

Yesterday the husband sent four men out on a singing tour. The Telugus are very fond of singing and all the histories and stories of their gods and goddesses are in verse. The plan is for these four to sing the Life of Christ in the villages nights. After the evening meal everyone—men and women—will gather and will sit for hours listening to singing. All four have good voices and sing well together. I wish you could hear them!

F. S. McLEOD.

May 21, 1901.

Substance of a letter from Rev. H. F. Leflamme, Cocanada, India.

Dear home folk.—Last week we had a visitation of locusts in such vast swarms as to hide the sun and to cover everything they settled upon from sight. They were of all sizes up to four inches in length, and were of four colors, reddish, yellow, blackish and the color of half ripe wheat. They made little noise and remained only half an hour and then pushed on to the north from whence we have heard of them in newspaper reports ever since. They had reached a place 300 miles north of here when last heard from, having started from a place at least 100 miles to the south, so that they are making a transcontinental tour and having a high time of it. It seems that these pests visit parts of India at intervals. For months we have had newspaper reports of vast swarms of them in Baluchistan and about Simla, the summer capital. Their ravages are very extensive and their destruction a matter of years. The India Government, which in many things is right up to date, has a man detailed to report on these visitations and the best means of getting rid of them.

On the 10th the town was visited by three conflagrations that carried away the homes of some six or seven hundred families. The numbers of houses and huts burned was not more than 210, but the places attacked by the fire fiend were the greatly overcrowded parts where the poor are densely packed and live in the most unsanitary conditions. Smallpox has raged in those huts, and every leaf and rafters in each was hanging full of clusters of the deadly microbe which a merciful providence has taken this means of ridding. There is no stopping the fire when it once gets caught in these little leaf roofs. The first one took just half an hour to tear through 80 houses, some of which accommodated ten or fifteen families. In parts of the town the erection of these leaf roofed huts is prohibited. But large numbers of the people are so poor that a house costing over five dollars or a monthly rental of eight cents is away beyond their means, and so these pest holes are continued. They are however being gradually driven to the outskirts, and their places taken by tiled houses. In Bombay and Calcutta the housing of the

poor has reached such an acute stage, and the plague has made such terrible ravages on even rich and poor, and incidentally on trade, that large schemes are on hand in these cities for the erection of model tenement houses. In fact Bombay is rebuilding a great part of its poorer quarters at a tremendous expense.

Just now Calcutta is suffering from a carters' strike which has paralyzed the movement of freight and brought their extensive shipping to a stand still. The men want higher rates and other conditions that will improve their lot. You see that human nature in Calcutta is not unlike human nature in any other part of the world. Where selfishness oppresses there will be a struggle and a redemption.

The heat seems to have subsided and the rains are setting in but with nothing of the old time certainty when it came down in a businesslike way. All trade in all parts of India is feeling the depression that inevitably follows famine, and there are general complaints from all quarters of the dulness of the times.

The Arya Patrika, an anti-Christian paper, bears the following testimony of the work of Christian Missions in India: "The Mission enterprise in this country is not without its noble features. There is a whole host of men and women, very noble and philanthropic, who are engaged in ministering to the intellectual requirements of our people. The missionary schools and colleges are the best managed and most efficient in the entire land, and the spirit of self sacrifice and devotion to duty which characterizes the workers in the cause of Christ in these seminaries is well worthy of imitation by other propagandists. The enormous amount of good done by the Medical Missions is too potent to require any mention at our hands. We have seen and known some of the missionary ladies engaged in this department of activity. The desire to alleviate the sufferings of mankind is sincere and genuine; they have no hesitation in mixing with the poor and indigent, grovelling in the mire of wretchedness and misery, and in extending them a helping hand in their efforts to rise superior to their circumstances. Nor are they afraid of entering the dens where poverty and disease hold a perpetual sway, and where there is a constant danger of falling a prey to malignant maladies. The cheerfulness, complacency, and passive resignation with which these ladies risk their own lives for the rescue of the weak and the fallen is something really very heroic." —*Baptist Missionary Magazine*.

The total income for missions last year was something over \$17,000,000, and the total number of missionaries and married women, 13,607.