

Northern Messenger

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Indian Famine Relief.

(By Mrs. Fuller.)

We have decided to take all orphans that are brought to us without regard to number, and trust God for future guidance and help with them; to take the children of destitute widows, and widowers who cannot work on relief work and care for their children, and then at the close of the famine, return the children to the parents, and in this way keep families together. We desire to help young women and widows to work and tide them through the famine without their moral ruin. The ladies of our mission are hoping to start some industrial scheme so that some of the women can earn their way. Beside suffering and death, a famine is a great calamity to the people in many ways, they get mendicant habits, families get broken up, while to say the least, it is demoralizing for people to leave their homes and villages and herd in poor houses and on big relief works. Before the people get emaciated and reduced beyond the power to work is the time to help, but all our schemes require money to be put in execution and out of our own means we are unable to do it. We wish to give as little gratuitous help as possible.

1. Most of our Christians are weavers. If we had the money to buy yarn for them, and then buy the cloth afterward, we could

are started. It is a very sore place to be in, to have hungry men and women continually about you, and to have no power to help them. We will keep as many as we can on Government work and aid, and yet there are hundreds of cries whose sound will never pierce the Sirkar's (Government) ears. Money can be cabled to us, or sent in money orders or drafts, payable to M. B. Fuller,



MRS. FULLER.

Girgaum, Bombay, India, or to our good friend Prof. B. H. Roberts, North Chili Monroe Co., N.Y., who will forward it to us until different arrangements can be made. Donors should designate for what their gifts are intended and for which field, the Marathi or Guzerati. If money is cabled, the word 'famine' should be added.

One dollar a month will keep a boy or girl from starving. What can you do?

The latest official estimates show that about fifty million persons in India are now suffering from this awful famine, and less than four million are receiving relief from the government. The situation daily grows worse. Money is needed now. It is urgent that funds should be sent at once to the missionaries who will apply the money to famine relief works. The 'Messenger' will be pleased to receive and forward any contribution to the Indian Famine Fund. One Sabbath-school has already sent in seven dollars which has been forwarded to Mrs. Fuller through Mr. Roberts. Perhaps your Sabbath-school or Band of Hope or Endeavor Society would take up a collection for this purpose. Any gifts sent through the 'Messenger' will be thankfully acknowledged by us.

The Teacher's Need.

We want the Holy Spirit to prepare us for our work; but, when we get at the work our need remains. If any think that Sunday-school teaching means teaching children to read and to repeat verses of Scripture, they do not discover the necessity of the Holy Spirit for that; but you long to see the children saved; and here your great need comes in. I hope I speak to those who will never be satisfied unless their children are born again. You believe that they need to be born again. Certain fanatics of scepticism have such super-naturally good children that they do not want regeneration. I never had children of that sort, I have

always seen that children born of the flesh are flesh, and only that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Still is it true—'Ye must be born again.' You are aiming at getting the child into a right mind and bringing it to rest in Christ, and to find salvation in Him, even as you have received it yourselves. Now if it be so, what can you do without the Spirit of God? Change a stone into flesh—try that at home with a piece of stone on your table, before you attempt it yourself with the child before you. Create a soul between the ribs of death; try that in a charnel house before you begin with any sinner, dead in sin, to create within him our spiritual life. Of regeneration we may say, 'This is the finger of God.' If our religion be not 'supernatural' it is a delusion. From the first earnest living desire towards God to the consummated renewal, when we shall stand in His presence made absolutely perfect—all is the work of the Holy Spirit, and we should be vain-glorious, indeed, if we thought we could do it. We shall be baffled if we attempt it. If it were to teach the intellect, we might do it, but if it is to create a new heart and a right spirit, we are out of court. Unless the Holy Ghost comes in, we go upon a fool's errand altogether. Do you always feel; when you sit among the children, if God be not here, why am I here? If the Holy Ghost be not with me, what am I doing? I am like Jannes and Jambres, attempting to work a miracle without Jehovah's aid. I shall be baffled, I shall be detected for an imposter. If the Holy Ghost is not in me, and does not work by the words I speak, I shall be wasting my time; for I can effect nothing whatsoever apart from the Spirit. We believe that the whole work is beyond us. The Omnipotence of God must come in that a new creation may be seen. Can we create? It is a resurrection: can we call the dead to life? God doth it, and on God alone we must depend. I wonder if you have ever tried in your own strength to convert a single child? If you have, if you have selected a most likely one, you will have thought that you had better have selected a most unlikely one; and if you have shifted the venue, and tried that unlikely one, you have been something like the seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, who tried to cast out devils; the devils do not know you. They would have known Jesus, they would have known the Holy Spirit, but they do not know you. Why, I find myself often beaten, even in attempting to lead an anxious soul to Christ. It is my daily employment. I think I have had as much experience in it as any man alive. Sick souls come to me hoping for comfort; but I have to plead to God for help. When I stop fifty doubts there comes fifty-one, and I have to begin again; and when I think I have landed my fish, presently he is in the water again, and I have to do the work over again. Often I have to cry, 'Come, Sacred Comforter, reveal Christ to this poor soul, for I can do nothing without Thee.' Only those people who never do any spiritual work talk about what they can do. When you get into the sacred service you find how great your weakness is. When your faith



THE REV. M. B. FULLER, OF BOMRAY, INDIA.

give them famine wages for their work and the work could be done in their own homes with their family together. We need to do this at once. If we take in a large number of orphans, the cloth can be bought for them, but if we can find no market for the rest of the cloth these bad times, we will have to store it and sell in better times, so there will be in time but little loss.

2. If some kind friends donate us money for material—say \$2,000—we could at this time put up two or three mission houses, with famine labor, and thus make a home for the missionary, open a station permanently, and help the people in their hour of need. We have a number of smaller schemes, such as brick kilns, lime kilns and though the brick kilns need no capital but good clay, yet we need money to pay the people for the work. We already have a contract for burning lime and several kilns