

Beyond the work we have been able to accomplish, the development of the Native Church in grace and the knowledge of Christ has been marked in many ways. A deeper interest in one another, less frequent quarrels, and a greater desire for holiness in life, all are manifestations of the Spirit's power in our midst.

II. EVANGELISTIC WORK.

In and about Mhow.

The Evangelistic work in Mhow and its one hundred or more surrounding villages has been continued regularly throughout the year. The preaching in the bazaars and mohallas of the cantonment has been carried on not only by those specially appointed for evangelistic work, but by all the Christian workers together, who go out in bands after school hours and preach sometimes three or four times of an evening. This work has also been supplemented by meetings held in the Church, where Mr. Drew frequently preaches with the help of the magic lantern. The attendances at all these meetings have been tabulated, and shew gatherings of sometimes 200 and 300 people.

Regular prayer meetings for non-Christians have also been held in our three branch school buildings every week, with a varying attendance of children and their parents of from 25 to 60.

In Out-Stations.

The work in Manpur, Berwai and Parlia has gone on steadily throughout the year. The Manpur work was sadly set back some three years ago by the action of the Roman Catholics, but we held to our ground, working on quietly and prayerfully, until at last the Roman Catholics have left the field; and though they had been at considerable expense, they tore down their buildings and disappeared.

The sad death of our catechist's wife in January and his forced removal to Mhow with his children has left us temporarily without a worker at Manpur, but I trust this will only be for a few weeks.

The work among the Bhillas at Kurdi near Manpur is still very encouraging, though we have had no baptisms as yet. We had this year also a much better hearing in Manpur itself than in previous years.

The weekly reports from our catechists at Berwai have shown a steady and thorough ministering of the Word to the surrounding villages. It is here also that we have had most fruit. Bhika has several times visited his people and stirred them up to a deeper interest in the Word. The baptism of several has caused a deep feeling of resentment in several villages, and in some places our men are refused a hearing, and even threatened; but they are undaunted and persevering in their efforts, their fear is of God, not man. In Berwai itself the hearing is much better than formerly, and many bitter oppo-

nents have been won by perseverance to at least a friendly hearing. May God win them to himself.

Work was really only begun in Parlia in 1896, and our first difficulty was to procure a house, no one being willing to rent. Land however was obtained, and some small houses have been erected for our Christian workers.

Since then the sentiment of the whole community towards us has changed. The unexpected and wonderful success of our Christians in digging a well was the best sermon preached in that section throughout the year; and brought many to think more of the Christ religion. The head man of the village is now very friendly, and invites our Christian men and women to visit his house and sing and speak to his wife and family.

On a late visit there he gave me invaluable help in prospecting for a probable site for placing some of our persecuted Christian families, and he himself has expressed no small interest in the Word.

I now feel assured after some years of experience that in this system of planting out-stations in the midst of large clusters of villages and in working through these as centres of evangelistic effort, we have found the key to the evangelizing of Central India. These places are also largely used both by Christians and enquirers as means of grace, and on market days and other times, especially if they are in trouble, do they come to our catechists for help and encouragement.

Touring.

Our annual tour of the district this year was necessarily cut short by the missionary's leaving on furlough and business connected therewith. Our tour nevertheless covered the most of the Mhow district, both above and below the Ghats, excluding that part beyond the Nerbudda. Our stay was of course more limited than usual in each place, but the Gospel was preached to more than 13,500 people, besides many tracts being sold.

The hearing accorded us this year was noticeably better than in any previous, for though we never preached plainer truths, we never had less of interruption. Moreover, the interest seemed more genuine, and was longer sustained.

As heretofore we made regular use of the magic lantern for our night services. Through the kindness of Mr. Thomson and others, we had this year a fresh supply of slides, especially of the parables and Old Testament scenes, by means of which the Gospel was faithfully preached.

Our largest gathering at one time was about 1,000, being in Maheswar, a large town where we hope some day to establish an out-station. Our field offers many opportunities at present. For instance the Superintendent of Berwani State to the south of the Nerbudda invited us to go in and begin