

Next day letters were sent to different parts, to see if any one would own me. In the mean time I remained part of the time with the Kotwal (Serjeant) and the rest was spent with the jummadar, (land agent).

In the course of a month the answers returned, but no one owned me; then I was sent to a Missionary orphanage at Lucknow, where I stayed for several months, in the course of which I read through the first book, and had just began the second book, when I ran away from the orphanage.

No doubt you will condemn me for acting so foolishly, but you must remember that I was ignorant, and did not know to what use the learning would come, and besides this, when I give you the real reason why I ran away, you will be partly satisfied. The real reason was this. There was a boy among the rest, the biggest in the whole school, who was very cruel. It is useless to describe his cruelties, but suffice it to say that he caused many others to run away beside me. If any of us went and complained to the teacher he would go and deny the charge, and tell him some falsehood, for which we would be whipped and sent back to our room, and then he ill-treated by him again for carrying complaints against him, and the teacher would believe him more than us, for he was in the orphanage before us.

One morning I got the opportunity and effected my escape; and found myself again with some carters, who brought me to the soldiers' barracks, and a soldier took me as his servant, (of course I did not tell him where I was from). Well, I served him for sometime in doing little messages. It happened one night that he was not present when the list was called at 9 o'clock, so the next morning he was sent to prison.

He came to another regiment about half a mile from the place where I was; when I came to the barracks a soldier took me as a servant,

After sometime the soldiers left Lucknow for another station, the name of which I forget; however, we travelled on foot, passing through countries, until we came to Cawnpore, and there we entered into the railway, and eight hours driving brought

us to Allahabad. A soldier there saved my life, for I came out of the carriage and was standing on the line, and an engine was just coming when the soldier saw it, and he took hold of my arm and pulled me into the carriage. We stayed at Allahabad for three days, and went on board a steamer, and proceeded on our journey. We touched at Benares, and I went on shore but did not stay long; leaving Benares we touched at Gazipore. I went on and a little way up the country, and when I returned it was too late, the steamer had left, so I was obliged to remain at Gazipore. Some men directed me to the barracks. The cook took me that night, and gave me shelter and food. After awhile I was employed by a serjeant to watch some ducks and a pair of geese for one month, and when Christmas came they were prepared for the table, and I was paid for my labour, eight annas.

I stayed here for about a year, when some barracks got burnt, and the soldiers left Gazipore for Calcutta, and I came with them.

We had a week's sailing on the Ganges, touching at several places as we passed along. It happened one night, that the steamer ran over a boat and got one of its paddle wheels damaged.

When we arrived at Calcutta we came to Fort William, where I stayed with the soldiers until some of them left for Hyderabad. After they had gone away, I fell in with some Coolies who had returned from Trinidad, and who described the place as more pleasant than it really is. Being enticed I came to the Emigrant's office and enrolled my name to come to Trinidad, and as I did not know my age, they measured me, and put me down for twelve years, that was in September, 1860.

When sufficient Coolies were got for the ship, we were dressed off one morning in brown cotton Shatra (trowsers and jackets and long red topies (caps) and brown leather juttys (slippers), and then we embarked for Trinidad on board the ship "Clarence." We had a good voyage, and after three months, arrived at Trinidad on the 21st January, 1861.