

The Work at Ongole, India.

The Rev. E. Bullard writes to *The Examiner* from Ongole, India, on December 4th, respecting the work of the Baptist Church on the Ongole field: "There are now nearly 21,000 baptized Christians in connection with the Ongole churches. These are not inquirers admitted on probation, nor members of Christian congregations or communities, but, as we trust, regenerated believers. The nominal adherents may be estimated at from four to five times that number. This alone is a truly noteworthy fact, and a just cause of thanksgiving to God, and yet to our eyes this is only a small part of the whole. Much greater interest lies in the fact that this work, instead of having ended, or even declining, seems rather to have just begun. The kingdom of God here has only lately begun to grow, but, like the banyan-tree, it is spreading its roots and limbs in every direction, and must, in due time, cover the entire face of the land.

"The baptisms during the present year, from January to October, have averaged nearly 200 a month. This is more than were baptized last year, and but little below the number reported the year previous. Some of these will doubtless be excluded, and may prove themselves to be unregenerated persons, but none are received without a full examination and apparent evidence of conversion, so that it may be literally said that the Lord continues to add to the church daily of such as are saved. Indeed, this has become the normal state of things, and throughout the Ongole field conversions are looked for as a usual occurrence.

Such fruit is not without effort and prayer. Much of both are daily bestowed. Over four hundred native laborers, aided, though not supported by the mission, are at work. Dr. Clough, after many years of arduous toil, has been joined by others, and there are now, or soon will be, six missionary families on the field, either engaged or preparing to engage with him in the work, while from thousands of homes and hearts are daily ascending to God the prayers and gifts of faith and love.

"Notwithstanding the trials of faith that have already come to them—trials incident to changes in the mission, trials from ungodly Europeans, and from oppressing and enticing heathen, the Telugu Christians have thus far exhibited a great degree of fidelity. The new enterprise and energy awakened by their new faith are leading to measures of improvement never thought of before: and these efforts, seconded by the judicious advice and aid of the mission, are resulting surely, and not very slowly, in making of them strong men and women in Christ Jesus. There can be no greater mistake than to suppose the efforts of the mission are directed entirely to evangelical work, or the in-gathering of converts only. Quite as much attention is given to the care and training of those who have been received, and the success that has attended these efforts thus far is strong ground of confidence in the increasing prosperity of the mission.

"Could our friends at home visit the Ongole station and see the educational work daily in progress, they would be constrained to predict greater things for this people than have ever yet been seen. The High School, under the care of Rev. W. R. Manley, must be regarded as one of the most effective agencies in the mission for the advancement of the Lord's cause and the overthrowing of the strongholds of heathenism here. It has 150 pupils, and corresponds very nearly in its course of instruction with the High Schools of America. One-third of the students are Christian youth. The rest are from heathen families representing many of the highest castes

in Ongole. It has been justly said that no Hindu can receive a thorough course of education and be any longer a believer in Hinduism. We are confident, therefore, that this school is exerting a potent influence for the truth and for Christ. Already there are evidences of such an influence in the interest manifested among the caste students. One of these, a Brahmin youth, has lately declared his faith in Christ, and has asked to be baptized. His request will probably be granted before this reaches America.

"Besides the High School there is an elementary school for boys with about 100 pupils, nearly all of whom are members of the church. Similar to this in its course of instruction is the Ongole girls' school, the fruit of Mrs. Clough's personal efforts. It numbers 130 pupils, and is accomplishing much for the most promising girls of our Christian families. At their last examination they received from Government 500 rupees, and a still larger grant is expected at the next examination, a few weeks hence. Three day-schools in the town, attended by about 100, are reaching a class of youth who cannot attend in the mission compound. Thus the aggregate total number of youth under Christian instruction in Ongole alone is upwards of 450, while in 180 Christian villages similar schools are maintained, attended by over 2,500 youth—making in all ten times as large a per centage of school attendance as is shown by the Government schools of India.

Sunday School at Ongole.

The Sunday school begins promptly at half-past seven in the morning. We will take our seats at the eastern entrance of the chapel, and listen to the singing. The melody is strange; but I assure you these people love their songs as much as we do ours. Now Ezra, the superintendent, is reading the lesson in Mark iii. 20-35, one of the International Series of lessons: only we are half a year behind you in America. What an earnest prayer Ezra is sending up to the throne of grace! Although you do not understand the spirit of it. Now, while the teachers are teaching the lesson, let us walk through the large chapel, and take a look at the classes.

This class at our left, of fifteen bright Telugu boys, is taught by Mr. Kelley, an Eurasian, Mr. Manley's first assistant teacher at the high school. He is teaching in English, for the boys know something of it; but what they do not understand, Mr. Kelley explains in Telugu. Then comes another class of boys, who know a little English, but are taught by Mr. Manley in Telugu. Here is Miss Kelley's class of girls, with their bright smiling faces. The next is a class of young women: you see they have brought their babies along with them. There is a class of old women, their heads gray and their forms bent; but still they are not too old to come to Sunday school. They are all sitting on the floor, Hindu fashion, and the chapel is so crowded that if we are not careful we shall step on their feet; but then they don't mind that much, for they have no corns. But you haven't seen all the school yet. Come outside, on the large veranda running around the church. Here you see several classes of old men, there are some infant classes, and again we come to classes of young men.

But the bell is ringing, and we will go in and take our seats. After singing Ezra is reading the report. I will transcribe it to you: "Number of scholars present 478: number of teachers present 28: number of Bible verses