

and sew and learn her verses, and so, when she saw us coming, she would hide. Now, however, she runs to meet us and always wants to do whatever she can to help us. We spoke kindly to her one day about the advisability of using a comb with the result that she now looks on the whole very respectable. She does her sewing pretty well, although we have sometimes to undo it, and sometimes we find her thimble on her thumb, or on any of the fingers but the right one. The most encouraging part is that she is taking an interest in learning, especially in the Bible lessons. The other girl, Tulsī, the only one I will have time to write about, is quite opposite in temperament. Although married she is only a girl. From the first she has taken an interest in all her work. She is a good-natured quiet and thoughtful girl, who has an influence for good over the others.

She looks so distressed when any of them are specially noisy and watches our faces to see what effect it is having on us. She has always lived with her old grandmother, of whom she has taken care and by her efforts, till lately, she has provided a scanty living for both. Now her husband's wages go into the common fund.

I wish that you could see for yourselves the homes and surroundings of these poor people. Having been low caste people they are shovled to the poor parts of the city. There is a bridge across the river at some distance from their ward where there are a number of temples and houses of Brahmins, but none near them. To get to their houses they have constructed a rude bridge consisting of logs supported by old barrels, wheels of carts, etc.; but, during the rains, or when the river for any reason is full, this bridge is often swept away and wading must be resorted to. They have a system of water works in the city, a tap for the ordinary people is on the side of the road and a corresponding tap for these poor people in some out of the way place. This is, however, across the river from these people, and so the women must carry the water in earthen pots on their heads a distance of about five hundred yards including the passage of the river in the rains. This is difficult and often they are forced to fall back on the sewage-laden dirty water.

In the ward itself they have no roads but only lanes that zig-zag among their houses. Some of these lanes are cleaner than others, but, considering that they have no drains, that their houses are closely crowded together, and all refuse has to be carried away by them a considerable distance before any open space that they can use is met with, the place is wonderfully clean, on the whole. In the rains these lanes are almost impassable. The houses are built of mud about four or five feet high, on which are laid the roof scantling, rough branches of trees that support a grass thatch or a bamboo framework covered with tiles. They have no furniture and but little of