

One offered me here; holding it out, she said, "Take it and wash it with soap, then it will be white, and you may have it." But, when she heard of the twelve little school girls, who, though often treated to this luxury, were still quite brown, she put her baby back upon her hip, and talked about something else.

You will want to know our preparations and plans for the new school year beginning August 1st, 1890.

A new house for the girls is being put up, of two rooms, and stove and cook house. This is very much needed. The cool season, in this hilly region, is one of fever. A building, whose doors and windows face the sunny south, and whose high back wall will keep off the hill breeze from November to February, is indispensable.

The school house has been repaired, and is now ready for the classes.

Apart from the school books which remain the same, we have arranged that more hours be given in school to Bible study. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of this when one remembers how dark, how horribly dark, is the condition of the people here, and these children, when school days are over, will go down among it. May they, one by one, step out into the darkness with His word a lamp unto their feet, a light unto their path, and in each little village where they may dwell, may they shine as lights in a dark place. One of their number, D. Susie, was baptized last year.

There will be one new boarder, at least, this year, the grandchild of one of our Tuni Christians; the child's own parents are heathen. She attended the village school all last year, taught by Joseph, a Christian boy, and was so bright that it has been thought best to take her right in among the other girls, where she may learn many other things besides her school books. She is called after a heathen goddess, so her name is to be changed to a very beautiful one—Ruth.

Just as school was about to close, three lovers arrived. They were in search of wives, and being Christian men, had come to the Mission school to find what they wanted. But they were all three successfully dismissed, after being told that daughters of Christian parents, studying in the Mission school, where they were learning to grow up to be good and wise women, we hoped, were not to be given in marriage when but mere children, like the heathen around them.

The little girls, last year, usually had their drill jackets white and skirts black, so they are to be red this time; and the little brown figures, with black hair and eyes, clad in red, with an abundance of tropical foliage always around, is the coloring for a very pretty picture.

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull-boy," so there is a ball coming, and the carpenter is to make a hat, and we hope some happy times are in store for the little Tuni boarding girls, for whom you care so much. [This year their standing will be:—

Infant Standard—N. Ruth.

First Standard—C. Atchamma, B. Amelia, T. Atchamma. G. Sanyasia, K. Chinnamma, A. Chellamma, K. Dalamma.

Second Standard—D. Susie, B. Condamma, Mallamma.

Third Standard—T. Mary, D. Parramma.

Fifth Standard—D. Lydia.

In these classes also are children from the town—day pupils; quite a number of Mohammedan boys. Two among them, in the fourth standard, are very bright—Abibulla and Shaik Ali.

Now, my dear Miss Greene, if there is anything you would like to know that I may have neglected to mention, be sure and write and ask, and I shall be glad to give what information I have. You will notice some of the girls' names are differently spelt this year. This is because I have changed my mind about the proper way to spell them.

With much love to all who are interested in this work in this far-off land,

I remain, yours,

July 24, 1890.

MARGIE DENOVAN GARDNER.

Akidu.

Dear Miss Greene.—It is time, or past time, for me to report on the state of the Girls' Boarding School, at Akidu. Mrs. Craig has sent more than one letter to the LINK during the past year about this school, from which, I doubt not you have learned something concerning the progress that has been made. Fifteen girls attended from September to December, and afterwards the number increased to twenty-one. The school was closed on the 14th of June. Examinations were held at the end of the year, and most of the pupils passed satisfactorily. One girl in the fourth standard passed and became a Bible woman under Miss Stovel. She is now at Cocanala for six months, special training by Miss Baskerville, who has a class for Bible women.

Two girls passed from the third to the fourth standard; two passed from the second to the third, and are studying this year with one who failed to pass into the fourth. Five girls passed from the first to the second; and two failed. One girl passed from the infant standard into the first. In addition to these a few boys and girls, who are day scholars, passed their examinations.

When we closed the school for the annual vacation, the classes stood as follows, beginning with the fourth standard, which is the highest:

Fourth standard, two boarders; third standard, three boarders; second standard, seven boarders, two day pupils; first standard, three boarders, one day pupil; infant standard, six boarders, one day pupil.

A few other day scholars attended a part of the time. To give you some idea of what is taught, I am sending the arithmetic for the fourth standard. Reading and spelling and writing are also compulsory subjects. Geography, poetry, Indian history, hygiene and sewing are optional the subjects usually taken up by our girls. Questions in arithmetic are based on the following:

(a) Questions on the compound rules and reduction (Indian money, local weights and measures of capacity, English time, English linear measure of inches, feet and yards, or local linear measure). (b) Household accounts and bazaar bills. (c) Proper fractions, improper fractions and mixed numbers, interconversion of the two latter, addition and subtraction of fractions of the same denomination, multiplication and division of fractions by integers. (d) Mental arithmetic applied to bazaar transactions.

I have copied the above from what is called the Educational Code.

As to religious instruction, the pupils in the infant and first standards have studied a small catechism, which contains the foundation truths. The girls of the second standard have studied New Testament stories and Old Testament stories; and those of the third and fourth standards have been reading Genesis and the Life of Christ in the words of Scripture—a combination of the four Gospels.

Teaching the girls habits of neatness and order is an important part of the work. This of course devolves on Mrs. Craig, and causes her no little work and often considerable anxiety. We would be thankful if we could find a good native woman to assist in caring for the girls in their household affairs.

Sewing is an important part of the curriculum. All the girls are instructed in it. Lizzie, who was educated in the Cocanala school, assists in this branch, but Mrs. Craig has to devote considerable time to it herself.

She has also undertaken some of the religious instruction during the past year; and conducted a prayer meeting with the girls once a week. With Miss Stovel's assistance a society of King's Daughters was organized, including the girls of the school and also the women of our compound. Some very interesting meetings were held and papers on useful subjects were read.

Our school is still far from what it ought to be, and what we hope to see it become, but we must be content, if each year shows some progress made.