

open outward. When open they are made to rest on removable iron rods attached to the doors and to the sides of the box. Inside the box are six wooden trays—two small ones and four large ones—resting in three layers. Underneath the lowest layer is left a large amount of space for the storage of literature. When the box is open for business, all the trays are taken out, and arranged on the two open doors. Each tray holds Gospel portions and general Christian literature of a particular vernacular. The space beneath the trays is filled with scriptures and other literature in English.

Accompanied by two native helpers, who are engaged in preaching and other work earlier in the day, I take this cart, keeping it well stocked all the time, to the evening bazaar of the Petta or Cantonment on five evenings of every week, weather permitting. It is advisable that two or three workers should be always present with the cart. Much of the time we are out the cart is surrounded by people, and probably a dozen of them will simultaneously have our books in their hands, for we allow the purchaser to look before he buys. And as we object to our goods being stolen, we need a few eyes to watch as well as a few hands to serve. It is advisable also to keep a large and varied stock. It gives the purchaser a wide range of choice. It also makes a favorable impression for Christianity. One evening a man saw a Gospel portion in his own vernacular. Casting his eyes towards another tray he saw the same portion in a different vernacular. This surprised him. Noticing his exclamation of wonder I showed him the very same portion in five other vernaculars. This amazed him. It came to him as an aid to his comprehending the fact with which he, and multitudes of his fellow-countrymen also, need to be impressed, *viz.*, that the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ has come to India to stay, to be preached to and to be read by every native of this land in his mother-tongue, and to be the power of God unto the salvation of all the nations of India.

Arrived in the bazaar we stand in the same spot night after night, and on not a single occasion yet has the cart been opened and have we been disappointed in selling. Our sales have varied from six annas to Rs. 6 on a single evening. Our average sales have been about Rs. 1½ which we regard as encouraging. For

- (1.) The books are priced low—from 1 pie to 8 as. each. The bulk of the books we sell are under one anna each.
- (2.) Multitudes of the inhabitants of even a large city like Bangalore are unable to read.
- (3.) In the minds of many who look at our stock there is a decided aversion to the kind of literature we have on view and on sale.
- (4.) Sometimes the cart is open for but ten minutes. Rain falls and we must immediately close, as we stand in the open air, and our stock is not waterproof, but specially liable to damage by water. Rarely are we open for longer than two hours.

We sell almost everything we distribute. I am decidedly opposed to indiscriminate giving. On three occasions that which we have sold has been torn up under our very eyes. As I have witnessed such scenes with sorrow, I have wondered what would be the fate of most of our scriptures, booklets, and tracts, if we freely handed them out! During the past twelve months, our sales in the evening bazaar have been

about 1,250 scriptures, including Bibles, Testaments, and portions, and 6,700 booklets and tracts. These have been in nine different languages, *viz.*, English, Kanarese, Telugu, Tamil, Hindustani, Marathi, Guzerati, Malayalam, and Sanscrit.

How widely this literature has been scattered we know not. But we do know that people from north, south, east, and west of the Mysore Province, from north, east, and south of the Madras Presidency, and even from the Bombay Presidency have bought Gospel literature from our book cart. We have thus been brought into touch with families and communities living in very many parts of South India.

The largest quantities of books we sell are in the various vernaculars, principally Kanarese. We have also been the means of scattering among the educated native community hundreds of copies of the numerous English publications of the Christian Literature Society. The publications of this Society are very popular, and deservedly so. They supply a useful and pure antidote to a very prevalent craving for pernicious English literature. Repeatedly have we been asked by intelligent, educated native youths for novels. I have sometimes asked why this particular class of literature is desired. In several instances the reply has been: "To improve my English!" This has furnished me with an opportunity to condemn the vulgar English of most of the trashy novels of the day, and to press upon the enquirer's attention the English literature in our cart, all of which I could recommend as being written in pure and ennobling language. The novel-seeker has, in more cases than one, foregone the novel, and purchased some of our stock.

What is being done in Bangalore I believe to be possible in the evening bazaar of every Indian city and town. Special colporteurs are not needed. It is a work for ministers, evangelists, and catechists of any mission. It will take only two or three hours out of each afternoon, from 4 or 5 p. m. until dusk. It need not interfere with either morning, mid-day, or night work. In an article headed "Mission Presses" in the *Indian Witness*, of August 26th, the writer making the following assertion in reference to the "matter of selling Christian literature":—"If one-tenth of the money now used to support what is called bazaar preaching could be diverted to this more practical, and certainly more satisfactory, method of spreading truth among the people, the ultimate harvest reaped would be much greater than the measure of success achieved by bazaar preaching alone." I agree with the writer of the foregoing, and have not a particle of doubt as to our evening bazaar work being decidedly profitable from a spiritual point of view. We have reaped no harvest yet in actual conversions, but I feel assured that various reapers will gather in a bounteous harvest sooner or later, not in one place alone, but in many and widely scattered parts. Our constituency is to be found not in Bangalore alone, but in the regions round about, and still further in the regions beyond. And faith sees the day when, so far as this particular work is concerned, both sower and reaper will rejoice together over many sheaves garnered for the Lord Jesus Christ.—*Harvest Field.*

[Our missionaries frequently refer to the Bazaar as a place where they preach or use other means for reaching the people. This article gives us a good picture of the Bazaar.]