

Sister Belle's Corner.

For the Little Folks who read this Paper.

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS,—The people in the heathen villages I told you about last month are pleasant to look at. Their features are well formed, their teeth are white, and their eyes have a gentle look. The women take much pains with their long, dark hair, which is soft as silk. Sometimes they wear it in a "pug," crowned with flowers. They do not need sewing machines for their dresses, or needles either. They wind a long strip of white muslin, called a "saree," around their bodies, folding one end over their heads like a veil, and then they are full dressed. But we must not forget their ornaments with which they load themselves; glass rings of different colors on their arms; silver rings on their fingers and toes, and gold rings in their ears and nose. The funny habit of boring a hole in the nose to wear a gold ring makes us laugh; but, after all, boys and girls, are we not as foolish, if we bore holes in our ears for the same purpose? That is the reason Sister Belle never had her ears bored for earrings.

The men wear a long strip of calico twisted closely around their bodies, and another thrown loosely over their shoulders. This is their upper garment, and will be cast off while they work. On their heads they wear turbans, and sandals on their feet. The clothes of both men and women are generally white or printed, or white bordered with red. The most common food is rice, often mixed with curry, (that red powder your mamma sometimes buys to make things too hot for little folks' digestion). Very poor people cannot afford to eat either rice or curry, so they eat some coarse grain instead. A rich lady wanted to make a feast for these poor people one day. She gave them nothing but boiled rice; they liked it as well as you would like roast beef and plum pudding. The next day some of these hungry people came hunting for grains of rice that might have fallen on the ground. Rich Hindus eat mutton and venison, but never eat beef. As they worship bulls and cows they would think it wicked to kill them for beef. Cold water is their general drink. I think they are very sensible in this, for it is all I ever drink myself. Tea and coffee, especially for you boys and girls, are not necessary, and you will be far stronger men and women by and by if you drink pure cold water. Some of the Hindus have learned to drink the drinks that take away their senses and make them drunk. Why should we call whiskey *strong* drink when it leaves those who drink it weaker in body, in mind, and in soul? Oh, my little friends, never touch or taste in any form the drinks that every year, in India as in Canada, send people to drunkards' graves, and so shut them out of heaven. God tells us in two verses of the Bible that no drunkards can "inherit"—have a part in—"the kingdom of God."

May God give us grace to lead people away from temptation and evil of every kind by our example in keeping away from it.

SISTER BELLE.

480 Lewis street, Ottawa.

Can a Small, Weak Church do anything for Foreign Missions?

Miss Sarah Curtis, Secretary for the State of Maine, in her report for 1881 to the Women's Baptist Missionary Society, satisfactorily answers the above question. She says:—

In our State we have some large and flourishing churches, in which are found many noble and deeply interested workers for the Women's Missionary Society; but we have also a large number of small and poor churches, dependant upon the State Convention for aid to enable them to retain their visibility, as they think. Through the past winter I have written to many of these, who have the mistaken idea that they can do nothing outside of their own little church, saying, "Charity begins at home," where, with such ideas, it usually remains, as very few of them ever give anything for missions. So I have given them, as an example, the small and poor church of which I am a member, numbering eighteen, most of them women, and none of them young. We have had no pastor or meetings of our own, except the monthly conference, for more than fourteen years, yet we have never failed to contribute something every year to the Society since its organization. These yearly gatherings by a collector have amounted to nearly one hundred and fifty dollars. Not much, to be sure, compared with the large sums from the more prosperous churches; but if all the small churches would only become interested in the work being done by this Society and give the little they might, not only in Maine, but over all our land, how would the treasury of the Lord be increased!

EDITOR'S NOTICE.—The necessity of the editor's presence at the Woodstock meeting may possibly cause a few days' delay in the publication of the November issue of the LINK.—Will our readers kindly pardon us if such should be the case?

CANADIAN MISSIONARIES:

MARITIME PROVINCES:

Rev. Rufus Sanford and wife, A.M., Bimlipitam.
Miss Carrie A. Hammond, Chicacole.
Rev. George Churchill and wife, Bobbili.
Rev. J. R. Hutchinson and wife, *en route*.

ONTARIO AND QUEBEC:

Rev. A. V. Timpany and wife, Cocanada.
Rev. John Craig, Akidu.
Rev. G. F. Currie and wife, Tunj.
Rev. J. McLaurin and wife, at home.

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