

## LETTER FROM MISS PRIEST.

Tuni, Sept. 17, 1907.

My dear Link :

How I wish words would picture this afternoon's experience! Martha and Silvama started ahead of me and when I joined them they were sitting under a shady tree near a house just off the road. Several women and children had gathered and listened to the singing of a hymn and its explanation. My coming was the signal for quite a number more to come, and amongst them was an old man who decided to have some fun at my expense. He began talking quite loudly, saying with a scoffing laugh, "Oh, yes, if you give us five or six rupees a month, we will come and sit around too." He would not listen to anything for a while, though some of my friends among the boys and also some of the women took him up sharply. It looked as though he were going to spoil our work for the afternoon, and as I sat there I lifted up heart to the Father for the right word, and it was not long before the old man went away and we had such a good hearing as far as outward attention was concerned. About 50 were there, some standing, some sitting on the ground, and they became so interested that a quarrel among some women on the road close to us did not distract their attention at all. Somehow as I talked and read to them of the wonderful power and wisdom of God in contrast to the helplessness of their idols, my own heart was so stirred, and as I looked into their faces the great pity of it all came over me.

One woman said, "But if we stop worshipping Nukalama she will swallow us." I said, "Did you ever see her swallow one of the plantains you place before her, or one grain of rice even, and how can she possibly swallow you?" A man sitting near me said, "That's so, how could she?" Then I read part of Isa. 40: 18-26. What a grand book Isaiah is! After talking for awhile of God's wonderful power manifest in creation, I told them what a loving Father He had been to me and of His bringing me to this land. That the Government had nothing to do with my coming, but this loving Heavenly Father wanted them also to know of His love, to them, and so He brought me to live amongst them.

How many blind eyes and deaf ears there are and the very foundation facts must be given over again and again. As you pray for us, ask that we may be taught how to speak the

word in season. There seems no trouble about getting a hearing. Just to be His mouthpiece under the guidance and control of the Holy Spirit. The root of all the unrest in this, as in any other lands, is because the people have not yet come into heart-touch with Him who is "the author of peace and lover of concord." Pray that we who tell His message of peace may know in increasing measure its power in our own hearts and lives.

On Tour, Boat "Glad Tidings,"

Sept. 10th, 1907.

Extracts of a letter from Miss McLaurin.  
To the B.Y.P.U., Walmer Rd. Church, Toronto:  
My dear friends :

Once again I am writing you from tour, but not from my tent. Miss Selman, of Akida, who is away in the North of India for the holiday, has loaned me her houseboat for a few weeks, and I am touring on some of our waterways, visiting the villages near the banks of some of our Vuyyuru canals. It is delightful being on the water—much cooler than in our bungalow in Vuyyuru, and I am enjoying the change. Every day I visit a village. Today it was a large one about a mile from the canal bank. I left the boat at 10.30 a.m., and returned about 6.15 p.m. We walked to the village through cornfields and along a country road, and spoke at five different houses and then walked back. We did not have as interesting a time as we do at most places. The people are not particularly friendly nor interested there. I went with my two Bible women, Amelia and Ruth. At each house only a few women gathered. At many places we were refused a hearing—at one place quite a number of men gathered and tried to oppose us with their arguments, but they were not very formidable, and we were enabled to answer them satisfactorily.

Of course my work is for women. Still, I do not mind talking to the men occasionally, if they will listen peaceably and if their presence does not interfere with the women's hearing, which is usually the case, for the women will not sit and listen when the men are about.

In only one house did we have real, close, interested attention. But the seed was sown; and the results are with the Lord of the Harvest.

We have had some very definite encouragements on this tour. We visited two villages and were received well where we had been re-