

MISSION FIELD.

CANADIAN MISSION, Dhar, C. I. Jan. 9th, 1896.

DEAR REVIEW:—It is some time since I proposed sending you a few other items touching the work here which may prove of interest to your readers. To will is in such a matter always present, but to do is usually a totally different thing. A new field of work where the foundations are to be laid, and all the hindrances incident to such an undertaking to be overcome, the last thing one finds time for is to sit down and write letters. The present one is written because I feel that we have work going on here that claims the interest and sympathy of the people at home, and that has about it many encouraging features not at all common in first beginnings. When I last wrote we were just putting in the first stones for our bungalow, and were looking anxiously forward to its completion. Now as I view the building through the open door of our tent, I see it half way up, with a fair prospect of being soon finished. Only those here can understand what this building means to us. It is not merely a place to live in. It is a substantial testimony to the fact that we missionaries have come to this heathen city to stay,—a fact which its people would otherwise find it hard to realize, as most of them look on our work as a chimerical scheme which we shall soon have to abandon. But I look on this as only the first of many buildings which shall in the days to come arise in the midst of this people, dedicated to the service of our Lord.

Let me speak first of difficulties and hindrances, as these have been few, though persistent. Our greatest opposition has come, naturally, from the Brahmins, who have done all in their power to prevent the people from coming to our services, or to the dispensary for medicine, and have been vigorous in the persecution of those who shewed an inclination to favor the new teaching, or anxious to learn another way of salvation than that to be found in the worship of their superiors. We have also to contend with the propagandism of the Arya Somaj, with their plausible but utterly fallacious admixture of Christian morality and Vedio sophism. I regret to say that some of the latter opposition has come from one who has had all the peculiar advantages of higher education in a Mission institution, thus exemplifying one of the great difficulties which higher educationists in India have to face, and which is becoming yearly a more serious problem,—the control of a huge body of young men whose intellectual conceit has been ministered to at the expense of their religious instincts, and whose native bigotry has taken on a slight veneer of Western liberality of thought, without being in any degree modified thereby.

Another of the difficulties we are called on to face is the want of a suitable place to carry on our services. We are still where we were several months ago, preaching on the street, practically, that is to say on a sort of verandah, in front of a house in the *bazar*, a situation, which, while it has its advantages, on account of its nearness to the street, has these more than counterbalanced by the continued noise and disturbance inevitable in such a place. There are several sites about the city which would be very suitable for building a preaching hall, and probably available, had we the money necessary for their purchase, and the additional sum for the erection of a hall, but neither of these is forthcoming at present, and we shall have to depend on the liberality of friends at home to render this phase of our work in Dhar more systematic and satisfactory by assisting us in this matter of a building.

We have, however, great cause for rejoicing. From the beginning of our work here, in spite of the most determined opposition, we have had large attendances at our meetings, and the people have shown an ever-increasing interest. So great, indeed, is the interest excited, that a meeting which begins at six o'clock in the evening may continue till ten, or even later, without the attention in the least degree flagging. The other night, when I was unable to attend the meeting, the two workers whom I employ to assist me in the evangelistic work told me later that till after ten o'clock they felt constrained to continue the preaching and singing, and only then stopped because the hour had come for closing the city gates. When we consider that during all this time the listeners were compelled to stand and did so with a quietness and attention I have never seen excelled and seldom equalled, even at home, it must be admitted that there was room for encouragement.

(I was interrupted at this point by the arrival of the Maharajah's carriage, the latter having sent it with a request that we should if convenient go to the place for an hour and give him some singing in English and Hindi. Mrs. Russell, Miss O'Hara and I, went up for a short time, taking the baby organ with us, and before leaving obtained His Highness's consent to assist us in the building of the hospital for Miss Dr. O'Hara's work, the land for which he had already granted. As this visit, however, has

materially shortened the day, it will I fear, have a corresponding effect on my letter.)

Since several days before Christmas we have been holding a series of meetings every night, and still continue them, as we find the interest so sustained, and the attendance, if anything, increasing. I have been trying to set before these people, so many of them utterly ignorant of the very meaning of Christianity, a sort of connected idea of the plan of salvation, which, given as simply as possible in the course of a week, has had apparently better results than mere desultory preaching. Had we a proper place of meeting, the results would be doubly gratifying.

As I have felt the necessity for employing, if possible, only Christian teachers even in the work of the most elementary schools, and such teachers not readily available, I have as yet opened only one school, though the people of three or four other *mohallas* are begging of me to start such work in their midst also. I hope, however, to soon satisfy these petitioners. In this, as in all our work, we are much hindered for want of buildings, as there are none among these poor people at all suitable and we shall be compelled to build them. We are not in this respect as well off as those in the cantonment stations, where fairly suitable buildings may be obtained. Here again it is a matter of money. For the present we must still preach and teach on the street.

I shall be compelled to bring my letter to a close here, as the time is almost up for the mail to leave. I trust to send further news of progress soon.

Yours very faithfully,

FRANK H. RUSSELL.

Mission Notes.

Consecration is a term which means, or should mean, the same thing when applied to all human beings. It may lead to a given course of conduct in the case of one and to a very different course in the case of another; but the motive power in each case should be the same. If I, as a foreign missionary, am expected to give up all things for the interests of the work, to count home and treasure and ease and personal comfort as nothing when the interests of the work are at stake, my brother in the United States, who unhesitatingly assigns this standard of duty to me, should be governed by a spirit precisely similar. He may not be called upon to give up the things that I may be required to forsake, but his devotion should be as complete, and whatever he is required to do should be done as cheerfully and with as little question as if he were a missionary in China or Africa.—*Bishop Thoburn.*

Among the conveniences used by Dr. Shepard, a missionary physician at Aintab, Central Turkey, was a telephone extending from the hospital to his home. Dr. Shepard is so highly esteemed in Aintab that he can ordinarily do as he likes. But in this case as soon as the wire was stretched a complaint was lodged with the government against this unlawful thing. It has been found that a telephone is the "petty abhorrence of the Sultan," and so the suspicious thing was put under an injunction and reported to Aleppo and thence to Constantinople, and from the central government came the imperative order to "confiscate" the thing, paying full price and the costs. The machine was packed up and turned over to the government for its full equivalent, and in the terms of the State Department "the incident is closed."

The horrors of the opium habit are scarcely seen in this country. Rev. Hudson Taylor says the opium smokers and their families in China number 150,000,000.

There are eighteen schools of Lamas in Tibet, who are dispersed throughout the country in 1026 monasteries. The people generally are willing to learn, but fear the Lamas, who are strongly opposed to their instruction.

An official publication of the Japanese war casualties comes from Japan. It seems nearly incredible that an army of less than sixty-one thousand sent against a country whose population was over four hundred million should be able to make the following report: killed in battle, 623; died of wounds, 172; wounded not fatally, 2489; deaths by disease, 2981.

The present mission force of the Presbyterian Church in the United States in foreign fields is 135.

Copies of the Gospels by the thousands, writes one of our missionaries, are being printed to scatter throughout Japan.

The Japanese in Hawaii sent \$10,000 to Japan to aid the Red Cross Society in the late war.

Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop is about to build a hospital for women in Korea at her own personal expense.