

## OUR INDIAN STATIONS.

## Cocanada.

## FIRST VISITS.

(Some extracts of a letter from Miss Frith to Miss Muir.)

One evening this week, Mary Timpany and I went with Lukshmi, one of the girls to visit her uncle's family, who belong to the Sudra caste. They were glad to see Lukshmi, and seemed pleased to see us also. Lukshmi sang some hymns and read a chapter. The uncle could speak English nicely, and was apparently very favourable towards Christianity, as I believe the women in the house are also. Rungamma, our Bible woman, visits them.

This evening Miss Cowling and I are going to visit my Munshi's zenana. When I told him this morning that I would go, he seemed delighted, and said he would have women from other zenanas in to see us. He asked me to send him a chair and my table cloth. I expect he will have quite a time this afternoon making everything pretty. I hope I did not discourage him by some of the questions I asked. I will tell you a few: I said, "Munshi, what would you do if your wife eventually became a Christian through my visits to your home? You know that if I go it will be with this desire in my heart, and with this purpose and object in view. Now, what would you do if after a while she tells you that she loves Jesus and wishes to be baptized, would you let her?" He smiled and said, "Mamma asks such questions." He did not like to give me a direct answer, fearing that I would be offended if he told me the truth; but as I pressed for a reply, he said, "If she wishes to become a Christian and be baptized she may do so, but I will leave her and marry another." I felt rather disappointed when he said this, as I had for some time hoped that were it not for his home ties he would soon be a Christian. Oh, how long it takes to understand these Hindus!

*Later.*—It is now almost bed time; I have brought a little table and a lamp out on the veranda, it is so warm inside, but Mrs. Timpany has been looking at the thermometers, and she finds that mine on the veranda is 98° while the one in the study is but 96°. This evening at half past five it was 102° on the veranda. The hot winds are really dreadful; I never could have formed any idea of them at home. The heat to-day made me feel quite sick, and for a time I scarcely knew where to put myself. I shut my room up tight to keep it out; then I was left in the dark. Mrs. Timpany was busy teaching the girls to sew, and she found the heat sickening. Miss Cowling was so prostrated that she was unable to go to the zenana, but Mary and I went and we had a very nice time.

Munshi had gathered seven or eight women, among whom were three widows. Munshi seemed to be overcome with gladness and was most entertaining. The little table, with my cloth on it, was covered with flowers; a bottle containing Florida water was also there which was showered upon us most profusely during our visit.

Munshi's wife is a very pretty woman, about sixteen; she has a bright, intelligent face, as indeed had all the others. She had jewels in her hair, ears, nose, and on her wrists. Several chains were round her neck, and she wore a gold belt. The belt and the bangles he had brought in the morning to show me. He said the belt cost Rs. 160. Sometimes I feel as though I never want to see a jewel again, the natives make so much of them. At first I entertained the women by making use of what

Telugu I knew. They were greatly amused, and Munshi was pleased, for he is so anxious and is such an indefatigable teacher. Then he asked them to sing for me, promising to go out while they did so as they were too shy to sing before him. After a great deal of talk, one persuading the other, they began. The singing was very nice, but the songs were heathen. When Munshi came in again we talked, he interpreting for me when I could not use the Telugu. When we got up to leave we received a fresh shower of Florida water. This was my first visit to a Brahmin's house.

Oh, Miss Muir, I can see abundance of work, and even now it is coming to me without my seeking for it, and I am *aching* to get at it.

My Sunday morning class has been badly shaken by the baptism of a young Brahmin by Mr. Timpany. We expected that it would suffer, but I have a few left who are apparently seeking for light, and we expect others after they have lost a little of their fear. I would like to tell you all about the baptism of that Brahmin boy, and a young Sudra, and the trouble and noise it made, but have not time.

Pray earnestly for me, that wisdom and strength may be given me to carry on the Lord's work successfully.

M. J. FRITH.

## Tuni.

## MISSION WORK AND NATIVE PREACHERS.

We are very glad to learn that the ladies have succeeded so well in raising funds for the mission, and acknowledge gratefully the appropriation made for our native preachers. In the straitened condition of the finances of our Society, this action on the part of our sisters will afford some relief.

We have now five preachers in the employ of the mission (including the colporteur). Two of these, however, are engaged only temporarily, and may soon be withdrawn. We might immediately increase the number by the addition of one or two more, if we were satisfied of the fitness of certain applicants; but no little care is needed in the selection of men for the work.

We have for some time thought that it would be well to establish a few outstations in various parts of the field, and have recently attempted to put the plan in execution. Accordingly, Chinnamma—one of our Bible women—and her family have been temporarily settled at Satyarum, a village in which one of our converts has his home; and Abel has gone with his family to Juggempet, the home-village of another convert, some fifteen miles from Tuni. We hope to locate two more families in other villages as soon as it becomes practicable. We think that more efficient work can be done in this way than if all should continue to live at the station. However, this arrangement is but an experiment as yet, and we may find it undesirable or impossible for some time to make it permanent.

We have great need of faith and patience. There is so little to encourage in the outward aspect of the work, and so much that is discouraging! All the currents of the social and religious life of the people seem to be flowing in direct opposition to the introduction of Christianity. We have to fight our way inch by inch. New forms of effort put in operation for the special benefit of heathen children are repeatedly thwarted. And when a little advantage has been gained, the most of our few converts having come from the lowest ranks of the people, are such poor, ignorant, unstable creatures that it is impos-