

Our Work Abroad.

LETTER FROM MISS MacLAURIN.

Vuyuru, May 17, 1909.

My dear Link,—For a long time I have been wanting to write you, and really have tried to find the time. During the touring season, it was hopeless, but now that the hot season has come and brought us some "days off," I am going to sit down and tell you a few of the many, many things I have so much wanted you to know. I could fill a whole Link myself with this letter. I have so much to tell, but perhaps I had better not! Oh, how often when on tour, I have had funny, or interesting experiences. I have wished I could share them with you while they were fresh in my mind!

But it is not touring that I wish to tell you about first. I would like you to know about the two girls we have here in the boarding school, being trained for Bible women, because I want you to take them into your hearts and pray for them. I called them "girls," for so they seem to me and so they would be if they were Canadians—just girls. But they are widows. Each has a child five or six years old, and each has known a woman's share of sorrow, pain and disappointment already.

One, Martha, has been in the school almost two years. It was Jane of Bardagunta who told me about her, saying she was a good Christian, with a desire to come and study and train for the work. I sent for her and she came—a gentle, sweet-voiced girl, clad in the coarse garments of the poor, so shy she could hardly speak to me. But she managed to tell me she had a great desire to enter God's service and wanted to study with that end in view. She had a little boy, but she

would leave him with her parents, while she was studying. So we took her in. She did not know her letters even when she came and progress was at first very slow and hard. But she was patient and persevering, and now is in the Second Book. She is a good girl with a sweet temper and a sweet face. She is still very shy, but is developing, and by the time she has finished the fourth book and is ready to enter active service, I am sure she will have more confidence, which will be increased by experience in work. In the meantime, to get her into the way of work a little, she goes every Sunday morning with some of the younger school girls to a near village to lead a Sunday school service with heathen children. After the children's service is over, or while it is going on, the older ones gather and the girls read the Bible and pray with them before returning. It will be two years yet before Martha is ready for work.

The other girl, Mariamma, has been in the school only a few months. It is some years since her husband died, leaving her with a baby girl. She went to her father's home and has lived with them ever since. They are heathen, but there is a Christian congregation in their village with which she identified herself and the pastor testified that she had lived a consistent Christian life. For some time she had felt a strong desire to enter the work, but every time she mentioned it her people opposed it so strongly that she held back. She confided in one of our Bible women who, last September, told me, but said she hadn't much hope of her coming, in view of the strong opposition in her home. I said we would pray for her, and a few days afterwards, she came! I felt it an answer to prayer for more workers.