

OUR FIRST YEAR IN DHAR.

By Miss I. Ross.

Early in 1896, Rev. F. H. and Mrs. Russell, and Miss I. Ross, were removed from Mhow to open a new station at Dhar. Miss Ross writes hopefully of the year's work among the women and children.

"We rejoice that the light of the Gospel is spreading in Central India. Prejudices are being broken down and people are seeing more and more clearly that Christianity is of God. We hope the day is not far distant when many will declare publicly what they now believe secretly, viz., that Christ is 'The Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world.'"

I am glad to note in connection with school work, that the people regard it with much more favor than in the past. In the bazaar school the average attendance from the 1st of July to the present time, Feb. 3rd, is 103. Our prayer for numbers is being answered. It is grand to have so many little ones day after day where they can hear the Gospel.

It is true the dreadful early marriage system robs us of many of our brightest and most promising, yet we hope that the seed sown in their hearts will bear fruit.

We have three languages in this school, Hindi, Marathi and Urdu. The Mohammedans speak Urdu and since we began to teach it in the school we are slowly gathering them in.

The Kishnapura school had to be closed for some time through the lack of a teacher. They seemed to wake up when there was no school and asked when it would be reopened. When a teacher was obtained, there were soon over forty present, a greater number than in the past; but the scarcity of food and high prices have again reduced the attendance as even the little ones go out to earn a few pice.

In Garibpura from seventeen to twenty-one attend, and there is a great improvement in their appearance. At first they were so wild and rude; now it is gratifying to see them quietly at work.

I have been greatly assisted in school work by Miss Bayly who was in the medical work with Dr. Fraser.

Although the people are not hungry for the Gospel, yet they welcome the Gospel messenger and there are more doors open to us than we have time to enter.

The work among the women is encouraging and I have been much cheered in Kishnapura to see the great change in the attitude of the women there towards Christianity.

All the schools are well represented in the Sabbath school and generally we have over one hundred present. We are thankful to get so many heathen children together on the Lord's day, and we believe that some of them will be His in the day when He maketh up His jewels.

LETTER FROM DR. MARION OLIVER

Dak Bengalow, Simlah.

Dear Mrs. Grier,

Here in the stillness and quiet of the evening, 14 miles away from any English-speaking person, with the Eastern moon in all its soft beauty looking down on me, surely than this no more fitting time can there be to write my thanks for the kind remembrance you sent me by Miss Sinclair. It gave me pleasure to be remembered and the reading of the book was more than pleasure.

I left Indore this morning with our Bible woman to make our last tour for this cold season among some of the villages in this district. We were here for a week in December, but this time we can only spare three days so will confine ourselves to the five or six villages in which we know there are those who are looking anxiously for us and among whom we trust there are those in whose hearts the spirit is working.

We spent between three and four hours to-day in a village among those over whom we were much encouraged in our last visit.

The one we were most anxious to again talk with was from home, but we found two others, who before seemed untouched, now anxious to hear.

Often the whole gathering will sit very quietly and seem to be taking in eagerly all we say; but if one is watchful one will soon note one or two who are really listening and who at the close are all that will know anything of what has been said.

I have spent a good part of to-day in this village work, and it has been refreshing to both body and spirit, for the daily round in school in Zenana, or in hospital, and dispensary when the body is weary, may at times seem all labor in vain.

You know that both famine and plague have fallen upon India. The hand of the Lord is upon the people to arouse them to see that God will punish sin.

May the British Government too be led to see that God can take from them the very money they have made out of opium to feed the starving millions, who to-day, had the opium land been sown with wheat might have had sufficient for their needs. "The Almighty is tedious but He's sure."

The widows in Pandita Ramabai's Home in Poona have given up all their good substantial food, and taken to the very plainest and coarsest of food, so that what fed fifty now feeds one hundred, and the Pandita goes on gathering in the famine widows. The missionary in the Central Provinces has 300 famine children on his hands.

It is good to have Miss Sinclair back again and with her so many new ladies. Miss Thompson is to be my co-laborer and in a couple of weeks when Miss McKellar leaves us for Canada we two will be alone at the Hospital.

Your ever, Marion Oliver.