

I close with the expression of deep thankfulness to my God for all His mercies of the past, and pray and trust that He will abundantly bless our work in the future.

P. H. N. BEGGS.

July, 1908.

MISS GIBSON'S ZENANA REPORT

Report for the half year ending June, 1908.

This half yearly report records but four months and a week of work as the month of June was exceptionally hot this year we were unable to visit the houses before the last week in June, and May was the usual vacation. In these four months I visited 83 out of 104 houses on my list, making altogether 210 visits, 2 of these houses were new ones. I reached about 300 women with the Gospel. To most it was an old story, but to many it was new.

A few of my houses I visit once a week regularly, but most of them but once or twice a month. In the early part of the year the constant theme in every house was the visit of a priest to town who had succeeded in deluding hundreds of these women into having themselves branded on both shoulders in order that, he told them, that they might have a safe passage to Heaven and that all their sin would be expiated thereby. Of course they paid him a fee. Every other house I entered had one or more who had thus been deluded, but none would openly acknowledge it. All tried to hide it as something to be ashamed of and several who had long heard the Gospel confessed with shame that they had done wrong. One even following me to the door as I was leaving asking me to plead with God for her forgiveness. This came as a test to many and revealed the true state of their hearts because there are so many of these women who will declare that they have given up idols and believe on Jesus, the Son of God for their salvation. Those whose faith was sound would neither go to the priest, but one even used her influence to persuade her friend not to go sending her a message from the next street. The woman herself told me this, she being the very one mentioned above as having repented of her folly. Another who is also a believer told how shocked she was when she came on a visit to her mother to see the brand on her shoulder. How has Satan deluded you! was her first salutation. This

young woman is so true to her convictions. She told me how she met a lady on the train and asked her if she was a Christian. She said that she was a Roman Catholic. "And what is that," she asked.

One of the new houses visited this term was very interesting. A large number of women gathered there, it being more of a yard than any one house. After reading and speaking for a while one woman surprised me by her testimony. She said she had ceased worshipping idols for a long time. "God is very angry with us," she said, "because we worship idols, therefore he has sent this famine on the land. Let us give it up and turn to Him." When asked how she knew about these things. "You told us years ago in another house," she replied. This was encouraging to know that the seed is not always sown in vain. The other women agreed with her although there was an idol temple in the very yard we were in. And she went on to warn them not to worship the sun either as he was not god, as so many of them think. There are many who have this simple faith since hearing the Gospel. An old woman followed me to the door and told me how she believes on the Saviour and prays to Him. She is anxious to learn the Lord's prayer and had begged of her niece to teach her. This girl had been to our school and has a New Testament. They are so religious and so easily impressed.

Two different ones told of dreams they had—one after hearing the story of the birth of Christ preached on the street, dreamed that she saw Him and was quite worked up over it. Another dreamed that she saw the Christians seated in a glorious place and she herself shut out because she was not one. Constantly you will hear them denouncing their idols. One had been on a pilgrimage to a shrine and returned with her head shorn. "And what benefit did you get?" I asked. "Nothing but a debt of 20 rupees to pay in these hard times," she said. What folly! What ignorance! How the Gospel dispels the darkness from their minds and they agree to the truth and to the goodness of the true God in comparison to their gods who rob them all the time. The Light is shining in the darkness of this heathen land when the Gospel is carried into the dark homes and hearts of these women. So young do life's troubles begin for them that they know little happiness here and