

"I could tell you much more, but there is not time.

"Pray that we may have the joy of seeing some of these women, who are on our hearts, come out boldly for Christ this year.

"The Bible-women sold four hundred and sixty books during the year among the caste women, and toured in over two hundred villages. Besides these books, we left a number of other small books and many hundreds of tracts and papers, the Lord's Prayer, Twenty-third Psalm and Matt. 5:1-12, printed in pamphlet form. We claim for this and other work done, God's promise, 'My word shall not return unto me void, but shall accomplish the work whereunto I sent it.' The words of the old hymn,

"A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing,"

have been ringing in my heart. Without this fortress we could not remain in India, but in His never-failing strength, we launch forth into another year. May it be a year of victory for Him."

AKIDU

Miss Selman and Miss Corning we find at Akidu, about 40 hours travel from Cocanada, by rail and cart, or, most of the year, all the way by boat.

Again the prophet's beautiful words come to mind; "The desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose." This wilderness also is beginning to respond to the breath of life divine.

Miss Selman, the evangelistic missionary and a trained nurse, says: "As my work is itinerating on the Akidu field among over 2,000 Christians, and thousands of non-Christians, and Mohammedans, I shall try in my report to tell you something of the touring work in which I have been privileged to have a share.

"During the year under review, I have toured 148 days. With my Bible-women I have visited 282 caste homes; with Christian adults, have conducted 78 services, and with children, have had 22 services.

"In these 282 caste homes, many, many shut-in women have heard the gospel, some for the very first time,

and others who had heard before listened eagerly again. As yet, I have not been able to reach the Mohammedan women, because very few of them understand Telugu. I hope that the day will come when I can talk to them in their own language.

"Each year we meet more caste women, who want to be taught Scripture and prayers. Our present great need is more Bible-women to live in the different centres on this large field, and visit the villages oftener than the missionary can. This year two Bible-women have been placed in a centre, where they can visit and teach regularly in several large villages. Their work is bearing fruit already, and I long for women to be placed in each church centre, and an extra two to tour with me. Pray that for the other nine churches workers may be raised up. I am trying to wait patiently for a Lower Secondary school in Akidu, that more of our girls may be better fitted for such work. Many young women are left widows, and if they had a fair education as a foundation, might be trained as Bible-women. At present, parents, at least many of them, refuse to send their daughters away to Cocanada, and so they are kept at home after leaving Akidu boarding school, and soon become married, without a fair education. There is a great harvest here to be gathered in, and we must work and pray for more laborers.

"In January last in the village of Cowtharam, a sweet young girl of fourteen of the Kamma caste, was much interested in our Telugu magazine for women, the 'Vivekavati.' She subscribed for a copy; on my second call, she was less reserved, and listened with much pleasure while I played and sang some Telugu hymns to her, using a little organ her father had bought for her. She seemed much interested in the gospel message, and I long to visit her again,—not likely that I shall be able to until September.

"One Biblewoman, who works near her own village, has been teaching some little caste girls Scripture portions and prayer. She said in her last report, 'The two little girls prayed to Jesus for their father's recovery from illness, and he has been restored to health, much to their joy and strengthening of faith.'