

Canadian Missionary Link

Published in the interests of the Baptist Foreign Missionary Societies of Canada.

VOL. XXXI.

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1915

No. 4

MISS EDNA CORNING.

All the friends of our Mission in India, particularly those who were personally acquainted with her, will be much grieved to hear of the great loss we have sustained in the death of our dear sister, Miss Corning, who was called to her eternal rest on Friday, September 3rd, at Pithapuram.

Never really robust, she had been in failing health for more than a year and a half. Before the hot season of 1914, she had been much worried and overwrought, so that the usual vacation in the hills was not sufficient to renew her strength. When the time came to return to the plains she was so ill that she was obliged to remain nearly a month longer, under the doctor's orders. In the cool season following smallpox broke out in the school; one of the most malignant cases she nursed herself, being, under God, the means of saving the boy's life, and, not being strong, she contracted the disease. Though hers was considered a light attack, even a light attack of smallpox is a serious thing. It would seem that before she had fully recovered from the effects of one illness she was attacked by another. After recovering from smallpox, she took up her work again on the first of March, and kept at it until she left for Ootacamund, in the Nilgiri Hills, where she spent May and June.

The weather this year, in the early days of July, was unusually hot and trying; the heat and discomfort experienced during Conference left everyone exhausted. Very soon after Conference, Miss Corning began to have fever, but she went about her work for several weeks with a temperature. She was so brave and so unwilling to yield to physical weakness; that no one understood how very seriously her health was impaired. For only a few days before Dr. Smith was called, and insisted upon taking her to Pithapuram, did she allow Miss McLeod to help her in her work.

The disease proved to be typhoid and

the doctors soon realized that she was dangerously ill, but though everything that loving hearts and medical skill could devise, was done, it was impossible to keep her. With the beautiful European wards, which are near Dr. Smith's own bungalow and are furnished with every convenience, with ice available from the mail trains passing north and south daily through Pithapuram from Madras and Calcutta, with two missionary doctors and a missionary nurse—Miss Sanford, of Vizianagram, in attendance—with every convenience seemingly in her favor, we find only additional proof that there was no strength in the worn-out body to rally, or to respond to the untiring efforts put forth in the brave fight for her life. All over the mission prayers were going up for her recovery, even the little children in the schools were praying for her, and we hoped that God would spare us this blow. But it was His will to call her home. Her dearest friend in India, Miss Marsh, who loved her as a sister, was with her during the last days.

The end came about noon on Friday, and early next morning the body was brought to the Harris Bungalow in Co-canada, from which the funeral procession started, about 8.30, to the English Baptist Church in Jagganaikapuram, where a service was held. Twenty-four of her missionary fellow-workers were present; only those from the nearest stations found it possible to reach Co-canada in time. Missionaries, English and Eurasian friends, and Indian Christians filled the church. The larger boys from her own school walked twelve miles to attend the funeral.

As her coffin rested there, covered with beautiful flowers and ferns, sent by the Rani of Pithapuram and other friends, and fashioned by tender hands into crosses and wreaths and clusters, it was difficult to realize that the busy hands were still, and that the strenuous earthly life was ended, but it was good to know that she was resting and re-