

the idol was brought round carried on a man's head, accompanied by another beating a drum. The women, however, asked them to move on as they would rather hear what I was telling them. They are often very tired of their idols, saying, "We make them too many offerings, but they never give us anything. It is refreshing to find some who are not under the power of superstition like their neighbors, but seem to have more liberty of conscience. Such women condemn the action of others, for instance: A woman who belonged to a wealthy family living in a large house was put out in the street for three days before she died for fear that if she died on an unlucky day the house would have to be closed up for months. This was strongly condemned by others who, as I said before, had more liberty. In one house I have met with much discouragement. The women have been hearing the Gospel for over ten or twelve years, and one of them at last had often confessed that she believed in Christ alone and prayed to Him. But she had no courage when the testing time came and her husband insisted on her visiting the shrine of an idol in order to make an offering of the first hair on the head of their child. She confessed, however, with much shame and sorrow, that she had failed and only yielded after her husband had struck her for not being willing to go. "May God forgive me," she said, with clasped hands, and later on her mother, who although never so interested as her daughter, yet had often heard the message, was carried away by a strong delusion. "A false prophet" or priest came to town and hundreds flocked to him to receive a brand from a red-hot pieve of silver on their shoulder which he assured them would insure them a free passport into heaven or rather a safe passage thither, and all their sins would be expiated. Of course he charged a good fee from each. So this woman followed the example of others. In almost every house we would find one or more who had thus been deluded, but all confess now that there is no profit and they have been taken in, for their sinful nature has not been changed, for they continue to tell lies as before, everyone almost denying that they have received the brand until it was proved. But we rejoice that there were a few faithful ones who were not carried away, and it is refreshing to hear their testimony. So we continue to teach them, knowing that we shall reap if we faint not.

Yours in the work,

LOTTIE GIBSON.

Cocanada, Jan., 1908.

ZENANA WORK REPORT.

July to December, 1907.

Time is ever on the wing and each passing hour reminds us of the journey almost ended, the race all but won. In looking over the notes of my journal I find much to be grateful for.

During the past six months we had the pleasure of visiting 92 houses, making 335 visits and reaching about 900 women with the Gospel. New doors are constantly being opened to us, it is encouraging to see with what willingness and confidence we are received. But sometimes we are asked to go to a new house, it seems to be out of curiosity, or for needlework, or for some other cause, and not for a desire to learn on the part of those who invite us, or from any wish to know about God's word, and so we are almost obliged to give them up again, or keep them on only for occasional visits, while there are others who would be glad of more frequent visits if we had the time.

My old pupils are getting on nicely and prepare their lessons well, and listen attentively to the Bible. I spend many a pleasant hour teaching them.

The women I mentioned in my last report are still firm and are anxious to learn more about Christ. We believe that they are secret followers of the Lord and may He give them courage to confess Him openly.

I have four new Brahmin houses and I must say that there is a great deal that is attractive and lovable about these women, and they are so affectionate. It is remarkable though to notice the difference there is in them at different times. For instance, when others are present they seem almost indifferent when we read the Bible and talk about Christ; but when alone they say quite eagerly, "Now sing us a hymn, and tell us about Christ; we want to learn more about Him and follow His footsteps," and they listen so intently. I think the reason is they do not like to appear interested before anyone whom they know is not favorably inclined.

During the past year the Lord has made our family to pass through very deep waters, by taking to Himself one of our dear ones (a beloved brother of mine). But still I could say, "He hath done all things well," and again I remember my Master's words, "What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter."

We all felt our beloved Miss Simpson's death very much. She was loved by all, and there were many tears shed that we should see her face no more on this earth, nor hear again her kind, encouraging words; but even those who loved her best and mourn her most must rejoice that another crown is won in heaven. In this case a crown of many jewels and another servant of God gone home to hear the glad welcome, "Well done!"

P. H. N. BEGGS.