

Mary, and came to make us all good and show us the way to heaven. There ought to be Christian churches in India instead of those old towers and temples, which do not mean anything, and are built upon foolish stories that cannot be of benefit to any one.

MARY'S CHRISTMAS TENTH.

MARY ran in for a moment on her way home. It was nearly dark, but she did not mind that, for she had been out shopping for Christmas. One is never tired, you know, at such times—the shops are so beautiful and everybody is so gay.

Mary came in, as I said, to show Frances what she had been buying. They opened the dainty parcels, and talked excitedly about how this would please mother, and that was just what the baby wanted, and so on to the end of the family connection.

"And now," said Mary, "let me tell you what I have done. I have been saving my Christmas money for months, and really I have had more given me to spend than I expected. I determined at the very beginning that I would keep a tenth of it for missions."

"Save Christmas money for missions!" exclaimed Frances, quite taken by surprise; "who ever heard of such a thing?"

"I have," answered Mary, stoutly. "If you buy Christmas gifts for everybody else, why not send one to Him whose feast Christmas is? It looks odd, to say the least, to remember every one else and pass Him by."

"Yes, yes," said Frances; "but there are the poor—why not give your money to the poor?"

"Are not the heathen the poorest of the poor? The people our missionaries teach have very little in this world, and nothing in the next. Besides, it was to our souls that Christ came, bringing gifts."

"But they are so far away. Surely there are plenty of people at home—people who need the Gospel, too?"

"And plenty of people to care for them! As far as their bodily wants are concerned, hundreds of people, who care very little for Christ, give to the poor at Christmas time. Every Sunday-school, too, has its festival especially for the poorer children. I think they can spare my little money. As to their souls, there are preachers enough in this country to preach the Gospel to every creature in it."

"But they don't," said Frances.

"Well, perhaps they don't, but they could. A great many people do not hear the Gospel because they will not. It has been preached to them by the pulpit, the Sunday-school, even by the daily paper. They cannot get away from it unless they shut their very eyes and

ears. But think how it is in Asia and Africa, and the swarms of people that have never even heard of Jesus. It seems to me that I *must* do something to help them to know something about Him. You know that we are told to preach to all nations."

"Beginning at Jerusalem," remarked Frances.

"Yes; but they were to tarry there only until they should get power from on high. Is that why so many tarry at home because they have not yet got enough power from on high—only enough power to keep them at home?"

"My dear," said Frances, "there is never any use of arguing with you. Send your money; as for me, I have none left. I wish I had thought of this before. Remind me next year."

"What good will it do for me to remind you? May the Lord remind you! then you cannot forget. But, see, it is growing very dark; I must run home."

THE SUN DANCE.

IT may be thought a very innocent thing to see a number of Indians dancing, and where they have been civilized and made Christians it is an innocent thing. But among the savage and heathen Indians a dance is often a very dreadful and a very cruel thing. The "sun dance" was used to see how the young men among the Indians could bear torture. The poor young fellows had to have their flesh torn out by pincers, and were then hung up by their muscles till they would break. Sometimes this would not happen till they would faint away with pain, for although they suffered the greatest pain they would not even groan or move a muscle of their face. And while they were bearing all this torture and pain, the rest of the Indians would dance around them as if it was high sport! Even the mothers of the young men helped in this cruel deed. It was done to try them. If they bore it all without a murmur, then they were to be warriors, and the men came round them and congratulated them.

But men ought not to be allowed to torture one another in this way. It is cruel, and contrary to the teaching of our holy religion. When missionaries go to heathen people, they have to look on sometimes at cruel things like the sun dance; but they try to show how wrong they are, and they pray to God to help them to make the people see that such things are wicked and should never be done. Is there not work, then, for missionaries to do?

LEARN these two things—never to be discouraged because good things get on slowly here, and never fail daily to do that good which lies next your hand.