

sins. You are sinful, but Christ is holy. If you come to him and ask him, he will pardon you, and will help you to obey him; and then you will know how to pray for the heathen. When you hear of the missionary ship, called "the children's ship," and when you think how much you have sent for it, do not let one proud thought come into your mind; but think of this, that you have the Bible to read, and friends to teach you to read it, and money to spend; and then remember that all you have God has given to you. Think of this, too, that he will not hear your prayers for the heathen, or bless what you give, if you do it that your friends may praise you, and not that the poor heathen may praise him.—(*Edinburgh*) *Children's Missionary Newspaper*.

INCIDENTS IN MISSIONARY LIFE.^a

No. III.

Many of the rivers in India have no bridges over them, as rivers in England have. This is a great inconvenience to travellers, particularly in the rainy season. In the dry season a river is sometimes so shallow that a little child might walk across it; but after a few days' heavy rain in the wet season, it would be too deep and rapid for an elephant to walk over. Where there are no boats, travellers are obliged to wait a few days, near the banks of the river, until some of the water has run away, and the river has become fordable.

At some places there is a ferry boat of a very singular kind. It is, in fact, a large round basket, about seven feet in diameter, and three deep. The wicker of basket-work is made of split bamboos; and the outside is covered with untanned goatskins sewed together. This covering does not keep out the

water very well, but as the natives have no shoes and stockings, they do not mind standing five or six inches deep in water for a short time; but this is not very pleasant to English ladies and gentlemen. This however, is the best accommodation they can have. I heard of a young gentleman who, when crossing a river in one of these boats for the first time, happened to push the end of his umbrella through the goat skin at the bottom; and if he had not kept it in the hole he made, the boat would soon have sunk, and perhaps he would have been drowned.

When a lady, travelling in a palankeen, comes to one of these rivers, the bearers put her, palankeen and all, into the boat; and they stand by the side of it.

They cannot put horses into these boats; their feet would go through the bottom. When a gentleman, travelling on horseback, comes to the river, he gets into the boat and lets the horse swim after it.

Two men, with long bamboos, push the boat across the river as well as they can; but it turns round many times, and is carried a long way down the stream, before the passengers land on the other side.

There are many inconveniences arising from want of bridges. When a Hindoo has been hired to take a cart-load of goods from one town to another, he often drags the whole, through the water, and thereby spoils the goods. A missionary and his wife, who travelling in the south of India, had some boxes of clothes dragged through a river in this way; when some ink powders, in one of the boxes, became mixed with water, and spoiled several articles of wearing apparel. If little girls send any presents to the schools in India they must not put ink powders in a box with clothes.