

Master. It is our work to sow the seed He places in our hand. It is His to prepare the soil and to give the harvest.

With two or three exceptions, the people in the villages visited, had never heard of Christ. Even within the limits of the short tour made, there are many villages we did not visit, and to visit all within a radius of twenty miles of Bobbili, even once, will require much time and travel. To look at the matter from the stand-point of worldly wisdom, it would seem as if little or nothing could be gained by merely paying a short visit to a village and preaching for an hour or two to those who come out to listen. But we must scatter the seed, not knowing where the Master has prepared the good soil, or where or how the seed may find a lodgement.

The girls' school in town, has been carried on during the year by Mrs. Churchill, with a fair amount of success. There is much indifference and superstition to contend against, in trying to educate girls in a place like Bobbili, so far away from many civilising influences, but during the year a daily average of 23½ was reached, notwithstanding fever and small-pox, which at different times were very severe in town. The two Sabbath Schools have also been kept up during the year, the average attendance at the girls' being 23½, and at the boys' 10½. Mrs. Churchill also continued her zenana work in two houses, as formerly, till August, when one of the women died suddenly, thus leaving but one house, in which regular work has been carried on.

But since the Bible-woman came, many other houses have been frequently visited, and many women have been taught the way of salvation. A female prayer meeting was started the first week in December, and so far has been well attended by women from the town.

A regular service on Sabbath morning, has been held, at which the attendance has varied greatly, sometimes quite a congregation being present and sometimes but very few. While many have heard the Gospel during the year, I do not know of any who have accepted it, or who are thinking earnestly of their condition.

But we wait and hope for the day to come when the Holy Spirit shall open the blind eyes and lead the people to look to Christ for salvation.

Statistics.—Baptized during the year, 2; died, 1; present number in the church, 4.

G. CHURCHILL.

Akidu (1880).

Rev. John Craig; 1 ordained preacher; 4 unordained preachers; 1 colporteur; 14 school teachers.

The early part of the past year was a time of darkness to me, my wife being ill at Cocanada for about six weeks in February and March. As the canals were to be closed soon it was thought best for us to return to Akidu at the end of March, especially as Mrs. Craig seemed considerably better. A few days after our arrival at Akidu she was smitten down by apoplexy and died on Saturday the 2nd April, at 5 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Bowden, of Narsapur, came to my help, and were with me when Mrs. Craig died. Afterwards they very kindly took charge of my little baby for a few months until Mr. and Mrs. Timpany, of Cocanada, gave her a permanent home in their family.

Building.—During the year a substantial mission house has been built at this station, and much of my time has been occupied in looking after the work. The building was commenced early in February, and practically finished about the first of October, although a little work

remained undone at that date. Other buildings will have to be erected in the near future, but the building of the mission house has taken a load off my shoulders. It has cost about seven thousand rupees. (Rs. 7,000).

Station Work.—I was absent from Akidu most of January, February and March. There are few Christians in the village and we have not begun a school yet, but hope to open one soon. The Gospel has been preached to all classes in the village; and many who came from neighbouring villages and visited me to ask for medicine or to see the house, heard the message of salvation. We have had service every Sunday morning and prayer-meeting on Thursday evening. We have had also some excellent monthly meetings when the Christians came in from the surrounding villages to attend the Lord's Supper. One Mala woman from Akidu has been added to the Church.

Touring.—On the 25th October I left Akidu for Gannanapudy, about 20 miles to the south-west, where we have many Christians. On Sunday, October 30th, we had a good meeting there. During the following week I visited a number of villages, among them being one called Peyyaru, where 55 were baptized, all but two being residents of the village. In many villages the message was listened to with apparent deep interest. In addition to the 55 already mentioned, 46 were baptized at various times and places. I had the pleasure of hearing many of them tell about their conversion, and I was much affected by the spirit of earnestness which they manifested. I visited ten villages where we have Christians and six where as yet none have believed. I intended to spend about three weeks on the south-west side of my field and then visit the north-east side after a few days in Akidu, but some troubles which arose detained me in the region first visited, so that I was not able to see the other part of my field.

Preachers.—Some changes have taken place in this department of the work. Karré Peter, of Gannanapudy, who has labored faithfully for many years, was ordained in January last. Since then he has administered the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper on the south-west half of the field. The other men engaged in this work have toiled on as usual during the past year. A new man was engaged in August. His name is Benjamin. He is stationed at Akidu. A colporteur was engaged at the beginning of the year. He has not sold very many books, but he does not sell school books as a rule. He sells portions of God's Word and tracts. Besides this he engages in preaching as opportunity offers. We have sold at the station and through the colporteur 185 portions and 262 tracts.

Village Schools.—At the commencement of the year we had only eight village schools. In June three young women and two young men came to work, and have taught in five villages since then. Another young man, who had some education, has been teaching for some time, so that we have fourteen schools now. The average attendance for the first half of the year was about 800—that is 60 boys and 20 girls. The attendance reported for November was over 200. Of these 140 were boys and 60 were girls.

General Progress.—During the past year the Christians have contributed more liberally than ever before. At Gannanapudy they have raised Rs. 80 to pay off a debt on their chapel. At Commalanudy they have erected a house at a cost of Rs. 150, of which about Rs. 50 was given by the Mission. The sum mentioned does not include expenses incurred in leveling the site before build-