

CENTRAL INDIA.

Story of Little Surgi, and account of the
“Swinging Festival.”

FROM MRS. WILKIE.

Indore. March 7, 1894.

Kindly excuse my delay in writing. The cold season is always a busy as well as an enjoyable season, as it is the time when we look for visits from friends from other Missions. and this year we have been unusually favoured.

Although so late I cannot pass on without saying how glad we were to receive the new comers, and glad to have the three ladies with us at Indore. Just to know that they are in our midst seems to lighten our burden. All are busy with the language and are lending a helping hand in many ways.

We had unusually interesting gatherings on Christmas, followed by the opening of the McKellar Hall, all of which you have heard through other sources. These are some of the pleasant bits in our life here ; but we have the sad bits too. It may not be uninteresting to some to refer to one of these.

At present we are much exercised over the case of Surgi, a little girl in the Boarding School. About six months ago a woman who had been a professing Christian for some time, but had sadly fallen, asked Miss Jamieson, of Neemuch, to send her little girl to the Boarding School at Indore. Shortly after the woman and her husband—also a Christian—left Neemuch for Mhow, where she left her husband and led an immoral life. She was still, however, allowed from time to time to see her daughter. In November last she visited the school and tried to carry Surgi off by force, and would have succeeded had not Miss Sinclair obtained help. It was a sad sight to see the mother holding on to the child with one hand, with another child at her feet, and beating her forehead till the blood ran down her face,