

## LETTER FROM REV. MR. JAMIESON.

UJJAIN. Central India, 7th May, 1896.

DEAR MR. SCOTT,—We are having classes for our workers in Ujjain and trying to hold magic lantern meetings in the different districts of the city. Our schools will be closed for a few weeks holidays now as this is about the hottest month.

Smallpox has been very bad this year in Ujjain and district around. In Tajpore (a village 10 miles out) our school was pretty well thinned out by it and many have died.

Our house is some distance from the city with a good clear country across which the wind sweeps. We thus feel quite safe, although our work requires us to be in the city. No doubt we have been exposed to infection; and missionaries are often exposed to disease, but I think we do not often suffer. Many other diseases, foul and unclean, are rampant in a native city, but very few missionaries ever get them.

I wish you could see our band of *lepers* that assemble every morning in our dispensary yard to be taught Gospel truth and to get each one around to help them keep soul and body together. But I cannot stop to-day to write of them. I will do so later. But you may hear of several of them receiving baptism before long. Several are true believers and many of them know much of Christ's life and work. They have now been taught for some time every day.

The State will not grant us any land on which to build huts for them to take shelter in, on the plea that the medical advisers to His Highness, the Maharajah of Gwalior, is going to put up leper asylums in Gwalior and Ujjain. Dr. Kroft, an Englishman, head of the medical department, seems very much opposed to our doing anything for these poor people, as he thinks it would reflect on him and his staff. So I am afraid we will have to stop our work among them.

We are all fairly well here. I wish you could send us out a great, cool, hard snow ball. How beautiful Canada will soon be looking in her new spring suit. Grand Old Canada!

## WORK AMONG THE ENGLISH SOLDIERS AT MHOW.

LETTER FROM REV. NORMAN H. RUSSELL.

THIS is one branch of our work at Mhow which has never been prominently brought to the notice of the Church at home, particularly I suppose because it has been more an accident of our position here, than a part of our direct work. When our mission first came to Mhow we found the English soldiers here; in fact the Mhow cantonment existed for them.

Formerly a Presbyterian chaplain was maintained by the Church of Scotland to minister to the Presbyterian troops, but this arrangement has for many years been given up and for lack of a better plan our Mission Presbytery consented to add this to the work of its Mhow missionary.

The Presbytery's idea was that this work being in English could be taken up year by year by a new missionary, who would be placed in Mhow while he was learning the language, a plan which will probably be quite feasible for the future, as we hope that few years will pass without additions being made to our numbers.

From a mission standpoint the work is not without its advantages. Besides the Rs 200 and over (about \$70), which our mission receives monthly for the work, it is no little advantage to be kept in touch with the English people of the station, and in return draw out their sympathy in our work. Few Sundays pass in which we do not have some of the English Christian soldiers present at our Hindi services, and though they cannot understand much they are keenly alive to the meaning of it all to Christ and His Kingdom. At our Wednesday evening English prayer meetings, no prayers are more earnest than the pleadings of these godly young soldiers for the missionaries and their work among the natives.

For some time, when our funds were equal to it, the men supported a native catechist and I sometimes had him come up to the English prayer meeting and address them in Hindi, which I then translated into English. Some of them would also accompany us to the bazaar of an evening to help us in our magic lantern talks.

Not only the men, however, but the officers also have many of them been led to take a deep interest in our Mission work, through contact with us in the English work. Time would fail to tell of a title of the many kindnesses we have received in Mhow at the hands of British officers. The British officer is sometimes not all that he should be religiously; but some of the finest and godliest men I have ever met have held Her Majesty's commission. Well do I remember one of them coming to me once and saying "Mr. Russell, you need a rest. Go off to the Hills and I will take charge of your work." And he could have done it. Another takes such a deep interest in us that he never hears of any need we may have but he comes forward to help us pecuniarily. They will come and preside at our meetings, or encourage us in any way possible. I remember one gruff old officer, who was counted a very stern military man; but he held a warm place in our hearts, for he never would refuse help to the Mission if he could give to us, and was ever ready to use his influence in our behalf.

There is another advantage in our chaplaincy work; it gives us an unassailable position in the cantonment. A civilian always labors under the fear of ejection from a cantonment, if necessity demand it; but a chaplain is part of the staff, and is recognised by Government.

But the greatest reason of all is our interest in the soldier himself. It would be impossible for a godly man to live in the cantonment and not