

MISSIONARY LETTERS.

INDIA.

Some Account of Native Teacher and Pupils—Great Lack of Native Christian Teachers.

INDORE, August 13th, 1888.

MISS RODGER.—Although your letter must have been received about a month ago, I regret that it has not been answered before now, also, that there is not more to communicate. As I spent last hot season at Simla my school was closed for two months—from the middle of April to the middle of June. Since my return I have been busy gathering the children together again, and trying to open another girls' school. The widow of one of the native Christians, who died last January, was left almost destitute with two children now to support. The youngest was born about three months ago. She did not take kindly to teaching at first, in fact she seemed to think it a hardship that she should have to earn her livelihood. Lately a few children have ventured into the room which has been taken for a school, and she seems pleased and surprised at her own self. It is not advisable to let these people get the idea they will be supported without doing anything for it. There have been as many as nine present sometimes—hence her surprise and pleasure. It does not interfere with my other school, as they are quite a distance apart. Besides, the hours for school are different, one is open during the day, the other in the morning. It is easier to get the girls out in the morning, that attend the school lately opened, as they all are the children of poor people. A little ambition is actually springing up amongst the girls that are studying English. There are three girls in the Royal Reader (1st Book), and they are all eager to learn. They are taught to translate the English into their own language. One of these three girls is a Mahomedan, another a Bengali, and the third is a Portuguese. The first has been at school for the last four years and a half, she reads and writes Urdu, and was taught Hindi before she took up English. Her father is a teacher of Persian in Raj Kumar College, Indore. It is a wonder he has allowed his daughter to come to school so long. The Bengali girl is from Calcutta, and her father is a clerk in the engineer's office here. This class learns English much faster than the natives of India generally do, and have a much better pronunciation, too. She felt grieved last year that she did not get a doll instead of a book, although she is more reconciled to the book now, as her father told her the book was of more value than a doll. The Portuguese girl