

cole last January, and seen that goodly number of our Telugu brothers and sisters, redeemed ones, singing praises unto God; and though you could not understand one word they said I am sure you would have enjoyed their songs and prayers because in them you would doubtless behold some of those whom God is gathering out of every tribe and kindred and tongue of all them that dwell upon the face of the earth and with whom we shall one day join in singing praises "unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood."

I feel certain that could you have been there the scene would have dispelled all discouragement and have proven an incentive to yet greater efforts in this work on the part of all of you, while in louder and more impressive tones than heretofore, you would hear, "be not weary in well-doing for in due season ye shall reap if ye faint not."

But oh, my sisters, the great, awful, crying, unmet need of these our *brothers* and *sisters* forces itself upon me as it never did and never could at home. They die so fast, there are so few to teach, and they grasp the truth so slowly, therefore, sisters, "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth laborers into His harvest."

Sincerely yours,

IDA M. NEWCOMBE.

Kelso Cottage,

Ootacamund, April 27, 1897.

Home Mission Work, its Importance and Needs.

"There is much truth in the old saying, "Distance lends enchantment to the view." This is illustrated in the view we sometimes take of the service to which the Master calls us. The duties near at hand seem to be unimportant and those further off the only ones worthy of serious attention.

For this reason Home Mission Work fails to receive the attention its importance demands. The fields of labor are at our own doors. The laborers mingle with us regularly in our gatherings. The results of their labors are reported in much the same way as other pastors.

But whatever may be thought of it, this work of Home Missions is most important. To it we owe the very existence of our Denomination. The first preachers of the Baptist doctrine in these provinces were Home Missionaries. The first pastors, the "Fathers" as we call them spent much of their time in Mission work. Had this work not been done the Baptists would not occupy the place they do to-day.

What was done in this irregular way still needs to be continued, only with more system and regularity. Scores of weak Churches need the fostering care of the Denomination and waste places need to be cultivated that they may become gardens of the Lord.