

committed to memory 770." Isn't that a fine record? After singing, Mr. Clough addresses the school in his inimitable manner, and all enjoy his short, sprightly talk. Again they sing, the bell rings, and the school is closed. *Rev. G. V. Thomssen, in Baptist Missionary Magazine.*

## OUR INDIAN STATIONS.

### Akidu.

#### MR. CRAIG'S HALF-YEARLY REPORT.

It is time I wrote my half-yearly report to the Women's Society of Ontario. I hope it will be in time for the Board meeting.

As to the schools which you continue to support, I can only say that they are progressing as usual. I shall probably spend some of the appropriation for schools in helping to build school-houses in some villages this year. Although the school-house serves as a meeting place for the Christians, yet it is primarily a school-house, and hence a little help may justly be given out of school money.

The fact is, that I have had and still have so many villages, old as well as new, to provide with both school-house site and school-house, that considerable expense cannot be avoided. During the past three years the work has spread into a dozen new villages, which now contain a total of more than three hundred (300) members. This alone means a dozen sites and school-houses. There were about as many more old villages unprovided for. I am happy to say that in six of the above villages I have obtained a grant of land from the Government officers. Dondapadu is one of the six. In four other villages I have bought land, and in one village a Christian has given a site. In another village a Christian has promised a piece of land; in still another I expect to be able to buy enough for a school-house, and in three others I hope to hear that a grant has been made by the Government officer to whom I applied. If we look simply at what we have got, we find we have land in eleven villages. Now that we have the land we want school-houses. The Christians build the mud walls, and in some cases provide the thatch, but they are not able to do very much more. The church at Akidu may vote some help to villages embraced in its limits, and the Gannanapudy church may do the same for its villages. This year we are trying to supply eight villages with school-houses, and of course the burden is heavy, especially as I am having rather large houses put up in two villages which are to be centres of new churches. Hence I am sure you will not object if I use a little of your appropriation for the material part of the school work in the villages.

I shall now tell you a little about the trip I am making at present. On Monday, the 19th, I left Akidu at 4.30 p.m. A fine wind carried us to Gummulum in about an hour. This village is four miles north of Akidu. It is a little distance from the canal. I went into the Malapilly and preached for some time. Before leaving, I had worship with the Christians, and read a few verses in Matthew by the light of the moon. I have used the word "Malapilly." This means the hamlet or quarter where the Malas live. If it is separate from the village, we might say the "Mala hamlet"; if it appears to be part of the village, we might say the "Mala quarter."

Leaving Gummulum, we passed on to Pedda Kaparam, a village a mile or two further up the canal. On Tuesday morning I visited the Malapilly of this village, but found very few men present, as most of them were away work-

ing near Colair Lake. We then moved on to Ganapavaram, twelve miles north of Akidu along the canal, which, however, is very winding. I wished to go to Nindrakol, five miles to the west, away from the canal, but as some of my bearers were ill, I found I was short of men. From there we moved on to Komerla, a large village a few miles north of Ganapavaram. I had never visited this village before. I preached first to some people of the fishermen caste, or perhaps I should say of one of the fishermen castes, as there are several. They listened attentively. Then I went into the main street of the village and spoke to some Kapus, a very numerous class of the Shudras. Finally we visited the Malapilly, but almost all the men were away. We spoke to the women for a little while. After this we moved on up the canal till we came to a branch canal which runs to Undi, a village five miles east of Akidu. Entering it we started south again. We halted near a path leading to a village where we have a few Christians. It is called Ardhavaram. In the evening I visited the village, which is two or three miles from the canal. As I went on foot, I had plenty of exercise before I arrived at the boat again, about 10 o'clock. I preached in the moonlight to quite a crowd of Malas. On Thursday morning I visited another village nearer the canal; I had never visited it before. I preached first in the Malapilly and then in the Shudra village. Returning to the boat I baptized three men from Ardhavaram. In the evening we visited two villages further south, one on the west side of the canal and the other on the east side, but both far enough away. Having visited one, I returned to the boat about half-past seven; had a cup of tea, and then went to the other. On Friday morning we visited two more villages still further south. In one of them we were preaching to the Malas when some men of the Rajah caste sent a man to ask me to come and speak to them. I did not go at once, but after finishing with the Malas I went. We all sat down in the shade of a large tree, and I talked to them for a long time. They were unusually friendly. As a rule the men of that caste are very much opposed to our work. It was a nice opportunity and I tried to improve it.

About noon we started up that branch canal again, and by night reached the main canal that runs to Ellore. Turning west, we travelled all night, and in the morning Saturday arrived at Lingampadu, where we have Christians. I went into the village and preached for some time. Lingampadu is a Mala village. On the north side of the canal is a large village which contains people of the Rajah caste, also Shudras of various grades, and last but not least, a police station. Two days before my arrival, one of the Christians of Lingampadu was sitting in the market of this large village selling dried fish. The constable in charge of the station and three other policemen came along, and after asking the price of the fish the constable said they were bad and proceeded to turn them out of the Christian's baskets, after which he and his friends and the general rabble carried them away. The man told me that he lost two rupees by it. I called the chief offender to my boat and asked him about it. Of course he denied having done anything wrong. I told him I would report him, and asked him who was his superior officer. He said the inspector from Ellore was in the station. I went to see the latter gentleman, who is a Mohammedan. He looked into the case, and said he had no doubt of the truth of the charge. I said we did not want revenge, but desired only that such outrages should not occur in future. He gave the delinquents a most thorough scolding and warned them that if such things occurred again, they would not only lose their positions, but also find them-