

and she said her good morning to us as quickly as Mrs. Brisk—but, O, in such a different tone!

Mrs. D.—Here are five dollars more than your list of names accounts for! How is that?

ALICE.—I'll tell you; it was so funny! We saw Mr. Cross coming down the street. You know he is as rich as rich can be, but he doesn't believe in missions, nor Sunday-schools, nor anything of the kind. Carrie said, "Let's storm the enemy's fortress, and see what we can get."

CARRIE.—So we bade him good morning told him all about our mission school, and politely asked him for a contribution.

Mrs. A.—What did he say?

CARRIE.—He lifted both hands, and rolled up his eyes, and said:—

"Hark! hark! hark! Hear the dogs bark? The beggars are coming to town!

That roused me! I told him we were NOT "beggars"; that we were very young, but we were learning to work in the mission cause because it was a good cause, and we meant to do all we could for the heathen people who are living in sin and ignorance, and we would thank him never to call us beggars again.

MRS. E.—I hope you didn't make him angry.

ALICE.—I guess not. He looked steadily at Carrie, as though he was thinking of what she had said. Then the queer man said, "Hold out your hands." We did so, and he dropped a penny into each of them, saying, "That's for your missions." Then he raised his hat and made a low bow to Carrie, and putting five dollars in her hand, said: "Respected madam, THAT is for your PREACH!"

MRS. C.—Well done, Carrie! I never before knew a mission "preach" reach that man's purse. I hope the effect may be lasting.

MRS. B.—You had Mrs. Flutter's name; what did she say?

SUSIE.—She said, "Deary-me, no! She just couldn't. Everything was so high! Bad as war times! Elizabeth Eliza was taking music lessons, and deary-me, it cost so! and Elizabeth Eliza must have a new summer silk, and Charity begins at home, and deary-me, she just COULDN'T!" So she didn't.

ALICE.—Oh, but the last place was so different! Dear Grandmother Elder gave her dollar, with her poor, trembling fingers, and then she talked to us so sweetly!

CARRIE.—Yes; she told us how glad she was that we were beginning so young to work in the dear Lord's vineyard. Then she showed us a little ivory box on her shelf, in which she kept her mission-money for forty years.

SUSIE.—And she said, "Next year, my dears, when you come, I don't think I shall be here. I think I shall be in the beautiful city whose gates are of pearl. But my offering I shall leave in the little box, and you may open and take it." Then she blessed us, and we came away.

Mrs. D.—Young ladies, we are highly gratified with your report. You have not only brought us a good sum of money, but your experience has been both useful to yourself and interesting to us.

MRS. A.—We will now close our meeting by singing "The whole wide world for Jesus."—*Selected.*

"So many are living and dying, who never have heard of the Light,

Their lives by its story unsoftened, their death is Eternity's night,

While we to our bosoms are folding the Book with the Saviour's command,  
'Go therefore and teach every creature, proclaiming My Word through the land.'

"Then will ye not give them the Gospel, ye people that dwell in the light?

Why leave them to stumble in darkness who might walk with the Saviour in white?

Oh give of your time and your talents, your prayers, and your silver and gold!

For the Master but carries His coming till this word to all nations be told."

"Then haste ye, arise and be doing, oh let not the moments be lost!

The Saviour's 'well done' and His welcome will more than repay the cost,

When out of all lands shall be gathered a people prepared for the King,

Who in glory and beauty forever the praise of Jehovah shall sing."—*Selected.*

### SOMETHING ABOUT SNAKES.

TUNI, INDIA, Aug. 12th 1893.

You must not think children that in India we meet snakes every day, and are in danger from them all the time, for we very seldom see a snake even when in the jungles, as they are very modest and retiring and try to get out of the way when they hear us coming. Of course if you tread upon a snake's tail the poor thing will try to bite you, and so we are careful not to step on the tail of any snake we may see.

Then again every snake in India is not a poisonous one. Dr. Nicholson says that in every ten snakes we are likely to meet, nine will probably be harmless, and only one of them poisonous. Still you never know when that poisonous one may appear and so watch for him every day.

If any of you come to India when you are grown up, as no doubt some of you will, to do mission work or to help some one to do mission work, probably the first night you pass in India will be a wakeful night, especially if you are in a lonely bungalow as I happened to be.

The other day while resting during the hot noon hour I heard the shouts of some of our servants who said that there was a snake in my garden. I got my gun and shot it and found that it was seven feet long. This was a whip snake and it is said to strike you with its tail if you go near, but it is a harmless reptile and lives on frogs and rats, mice and birds, but certainly my dear children you really would have been frightened if you had seen it.

Several years ago when staying in a traveller's bungalow at a village called Cutapudy I saw a snake like this one coiled around a cocoanut tree and with the help of the servants killed it with a stick. This one was seven feet in length and also a non-poisonous variety. In this same traveller's bungalow the servant killed a cobra in the corner of the room. The cobra is a very dangerous snake, if it really bites anyone, they are