

Foreign Missions.

W. B. M. U.

"We are laborers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please address MRS. J. W. MANNING, 178 Wentworth Street, St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR DECEMBER.

For the work and workers at Bobbili. The school and its teachers. For the native Christians that they may be steadfast and bring many more to a knowledge of the true God.

We extend Christmas greeting to all the members of the W. M. A. S. and our Mission Bands.

Heart beats to heart, friend smiles on friend, Across the sea the nations call, Peace and good-will, good-will and peace, In His dear name who loves us all.

The following article on the Bobbili field was written by Mrs. Churchill while confined to her bed and under great difficulties. Our sister met with an accident that disabled her for a time. We feel sure this will be appreciated by our readers more than any Christmas article could be. She wished it printed this month while we are praying for Bobbili and its workers. May a great blessing come to our sister and health be speedily restored.

Bobbili.

Bobbili, our most western mission station, is a town of 14,000 inhabitants who are all Hindoos with the exception of a few Mohammedans. For a purely native town it is in some parts well laid out, and the principal streets are wide and comparatively clean, being swept up every fine morning and the filth carried away. It is rather a pretty town to look down upon from some high building, as there are so many trees. The neatness and beauty of the town is especially due to its being a zemindary town with an enlightened and progressive Rajah at the front to encourage and assist in municipal reform, and a missionary to suggest them. True it is, there is a wonderful improvement in the last twenty years. Our Rajah associates freely with Englishmen and is quite a traveller for a Hindu, having made quite a tour in Europe and had the honor of being presented to our noble Queen Victoria at Windsor a few years ago. There are some fine buildings in the town such as the Rajah's palace, Victoria market, Jubilee town hall, the Rajah's durbar hall, male and female hospitals, high school buildings and Gopulaiswami temple, all under the patronage of the Rajah. The mission house, chapel, school house are all built of burned bricks and mortar, plastered inside and out, and have tiled roofs. There are also many good tiled houses, belonging to Brahmins and merchants, but the great mass of houses in the town are mere mud walls covered with leaves on straw, many containing but one room in which the occupants cook, eat and sleep. A mile out of the town is the Rajah's summer house, quite as imposing palace, with flower garden in front and choice fruit trees on either side of the avenue leading up to it from the main road, half a mile away. A little further on is his gymkana tope and chalet with drive to it from the road. He has also built a traveller's bungalow for Europeans who pass through Bobbili, opposite to the mission house. In the town are many small schools at which caste boys may receive the rudiments of an education and to which a few girls go in the last few years. One Parish school for the outcasts, the Rajah's high school for boys, which teaches from IV. Standard up to matriculation, and our mission girl's school from A B C to the VII standards. These schools are all under government inspection and the pupils are sent up at stated times for government examinations. In our mission girl's school which our Christian boys and girls attend as well as caste Hindu girls, in addition to the regular studies the Bible is taught daily, prayer is offered and Christian hymns learned and sung, also sewing is taught, this is one of the subjects for examination for girls: On Sabbath the school and all the Christians of the town meet for Sabbath School, we often have 140 or more, where, with Bible picture and Bible stories, singing of hymns, etc., the happiest hour and a half of the week passes quickly away. The first missionary to Bobbili was Mr. Churchill. He went in Dec. 1898 and lived in a tent, during this time he built a small mud hut. While in the tent a cyclone passed up the bay, the rain came down in torrents. The tent and almost everything in it was soaked so that for three days a fire could not be lighted and no food cooked. The missionary remembers how good, plain boiled rice with a little sugar over it tasted, his first meal after the rain was over.

In the mud hut he lived till a small bungalow was partly built when he went to Bimlipatam and brought his wife and two little children to Bobbili in April 1899. In June, 1881, the mission home was finished and occupied and gradually the bare barren field that was, has become a very pretty Mission Compound with neat buildings, gravelled roadways, good wells; a vegetable and flower garden and fruit orchard, surrounded by a stone wall, plastered and whitewashed; with wooden gates opening into it.

The spiritual condition of the town was at this time even worse than the condition of our ploughed field, for the whole town was given to idolatry. Among these 14,000 none as far as we know had ever heard of the true God, not a Bible in the town, not a knee that bended, or a voice for two years lifted to the God of heaven in prayer, but that of the missionaries and their children. While the building work was going on, the preaching of the word went on too. A little girl's school was gathered on the verandah of the bungalow, or Sunday School of Brahmin boys was taught in the same place by the missionary's wife and she visited the Hindu women in their homes, accompanied by her children and heathen ayah, for no Christian helpers were available then. Nearly 20 years, since we first entered Bobbili, the good seed of the Kingdom has been patiently and persistently sown in the town and surrounding villages of which there are 400 now. At one time the field extended to Jypore 100 miles away and must have included 400 more villages.

Often in weakness, oft in sorrow, oft almost fainting beneath the weight of thousands of lost souls pressing past us into outer darkness, the old, old story has been told, the Christ held up as the loving Saviour of men, the good seed sown and we praise the Lord for the fruits that do appear, and pray that much more, yea a thousand fold more may very soon be gathered in.

We have had a prosperous girls' school in Bobbili for years, a grand Sunday School in connection with it, also at the present time, a Sunday School among the parishes, or outcasts. Three preachers are at work, day by day, in the town and out in the villages, telling the people of Christ. Four Bible women go daily to the homes, and tell the women of the way of salvation, five Christian teachers in the school, teaching the children daily the Bible. More than one hundred pupils. A colporteur selling Bibles and Christian literature. During these intervening years, more than one hundred names have been on the church roll at Bobbili, of those who had witnessed a good confession and been baptized in His name. Several of these have been drawn in by the Lutherans, who have since our occupation of Bobbili, opened stations to the west and north of us, a very few have fallen. Several have taken letters of dismission to other Baptist churches, and some have gone up higher. Among these last, three preachers, who held up Christ while here, now worship before Him up yonder.

At the present time there are seventy-seven members on the Bobbili church roll. Twenty-five were baptized in 1897. The work on the field was never so encouraging. A good quiet work is going on in the hearts of the school girls, many of the old pupils are believing and trusting in Christ for salvation, and reading the Bible, and singing Christian hymns in their own homes, before their heathen relatives.

Several members of our church have been gathered in from among the Madigas, in a village 20 miles distant from Bobbili, on the way to Vizianagram. A good work is going on among the Kajaha, in villages 20 miles in another direction from Bobbili. A wonderful work of grace has shown itself at Chokkagoonda, 47 miles to the north of Bobbili, where twenty-eight (Hill gentlemen), who wear the sacred thread, have come out boldly and followed Christ in baptism, the only wholly Christian village we have in our mission. Their heathen caste people all forsook them and fled to another place a mile away, and built up another village.

Kejam is another out station, occupied for Jesus, but the fruits do not appear. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to come in power upon the preacher, R. C. Basavanna, and his wife Mary.

The missionaries who have had the honor of laboring, or studying the language on this Bobbili field are, Mr. and Mrs. Churchill, from 1870 to 1884 and from 1886 to 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Archibald, from 1884 to 1886. Miss Fitch (Mrs Laflamme) added sunshine to our home for about nine months in 1890, and Miss MacNeill was welcomed by us the following year and remained about six months. Miss Harrison joined the mission in Dec. 1896. She was a good help even in her first year, and with confidence and hope we placed the work, we so dearly love, in God's hands and here, when we left India in March, 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Gullison kindly took up their share of the work in July, and will remain in charge until we return, if God permit. Will you not pray that God's guidance, wisdom and strength, may be given to each of them, in great measure, in the coming days, and that many many more sheaves may be gathered from the Bobbili field, while they are working there so faithfully for their Lord.

M. P. CHURCHILL. Truro, Dec. 14th.

Special Contributions to Foreign Missions from September 1st to December 31st.

Mrs G R Marshall, \$15; Billtown, Sunday School, \$35; Dr. Bills Hist. Baptists, \$1; Westport, Mission Band, \$12; Bequest late Wm Rhodes, \$200; Pulpit supply, \$23; Collection at Isaacs Harbor, \$25; E. S. Sweet, \$5; Mrs Grace Nason, \$4; Gasparaux church, B. Y. P. U., \$1.50;

North church, Halifax, Mission Band, \$40. Total \$361.50. Before reported, \$44. Total to December 1st, \$405.50.

FOR MR. GULLISON'S SUPPORT

Hon G G and Mrs King \$10; Rev. W V Higgins, \$5; H C Henderson, \$10; Mattie Phillips, \$5; Rev. W J Rutledge, \$5. Total, \$35. Before reported, \$20. Total to date, \$55.

Let all contributions for this object be sent direct to the Treasurer of the Foreign Mission Board, as these are for a special object and form no part of the church offering. J. W. MANNING, Treas. F. M. Board. St. John, Dec. 1st.

In the handling of these funds there is less expense incurred than through any other known agency. Last year for example the total expense for handling all contributions passing through the hands of the Treasurer for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, was \$4.00 and this was for postage and discount. Let the churches continue to send all moneys to the Denominational Treasurer, that the same may appear to their credit in the Year Book. Foreign Mission should be paid to him as he is also the Treasurer of the Foreign Mission Board. The Board is in constant need of funds. Every dollar contributed and sent direct is a great gain to the cause. Please brethren do not withhold. The work is great and constantly increasing as it should do. J. W. M.

DEAR EDITOR.—Personally, I want to thank you for your kind mention of the "Forward Movement," and I do hope many will respond to the appeal before the end of the year. Counting out the pledges that have already failed, by reason of death and otherwise, I am persuaded we have not yet enough pledged to make us safe. It may be reasonably supposed many others will die, before the four years shall have passed. For that expectancy, we must make provision. During the canvass many took slips, with the promise of filling and forwarding them before our time limit expires. We most earnestly hope these promises will not be forgotten, but that every Baptist and every lover of Acadia who is able, will be willing to have some part in this great work. Surely all want the work to succeed and not just by seeing others lift the burden, while they do not touch it with the ends of their fingers.

Brethren and sisters, please do what you can and together let us place our institutions in a position to do grander work for God. If you have no pledge slips, send postal cards, stating what you are willing to give yearly for four years, and state what time you will make the first of those annual payments. Don't forget the time to secure Mr. Kockefellers offer expires Dec. 31st, 1898. Your- in the work. Wm. E. HALL. 93 North Street, Halifax.

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