

ADDENDA No. 2.

Rev. Geo. Churchill, at present residing at Bimlipatam, writes July 10, 1878:

I wish I had more of interest and encouragement to report in reference to our work here. It is so difficult to ascertain the truth concerning these Teloo goo people, that one scarcely knows what to believe, or when he may safely consider himself encouraged. If I could confidently believe some statements I have recently heard, I should venture on feeling somewhat jubilant.

We have a Teloo goo teacher who cannot speak English. He talks considerably on religious topics, seems to be very much interested, professes to believe in Christ, and wishes to be a Christian, but desires to defer making a profession of religion until he is about to die.

My former teacher called to see me recently, and I had a protracted conversation with him. His appears to be a hopeful case. He professes to believe on Jesus, and seems anxious to know more of the truth, but does not appear to be ready to take a bold stand.

He informed me that my present teacher is really interested about his salvation, and would like to become a Christian at once, if it were not for having to give up his family and friends. Two years since he was a devout Hindoo, and would not listen to a word against Hindooism or in favor of Christianity, but has been brought to his present view principally by arguing with the head teacher in Bro. Sanford's school. This man, my teacher says, is really a believer in Christ, and wants to be baptized; but, as he is in poor health, and will be deserted by his family, he does not yet feel able to endure the trial.

Now, how much confidence to place in these statements one does not know. The men all seem honest and straightforward; but it is impossible to read what is in the hearts of these Hindoos. We can only hope and pray that it may be the Holy Spirit operating on their hearts.

If they should come out and join us, it would make a great stir in this town. But the obstacles in their way are very great. It seems almost too much to believe that they can ever surmount them, even if they be sincere. We can scarcely imagine the trial it must be for one of them to break off from everything to which he has been accustomed—to renounce family, friends, and possessions, and to become a curse and a reproach, or as one dead to his family and friends. It must require strong convictions to enable one to do it. I fear many of us would shrink from the test.

Oh! there are so many obstacles in our way, that at times it seems impossible to succeed. And there are so many difficult questions to settle, that one requires patience, wisdom, and all other graces, to qualify him to labor successfully in this land of idolatry.