

or carts were unloaded and the tents were pitched and things put in order ready to open the first session of the Association at 2 p.m. A large shed had been put up by the Christians, as their chapel is small, to hold the meetings in. This was covered with mats they made out of rice straw; the mud floors of the chapel and tents were matted with the same. Phillip, who teaches in the seminary, preached the opening sermon. Then followed the reading of letters from the churches in order as at home in the Associations. Sunday the second day several sermons were preached during the day, and in the evening we had a large prayer and conference meeting. The presence and power of the Lord was upon us and all evidently felt it. I attended many meetings of the Ottawa Association while at home, but do not remember of being present once when there seemed to be such an interest and power as we felt in Gunanapudi. Monday the reading of the letters was finished, and the subject of ear and nose jewels was discussed and on Tuesday morning a resolution was unanimously passed that missionaries, preachers and teachers were to use their influence against the wearing of nose jewels in particular. Then the subject of tobacco was discussed and the use of it discouraged. Monday evening Peter baptized seven men and women who had professed to have put their trust in Jesus as their Saviour. Now I must not make my letter any longer, although I feel there are so many things of interest that you would like to know and I would like to tell you. We arrived home in Cocanada on Friday morning feeling much refreshed and encouraged by all we saw and heard. I did not tell you that over 500 were present at many of the meetings in that shed. That itself was worth going a 100 miles to see, was it not?

M. J. FRITH.

Bobbili.

A RETROSPECT.

As I sit here in the Bobbili mission house the last Sunday afternoon of our present sojourn in India, many thoughts crowd upon my mind, and many, many scenes in the past few years come up before me.

Nearly five years ago we moved to Bobbili, and in those years how many hours of joy and gladness have we experienced, how many of precious seed sowing, and how many of hard work and worry in building—how many also of deep anxiety and pain, and how many of heart-breaking sorrow. Yet our Father knows them all, and there might have been a great many more of pain and sorrow, had He not in pity withheld them. All has been of his ordering, and I ought to thank him for each experience, and no doubt I shall sometime.

When we came to Bobbili there were four of us, as there are now on the eve of our departure. One darling boy has been taken from us, and another given to us; our little girl and ourselves, though many times ill, and sometimes very ill, are still spared to each other.

Five years ago the mission compound was a plot of barren land, no trees or shrubs or buildings upon it. Now how changed! Comfortable houses for missionaries, helpers, servants, and for school purposes, as well as sheds for horses, cows and fowls, and store rooms, have been erected. Instead of the barren waste are vegetable, fruit and flower gardens, with good wells to supply the needed water refused by the clouds so many months in the year.

In this department of our work we see the fruits of our toil; all is beauty and verdure where it was barrenness and desolation when we came.

In the moral and spiritual department of our work the fruits we earnestly desire to see do not yet appear. Here there was not only barrenness, but there were and still are noxious weeds and thorns to uproot, as well as the tilling and the sowing of good seed to be done, so we may not expect the good fruits so soon to appear. But where it was dense darkness when we came, we know some light has penetrated. In the homes of my school-girls it is not so dark as it was; to the Telaga women the Gospel has been preached; to the Yellama women and to many of the Brahmin women the story of the Cross has many times been told, and in the homes of my Zenana women the name of Jesus is known.

Also in all parts of the town, and in hundreds of the villages around the missionary and his preachers have unfurled the banner of the Cross many, many times; and though no fruit yet appears, we believe the good seed cannot die, but in God's own time the change spiritually from barrenness and desolation to verdure and beauty is as sure to come as it has come naturally to our mission compound. O pray that it may come speedily.

These last weeks have been hard ones to me; the giving up of one thing after another in which my heart sympathies are enlisted, has been trying indeed. Last week I gave up the charge of the schools, and bade many of my women good-bye. But there was joy, too, connected with the giving up of these interests, inasmuch as I was giving them over into such good hands. Our brother and sister Archibald received a warm welcome from the retiring missionaries, I can assure you, when they arrived on the 8th, and the tired missionaries go home to recruit with very different feelings from what would have been theirs if they had had to leave their stations unsupplied, or in less experienced hands.

This morning was my last in the Sunday School, and my feelings so overcame me that I could not say to the children in parting what I wanted to. This week I must say good-bye to my Zenana women, to our Christian helpers who have endeared themselves to our hearts, to our newly arrived beloved missionaries, and hardest of all, to the little grave in the corner of our fruit garden. It seems almost like parting again with our darling boy to leave the little mound here alone, and go away without him to our own dear home land. O how often and with what bright anticipation has he talked of going with us, and now we are about to go, and he not with us. God ordered otherwise from his or our plans, and His will be done.

M. F. CHURCHILL.

February 24th, 1884.

THE WORK AT HOME.

Ontario and Quebec.

BOARD MEETING.

The second quarterly meeting of the Central Board of Ontario was held on Friday afternoon, April 18th.

The first business considered was the place of holding the annual meeting of the Society in October next. Invitations have been extended to the Society from the London, Talbot St., and St. Catharines Circles. After consideration it was unanimously decided to meet in London, it being more central than St. Catharines, and consequently more convenient to the Circles in the West.

The Cor. Secretary reported a circle formed since last quarterly meeting in Plympton.

Mrs. J. G. Goble was reported a life member of the Society by the Mission Circle at Goble's Corners.

E. DENOVAN, Rec. Sec.