

OUR MISSION IN INDIA.

LETTER FROM MR. CAMPBELL.

RUTLAM, July 24th 1886.

Dear Children:

How often have my wife and I said "We *must* write the Children's Record." But there is always so much to do, and the weeks fly by so swiftly. Perhaps you do not feel it so yet. I remember when it seemed to me the other way. And from the talk of some people about killing time, and passing the time, it would appear that they find their life very wearisome, and would like to get to the end of it. And yet, are they not the very ones who, if the end were really to come suddenly, would cry out for a little more time?

But anybody at home can tell you that, and I must rather tell you about our life and work here. Rutlam is a new station. Put a dot on the map for it at 23° 19 N. 75° 5 E. I have been visiting it for years, but now we are living in it. For the present we have to live in a native house in the city, and I think you will laugh when I tell you about it. It has only one outside door, but that is large enough to let a cart in if we wished, and in one of the halves is a little porthole through which you can climb if you do not want to open more. Then comes a little passage with a small room on either side, one of which is stocked with scriptures and tracts for sale, a lending library, and medicines—for you know we missionaries have to try and relieve the sick, and though I am not a Doctor, some young Doctors would be glad to have as many patients, if only they were paying ones.

The other little room we have turned into a bath room which is a very necessary room in this country. But what next? Why, this house is built round a hole in the middle of it! The little passage ends in a room which is open to the sky on one side. Then a little court yard only about seven feet wide, and nearly two feet lower than the floor, so that by stopping the drain which carries the water out under the door, we might in this wet season turn it into a shallow swimming bath. At each

end a narrow passage, and then at the back of the court a room like the one on its front side—all rooms and passages, open to the court. Behind is another room occupied by Bapu (a native helper) his wife and their two children. But indeed all this flat is partly occupied by them and Ramla, an orphan whom we have had for seven years, since the famine in which his parents died. It has also to serve as church and reception room, school-room and so on; and in the hot season we had to spend the heat of the day there. The upper flat we keep for ourselves, only that the back room is our kitchen. What we call our bedroom opens on the court, and we have some bamboos tied to keep us from tumbling down. To get to our "dining room," on the other side, we have an unroofed passage, and so we jokingly say that we are "going out to dinner." The distance between the two roofs (often dripping just now) is only three or four feet. That is about the distance, too, between the house to the rear of us, and our back window—only remember that we have not a pane of glass in the house, just wooden shutters. By stepping on a chair I could look into the court yards of our neighbours, but that would not be proper on our side because it is the house of a Mohammedan, a rather good family, though poor, and the women are "*pardanisheen*," that is, shut in from the sight of other men. On the other side is a *bramiya* family, that is, of the merchant or trading caste of Hindoos, and one of the women has been a patient of mine. The floors are all earthen, and the ceilings and most of the doorways low. Where I am writing (the front room, which we like best) I can touch the rafters, and on tiptoe the ceiling, but most of the rooms are a *little* higher than this one. Though I try to remember, my head often gets a knock as I pass from one room to another.

Funny as it will seem to you, this house open in the middle to the sky—we were very thankful to get it; and if it were out in a clean, open space, we could probably get along well enough in it; but in a narrow lane, surrounded by filth, and shut