

day evening, when I was preaching in the Malapilly, a man came and asked me to go and see a caste-man, who had been bitten by a snake. I went at once, and as it was dark I had a man carry my lantern. When we approached the house, to which I had been summoned, some of the women cried out not to bring the lantern. They have a superstition that if a snake-bitten person sees a light the poison at once operates more powerfully. I called out in reply that if the lantern couldn't be allowed in the yard, I couldn't come. I found that the young man, who was said to be bitten, did not show any alarming symptoms, so I looked for the marks of the snake's teeth, but as I could not find any, I told him and his friends that I thought he must be mistaken, and that the slight symptoms that appeared were probably due to fright. However, I gave him a little medicine to satisfy him. While I was looking for marks of the bite a Brahmin came to perform an incantation over the young man, but his friends said it was not necessary. Before leaving I spoke to those present about the Saviour.

On Monday I was asked to go and see an elderly man of high caste. He had a sore knee. After telling him what I thought would be good for it, I talked for a long time about religion and astronomy. With Hindus these two subjects are very closely related to each other. Many of the man's friends were present and heard what was said. On leaving I gave him a copy of Matthew which he promised to read. I told him that my colporteur had Telugu books about the planets and eclipses, so he sent one of his relatives to buy copies of the books.

Since returning to Akidu I have sent a man to Nindrakol to look after the Christians there for a few weeks. His name is Daniel. He was one of my palankeen-bearers, but lately he has been troubled with a pain in his chest when bearing. As he can read and write a little, and is a good man, full of zeal for Christ, I concluded he might do a good work in some village, and so sent him for the present to Nindrakol. The LINK doesn't like long letters, so I will not tell about the rest of my tour till next month. JOHN CRAIG.

AKIDU, INDIA, May 4th, 1882.

Bobbili.

SKETCHES OF MISSION LIFE AND WORK

Our usually quiet town has been in quite a state of excitement for the last week or more. Thousands of people have come in from the surrounding towns and villages to see what was going on. The young Rajah has been getting married again, and installed into office, and his son and heir receiving a name. To each of these ceremonies we were invited by the Rane, but as the marriage took place at two o'clock a.m., November 20th, and our invitation only came at ten p.m. the previous evening, we excused ourselves from going, so I can give you no description of that.

The Installation took place at half-past ten a.m. on the 30th, but we were politely informed by the Dewan that English people were not expected at that hour, as the Rajah could not pay them any attention, but that he would send his carriage for us in the afternoon, when the Collector and lady would be present. Accordingly the carriage came, and we were driven to the palace, where, after shaking hands with the Rajah and congratulating him upon his marriage, and his having come into possession of his estate, we were ushered into the state room, and requested to seat ourselves on a sofa to the left of the Musnad. Soon after the Collector and lady arrived, and the former escorted the Rajah to the

Musnad, on which he leaped and seated himself cross-legged, his bare feet each resting on a white satin cushion. The seat of state was also covered with the same, glinting and sparkling all around, a foot deep, with the golden designs. At the back, suspended from the ceiling of the pavilion, over the seat, hung a beautiful scarlet and gold cashmere curtain. The canopy also was beautifully decorated with a short curtain of white satin and gold, and supported by silver-wrought rods, an inch or more in diameter.

The Rajah was dressed in a long robe, reaching down below the knees, of white satin, embroidered with gold, white satin pants, and his chest and shoulders loaded with strings of pearls, diamonds and emeralds. His cap or crown was most elaborately worked with gold and pearls, and a large emerald hung over his forehead.

After sitting and talking awhile the elephants were brought out. These were something gorgeous to see, especially two of them, that on which the Rajah was to ride and the one prepared for the Collector and lady. The howdah on the former was covered with devices in gold and the latter in silver, and the elephants were covered with gold and silver embroideries. Their faces, too, were covered with cloth, on which silver and golden ornaments were fastened.

We were asked to join in the procession, so, as it was in honor of the Rajah's installation and not a heathen ceremony, and as I had never enjoyed a ride on an elephant's back, we consented to go, and mounted the third large elephant by means of a ladder when he was on his knees. Our elephant was finely painted on the face, and around the eyes and ears, had on a cloth that had been fine in its day, and a howdah covered with red cloth. In the front of the procession was carried the marriage palanquin, and in front of it there was a continuous stream of fireworks. After the palanquin were the elephants with servants on them, then followed two with musicians, the first of whom had some kind of wind instruments, and the others drums. These kept up a continual din. After these followed an elephant with the present Dewan and an English gentleman, riding without a howdah. Then came our elephant, and behind us came a band of native musicians dressed in English clothes, tall beavers, and barefooted. The Collector and lady followed these on their fine elephant, and then followed a large open carriage, drawn by two large horses, in which were the brother of the Rajah, himself a rajah on his father's estate at Venkatagerry, and some other relatives. Then came the Rajah. He, in his robes of state, with his elephant and howdah all sparkling with silver, was quite a magnificent sight in the grand procession. Beside his elephant was a smaller one, which carried his hookah or smoking-pipe, three or four yards long and came with graceful curves up into his howdah.

It was a beautiful moonlight evening, but just as the moonlight began to be appreciated by us it was quite eclipsed by the hundreds of torches that were lighted. These, with the red and blue lights, which would flash out and burn so brilliantly for a few moments, now in one place and now in another, and the continuous stream of fountain-like fireworks, made the procession, as one looked forward or back upon it from the elephant's back, a most brilliant spectacle. The crowds of people too, wherever there was an open space that they could collect, was something very interesting to look upon, and the up-turned, black, swaying faces, eager eyes and open mouths were fully shown in the torchlight and nothing else to be seen. The procession moved very slowly, we only made a circuit of a mile in two-and-a-half hours, and as