr. A. to do with your obligation to the Lord? You are giving for Jesus' sake are you not?

Some one said: "I will not give while Mr. B is solicitor, for I do not like him." What on earth has your like or dislike for Mr. B. to do with your obligations to the Lord? . . . Let us give as a matter of principle, give because we love to give—give because we love Him who gave. . . . Love is not afraid of giving. It is as natural for love to give as it is for the flowers to bloom, for the birds to sing, for the brook to ripple, you cannot buy benevolence; you cannot legislate giving; you cannot induce Christian sacrifice. . . . Love places itself on the altar and sings,

"All I have I give to Jesus
It belongs to Him."

NEWS FROM THE HOME WORKERS.

CLEMENTS VALE, ANNAPOLIS CO., U. S.

Dear Sister,—I thought to-day as I was reading the *Tidings*, I would write to you about our "Women's Missionary Aid Society." We have for this year thirty-five "Dollar" members. We observed Crusade Day, the 14th of October, the keeping was quite enthusiastic. We have only missed one meeting in two years and a half. Our attendance is fairly good. We have no "Band" in connection with the Society, but the children take an active part in our evening entertainments.