

are not able to read the Word of God, and still what has always appeared to me most wonderful is the ease, fluency, and very often great tact, with which they constantly carry on religious discussions with their heathen relatives, friends, and acquaintances. Their propensity and readiness to speak on religious subjects were such, that I have heard the common people, of their own accord, confessing that they are not able to speak with Christians. The common exclamation is, 'Who is able to speak with these Christians?' The proneness and readiness of our converts to commend their religion, has very often reminded me of the following and similar passages: 'They that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word.'

"I believe our converts, as a body, have made a good deal of progress in the Word of God; and, I trust, not a few of them are spiritually-minded. We have always felt it no ordinary pleasure to observe the 'Week of Prayer' with our brethren all over the world, and on such occasions nearly thirty or forty assemble together for the purpose of prayer, praise, and mutual exhortation; and very often we have so many as six or seven to take part in the exercises of the day. Some would read a passage appropriate to the subjects indicated in the invitation of the Evangelical Alliance, some would give an exhortation, some would give out a hymn for singing, and some would engage in prayer. If these are signs of growth in grace, increase of knowledge, fervour of devotion, then we must in charity believe that they speak because they feel the power of the truth they have embraced.

"For their establishment in the faith once delivered to the saints, we have, both at Indapur and Jalna, two diets of worship. At one of these we follow the good old way, I hear, recommended by your great reformer; namely, we read a portion of the Word of God, and, by way of exposition, catechize our congregation on the same.

"For the sake of the converts from Romanism and others, we conduct the forenoon service in the Hindustani, and the evening one in Marathi. Besides, we have a Sabbath School attended by Christian and non-Christian children.

"These hundred and sixteen souls represent no fewer than twelve villages, and in process of time we hope to have a nucleus of a Christian church at each of these villages; and we earnestly hope that the Committee in Scotland will second our hopes by a good *substantial annual grant*, which will enable us not only to occupy these places with efficiency, but occupy most important stations between this and Umrawata, and allow the Nagpur brethren to occupy places on the other side, so that we might have a continuous chain of Free Church branch stations all the way from Jalna. I must be permitted to say, that now curtailment in our missions is simply impossible, and Expansion must be our watchword.

"Of the one hundred and sixteen souls who compose our church, there is a large number of converts who have no hereditary right in the villages in which they reside, and it has occurred to us that of these we might form a new settlement, on sanitary principles, about two miles from Jalna. Believing such a plan feasible, we memorialized His Excellency, Sir Salar Jang, Prime Minister to His Highness, the Nizam of Hyderabad, Dakhan; and I feel exceedingly thankful to say that our memorial has found grace in the sight of the enlightened minister, and there is every probability that a fine plot of ground will be granted *us*, with a good deal of waste, or uncultivated, land attached to it. The letter we have received from His Excellency's private secretary is most encouraging. We wish to form the proposed village as a model village. We shall have no rent to pay for twenty-five years. Now, I earnestly invite the attention of the people of