

## Sister Belle's Corner.

(For the Little Folks who read this Paper.)

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS.—Can you think with me of the greatest difference between yourselves here, and the boys and girls of Hindustan? It is not that their faces are darker than yours, or that their homes I have described to you in their Indian land are so different to yours, or that their clothes and habits seem strange to us. If somebody asked you how many Gods there are, you would quickly answer that our God is the only living and true God. How much you have learned from the Bible of His great love for you, in making and keeping you alive, giving you a home and loving friends, but most of all in sending Jesus Christ, His only Son, to be your Saviour! But let the same question be asked of a Hindu boy or girl, and what different answers will be given! No one person can know the names of all the things that are called gods by the people of Hindustan, for they are three hundred and thirty millions! More than all the people in that dark land! The chief god is called Brahm. There is no image of him, and nobody worships him. He is thought too great to trouble himself about any one on earth, so it is no use to pray or send offerings to him. The next three gods are Brahma, the Creator; Vishnu, the Preserver, and Sheeva, the Destroyer. Very few people worship Brahma, for they think after he has created them, he can do no more for them. A great many idle tales are told about Vishnu, that he has been nine times upon the earth, as a fish, a tortoise, a man, a lion, a Boar, a dwarf, a giant, twice as a warrior, and as a thief. These tales say that the next time he comes it will be as a conquering king riding on a white horse. People are very fond of worshipping him, supposing he will give them gifts and blessing in payment. But Sheeva, the destroyer, has more followers than any other idol, for the Hindus fear his power over them. His image looks horrible, clothed in tiger-skins, with a necklace of skulls and snakes; but his wife is believed to be even more terrible. Her name is Kalee, and her whole delight is said to be in blood. Those who wish to please her offer sacrifices of beasts, and, sometimes, offer up their own lives. I told you that Calcutta was named in honor of this cruel Kalee. Her great temple is near that city, where, every year, a feast is held in her honor, and horrible deeds done, the description of which makes me shudder. Yet her followers look on and shout for joy as they see the bleeding victims suffer and die. These are the principal idols worshipped by the Hindus, and after them come a great multitude of animals and other things that cannot think or speak or hear the vain prayers offered to them. The river Ganges is called the goddess Gunga, and people flock from all parts of India to worship her. They bathe in this river, and think thus to wash away all their sins. They carry home large bottles of its sacred waters for their friends. Very cruel things are done by this river. I have told you of mothers tossing their babies into its waters to be eaten alive by crocodiles. It is supposed that all who die near this river go to the Hindu heaven, so dying people are dragged out of their beds, laid in its mud, exposed to the burning rays of the sun, and sometimes drowned by their friends if they are too long in dying. The Ganges is the great burying place. Dead bodies are often seen in it, while crows and vultures tear the flesh from the bones that float on the water. Some people drown themselves here to gain a great reward in the next world. Ah, what a sad awakening theirs will be!

Monkeys are treated with great respect in India, for

they, too, are thought to be gods. There is a temple in India where snakes crawl about at their pleasure, waited upon by priests and fed with the best of food. Kites, those fierce birds of the air, are also worshipped. There is meat sold in shops expressly for them, and thrown up in the air to the greedy creatures by their worshippers. Kalee, the fierce idol that is believed to delight in blood, has a great set of followers called Thugs, or deceivers. Well do they deserve this name, for their whole lives are spent in deceiving, that they may destroy. Before they set out on their journeys, they bow down before the image of Kalee, and ask her to bless the shovel and the cloth held in their hands. The cloth is to strangle poor travellers, and the shovel to dig their graves after the bodies have been robbed of clothing and riches. After committing dreadful murders, they return to the priests of Kalee to get her blessing, for which they pay by dividing their stolen goods with these priests.

Much more I might tell you if time and space allowed, but I think you all see the greatest difference between yourselves and Hindu children. Oh, how thankful we should be to the true God for our Christian education! Another "Happy New Year" has come to us. May the God who gave it help us to use each day for His glory. Do not forget to think of, pity, work and pray for your brothers and sisters in India, these heathen boys and girls who never heard of our God.

SISTER BELLE.

480 Lewis Street, Ottawa.

## NOTICE TO CIRCLES—AN EXCHANGE DRAWER.

The following manuscript papers have been kindly placed at our disposal for the use of the Circles. All who wish to avail themselves of these helps to Circle meetings can do so by sending a postal card to Mrs. M. Freeland, P. O. Box 8, Yorkville, naming the paper requested, which must be promptly returned.

Reasons why we should make the monthly meetings interesting, with some hints as to the best means of doing so," Mrs. H. J. Rose; "Why we work," Miss Ida Fitch; "A day in Cocanada Mission House," Mrs. McLaurin; "Woman's work in Missions," Mrs. A. V. Timpany; "The condition of women in India," Mrs. J. Coutts; "Some facts and figures about our Society," Mrs. M. Freeland; "Sketch of the W. M. A. Societies of the Lower Provinces," Mrs. W. H. Porter; "Our Sisters in India," Mrs. Armstrong; "Christian Activity," Miss J. M. Lloyd.

## WOMEN'S BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ONTARIO.

Received from Nov. 23rd to Dec. 20th, 1881.

A Sabbath school class in Boston, \$10; (for the education of Chinamah, a little Hindu girl.) Cheltenham M. C., \$3; Jarvis St., \$11.80; Alexander St., \$10.20; Port Burwell, mission quilt, \$3.50, mission band quilt, \$1.25, Leslie Her, (seven years old,) 25c.; Paris M. C. \$13.45, mission quilt, \$26, children's auxiliary, \$2.46. Total, \$81.89.

JESSIE M. LLOYD, Treas.

222 Wellesley St., Toronto.

## The Canadian Missionary Link.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT TORONTO.  
Subscription 25c. per annum, strictly in advance.

Communications to be sent to Mrs. M. Freeland, Box 8, Yorkville, Ont. Orders and remittances to be sent to Miss J. Buchan, Box 3, Yorkville, Ont. Subscribers will find the dates when their subscriptions expire on the printed address labels of their papers.

Dudley &amp; Burns, Printers, 11 Colborne St., Toronto.