

Those who came out some eight or ten years ago was a Mr. Boggess, a man from one of the warm sections of his own land, and is said to be a Salamanderer here. This man possessed a good mental equipment, a very quiet, unassuming manner, and a devout, humble Christian spirit. In due time a portion of the old Ongole field was committed to his care, and gradually he began to give expression to ideas, and to put into practice methods which drew upon himself and his work the attention of all his brethren. Many thought him radical in the extreme, while here and there one thought he might be nearer New Testament lines, than many who had been on the field longer. He did not believe in a native ministry paid with foreign money: nor, indeed, in the use of such funds for education, in general; nor for the ordinary upkeep and extension of Christian work among the native people. He stood firm on the principle that if a man was converted he should witness to the fact among his brethren, believing that God would bless such testimony, and that in his own time, from the little flocks of Christians, pastors and teachers should be chosen by themselves, whom they could and would support. He prayed much alone, he talked and prayed with his paid assistants, and here and there dropped the use of money from the home treasury. Many of his men, for whom this teaching was too strong, would go to other stations and complain of the treatment they were receiving, and in too many instances they would receive sympathy from other missionaries, who often expostulated with this, whom they deemed over-enthusiastic young brother. Mr. Boggess bore all this and the much criticism he brought upon himself, in the most humble, patient manner. His most severe critics could not but bear testimony to his spirit and forbearance, nor could they withhold their admiration. Some of his native preachers finally challenged him to do himself as he wished them to do, viz.: preach among the people without a salary from the homeland. He did not feel that he was in the position occupied by his native brethren, as he had been sent by the churches of his own land to this foreign one; yet, as a matter of expediency, because those who challenged him could not realize the distinction as he felt it, he asked the home Board to discontinue his salary. I am not quite certain whether this was ever entirely done or not, as neither the Board nor his brethren were willing for him to be in this position.

But he went among the people, ate what they gave him, and in return gave them the Bread of Eternal Life. Many sympathizing with the problem he was endeavoring to work out in the fear of God, sent him funds from time to time, and the Board insisted on leaving to his credit in the Bank in Madras money of which he could avail himself, if he desired. One by one his preachers left him and were taken on the staff of other missionaries, as workers on a salary. He saw them go without expressing any resentment, maintaining under all circumstances a spirit of love and consecration, that could only come from God.

Before going to Canada this last time, it was my privilege to talk with Mr. Boggess a few times, but at long intervals. My heart went out to him regarding the methods which in humble reliance upon God he was faithfully putting into practice, and I told him that he was doing what I had often said I should do were I a man.

After not a long term of service he returned to America with his family and another man took up his work. This man had at the same time the charge of three other fields, and he now bears most enthusiastic testimony to the work being done on Mr. Boggess' field. Not one of the old preachers is on it, nor is there a worker paid with foreign money, but more converts have come from this field than from either one of the other three. Mr. Boggess returned not long since and resumed charge, and the good work goes on gloriously.

Dr. Barbour, the Secretary of A. B. M. U., recently visited the Telugu Mission, and among others the Kandahur—Mr. Boggess' field. He questioned, heard, and saw, and told the Christians that their missionary had the confidence and approval of the home Board and that all he had done was highly satisfactory. One of the oldest of their missionaries says, that at their recent Conference "God marvelously vindicated His servant" and personally I praise His name for this, for His servant has borne and suffered much, but out of it has come a manifest victory for the Kingdom of God, which he loves so dearly. His critics, or many of them, have been converted, and his sympathizers are enthusiastic, and in one of the associations of that mission a broad plan is on foot for throwing the responsibility of the work where it long ago should have been, on the native people and churches. On our way here, we spent a day at Nellore, and Dr. Downie admits his conversion to