

Band. Let your children realize, that the cause of Christ is of more importance than a children's party or place of amusement, that you value their spiritual welfare more highly than adornment or temporal pleasure.

None can afford to remain listless or inactive in this missionary age. Life is short, time is passing. Let us from this hour resolve that in view of what Christ has done for us, and the great command to "go," that we will, by every possible effort, do what we can that the young may be taught to think, and pray, and act in their endeavor to "win the world for Jesus," and, as they are interested for others, they will be led to consecrate themselves to Him.

TEKKALI GAMJAM DISTRICT,

FEB. 15th, 1904.

DEAR SISTERS :

... "The Lord giveth the word : the women who publish the tidings are a great host" is certainly a verse for our encouragement. To us the word has been given to pass to our less favored sisters and to you who cannot join us in the work is given the privilege of supporting those who day by day meet with and speak to the many who know not the love of God nor the way of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Bible-women are always native Christian women and are chosen as far as possible because of their desire to work for the Master, and love for the souls of their own country women. These women are generally trained for longer or shorter periods by the missionaries with whom they work. The training is along lines which will be most helpful to them as they come in close contact with those who know nothing about the Gospel story.

We prefer women of some educational ability especially for the zenana work, and I am glad to say that in our Mission there are some who command the respect of even the highest castes and are gladly welcomed by these secluded women, as one of the pleasures in their shut-in lives. A few cannot read. Because of age or loss of sight they cannot learn does not debar them from the work. If they have a love for lost souls and a longing to tell of their own conversion we encourage them to go forward. In the Bible classes they learned to tell the story of Christ, also parables, miracles and Bible verses, that are most helpful in presenting the way of salvation. I doubt not but some of these will be given crowns glittering with more gems won

from the villages and by-ways of India than to many who have more education but less spiritual power.

More than half of our Bible-women have family cares which prevent their giving more than half of their time to the work. While encouraging them to do what they can, we assure them that keeping their homes and children in order is just as acceptable to the Lord as street preaching. One Bible-woman said to me a few days ago, "When the Lord gave me two little boys I thought I would have to give up Bible work entirely, but I find I need not, for every morning I do up all my work, then in afternoon I take my youngest in my arms and the other walks along beside me and we go into the village. The bright healthy children (without blackened eyes, caste marks disfiguring their faces and scars showing the torture the poor little Hindu children must endure) soon opens the way for conversation and leads up to the subject of God's love and care, and how that he is just as willing to help them bear their many burdens if they will but trust him." I feel that this woman isolated as she is from Christian fellowship with only her husband to encourage her, is fulfilling the Lord's command in that village by letting her light shine with no uncertain flicker. The work of the Bible-woman is varied, some are especially adapted for zenana visitation, that is, going into the homes of the caste women and teaching them to sing hymns, reading to them the Bible stories and presenting the Gospel message. Others seem to have more power to speak to the crowd gathered in the Bazaar, the outcast hamlets or on the roadside wherever fifty, twenty, or even one is willing to listen.

The help they need is your prayers, that they may have power to speak the word faithfully, to live consistently, and that instead of getting used to the indifference of their hearers, they will yearn more for the salvation of their souls and pray more for immediate results.

The faith needed by us all in working among these women is such as would remove mountains, for nothing less than miracles will so change their hearts so as to make them willing to give up all for Jesus. The present need in our Mission is more Bible-women, seven times as many as we have could be used to advantage, especially do we need those who have no family ties, those who can be ready at any time to go on tour with the missionary. I know I voice