

oclock some of the girls came to me and said, "A group of women have come outside the village and appear to wish us to come to them. May we go?" I said they might do so. They went, and the women immediately took them into one of their houses and gathered a great company to hear them sing and talk. They kept them for three hours and would even then hardly let them go. They said to them—"You have talked to us, what can we do for you? We will give you some rice and money if you wish." The girls told them they had what they needed, and preferred not to take anything.

I took the rest of the girls and went about half or three-quarters of a mile across the fields to another village called Bayampodi. There we had a large gathering and a most excellent hearing. Josiah said afterward, "I have been to that village a number of times, but never had anything like this—it was surprising." Some years ago the wife of the village magistrate here came to Cocanada to Mr. McLaurin to be baptized. Her husband followed and prevented it. The woman died about a year since. I think her husband is sorry now for the way he acted—speaking about it he remarked that "when his wife was dying she remembered it all, and died trusting in Christ." Cases of this kind are continually occurring in India now. A great many who are not numbered on the roll of the Christians reach heaven through faith in Christ.

During the night of Wednesday we came on some six miles, passing Samulcotta by a mile, and stopped over against Ooshanapooram and Agraharam. Josiah took some of the girls and went to the first village. I took the rest and went to the second village. Both his company and mine had a good, kind hearing. It was not long before my girls said to me, "The women are wanting us to come inside." I told them to wait until I was done preaching, as a large crowd, men and women, were listening. As I finished, I told them they might go into the house. The women soon had them within and were asking to their heart's content all kinds of questions, especially such as bore on the Christian faith. I stayed a while to talk outside in a quiet way with some who had been listening, and then came to the boat, hot, and running with perspiration. Some of the girls stayed on for an hour longer, and came back well pleased. Josiah said they had never before in Ooshanapooram heard the message of God's love to man, and had listened as well as he could desire. The girls cooked under one of the trees on the bank, and then we went on three miles to another village Yalpalalam, to be ready to preach there in the evening.

As we drew up to the bank, I noticed a very grave, nice looking old man seated above us and called Josiah's attention to him. He, too, had noticed him, and soon was in conversation with him. Others came, and while I was taking my dinner a quiet talk was going on between Josiah and the company. As soon as dinner was over (4.30 p.m.) I started for the village. One of the men who had been listening offered to show me the way. As we walked along I found he could read and had no faith in idolatry. I and my company started to go to the Mala palam. Our road lay past a part of the caste village. We saw quite a company coming out of one of the streets. First came a number of men carrying coconuts. These were followed by a set of bearers and palanquin. In it was a young man taking home his young wife. The people looked as if they would like to know what we were about, so we went into the street. Soon the girls were singing a hymn, and a crowd gathering,

I commenced to explain the hymn. There were hundreds gathered, fully half of them were women and girls. It was pleasant to see them crowd up to the side where the girls were standing. Some of them, as the preaching and singing went on, were not afraid to make remarks and ask questions. They thought it nice. Some of the men said that they could see from the appearance of the girls and from the hymns sung, that they were not like the temple harlots. They said "the words were clean." I talked till I could hardly stand. The crowd paid good attention and increased all the while. No one had a good word to say for the idols. My soul was sad as I looked upon them, "as sheep having no shepherd." We took leave and started back, but had not gone far before two or three men came and almost laid hold of me, saying, "Will you not come to our village?" They were Malas. I told them we started to go to their village, but had been turned aside. We went with them and found a large village, and about as clean a one as we have seen for some time. We found two temples in the centre; there we sang and talked. I asked them as to what benefit they had derived from the vast sums they had spent in worship at those temples. They said, "It had all been useless. Not one of them could read—not one of them was going to heaven." I doubt not the Lord has a people in the place.

Again we moved on and yesterday morning (Feb. 18th) were at Padda Boma Dava. Josiah and his party went to the caste village. There they had them go into the temple, where singing and preaching went on for a long while. They then went into two or three streets in succession. In the last the women took the girls into their houses. As Josiah, of course, could not follow, he came back to the boat, having had quite enough of preaching for one morning. The girls did not come for more than an hour after. I, too, had done all I could stand, and was at a late breakfast when he came. During the afternoon we came along the canal some distance, and then all went about a mile to a village inhabited by Malas only. Some of the women told the girls that they were afraid they had come to steal some of their girls, and shut them up in their houses. However, we had a good hearing, and some showed a mind to receive the word of God. Again we went on, during the night, and next morning visited two villages, Bicole and Kotapilla. Here the same warm reception awaited us as we had met in the other villages. Sabbath was nearly all taken up in village preaching in two large villages. About ten, Sabbath evening, we started for the village of Mirnapad, where we first broke ground last October. It was our intention to spend two days here and then come home. Such a change as has come over this village during the past few months! All have turned to the living God. A good many were awaiting baptism. The caste village of Yalukatodu, a little less than a mile distant, gave Josiah and his party a better reception, if possible, than they had met in any other village. I hope some of them love Christ. Two or three of them told me last October that they believed in Jesus as their Saviour. I went into the Christian village and looked about for a site to build the school-house, and then examined the school. The teacher, Buchiah, formerly a Sudra, now a Christian, is doing excellent work. While I was thus engaged, I was startled by the appearance of two men from Cocanada. I knew something was wrong. The message was brief: "Mrs. Craig is very sick, come at once." We made immediate arrangements to do so. The people were very much disappointed. A party of women, some ten or twelve in number, followed along the canal for a mile,