

pray still more for that work, will you? You know it, you have read of it, you love it; and I beg of you to remember it in your prayers. Remember the workers, each one. Remember the poor women in darkness who have heard the Gospel once, or maybe twice, and who perhaps are struggling to follow the light. God knows the destiny of each soul, He knows the end from the beginning. Pray that the workers in Narsapatnam and Yellamanchili may have power from God to help those who are sitting in darkness to arise and "Come to the brightness of His rising."

Yours sincerely,

K. S. McLAURIN.

### THE INDIAN FAMINE.

I am writing from the east coast of India, in the extreme north of the Madras Presidency, where it joins borders with Lower Bengal, and wherein three of her 22 districts. the Presidency throws an arm 300 miles long up the east boundary of the Central Provinces, shutting them out from the seacoast of the Bay of Bengal by a strip of land only 100 miles in width. The famine is milder here than in other parts. The pressure of famine is gauged by the prevailing price of the food grains. In these parts the staple food grain is rice. In ordinary times rice sells at 14 measures to the rupee, that means about 28 lbs. for 30c., or speaking roughly, one cent a pound. At present time, in many places, rice cannot be had at any price. Famine prices are about 7 measures to a rupee, or twice the ordinary rates, that is the prevailing price in these parts at present. But in the worst famine districts rice has risen to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  measures to the rupee. This means a quadrupling of the distress that poor people feel even in ordinary times, how these rates pinch, yes kill, can be gathered from facts set forth in publication of the Indian Government, for March of 1892. In that publication the absolute necessities of life, food, clothing and house of an agricultural laborer, not including extras in the Punjab, are put at Rs. 34 a year. Calculated at three rupees to the dollar, that means \$11.30. This amount is reduced in the warmer parts of India to Rs. 30 (\$10). While that is the income a native in India requires to support life and health, it is by no means what he always receives. No less a financial authority than Sir David Barbour states that the highest income is received in the Central Provinces viz., Rs. 30 $\frac{1}{2}$  (\$10.16), or just 16c. above the actual necessities of life. That falls in the North-west Provinces and Oudhe to the lowest for all India, or Rs. 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ , (\$7.40), or \$2.60 below the absolute necessities of life.

The famine returns vindicate the truthfulness of these returns as regards these provinces, when  $4\frac{1}{2}$  millions were on government relief, the North-west Provinces and

Oudhe bulked so largely in that total as to contribute 1,750,000, leaving  $2\frac{1}{2}$  millions to the remaining seven provinces of presidency.

The average income for all India is Rs. 27, (\$9), per head, per annum. In comparison with the United Kingdom, in which the average individual income is £4-3s.-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. In excess of the high standard of comfort in food and profuseness in material things, India shows a minus of 2s.-3d. below the actual necessities in very plain food and scant clothing to which her poverty compels her. As compared to English life, Indian life is very short. The difference between the conditions of life in India and Canada may be illustrated by drawing a line for Canada, three inches and five-eighths long, and placing over that the sum of \$135 as representing the average annual income of the Canadian individual. Then below that draw a line  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch long, and place over it the sum of \$9 to represent the annual average income per capita in India. The gaping discrepancy makes it easy to believe the statement published in *The Globe* sometime since, that 100,000,000 of the people of India in times of plenty (?) lie down every night on a mud floor and an empty stomach. If, in times of such questionable plenty, so many eke out such a miserable existence on fare so meagre what must their condition be when the ordinary sources of income dry up, and food prices rise to four times their actual value? That means indescribable and widespread disaster, such a disaster has overtaken India this year of jubilee.

The statement of an English planter from India, quoted in the *Globe* sometime since, that no deaths had taken place in India as the result of famine or starvation, indicates prodigious ignorance or monstrous mendacity. True statistics are difficult to secure, but the death rate in some provinces has been very high. The plague in Bombay and its vicinity would not have been so virulent had not the weakened condition of the people exasperated its fierceness. 20,000 perished in Bombay alone, while the deaths hitherto have been very numerous, the real testing of the resisting power of the people lies just ahead under the trying condition of the first heavy rains in many mouths.

In all parts of India cholera is now claiming its annual harvest of victims. What that may mean with the conditions altogether favorable may be gathered from the history of the year 1892 which was a particularly bad year for cholera. With a population of 287 $\frac{1}{2}$  millions, India lost that year some 12 millions of her people. Out of that vast multitude cholera claimed close on towards 1,000,000 victims. The roots and woods, the jungle berries and barks, the grass and other stuff that the people have been subsisting on, together with the vile water they have been compelled to use or go without has so upset them, that from the chronic diarrhoea and dysentery induced by these harsh foods to cholera is a very short step indeed.