

ment, she spoke of the Cross as an offense, "a human sacrifice is necessary they say," she said—not knowing of what she spoke—but she soon subsided. One young man who could speak English fluently, objected to his women being taught that idol worship was wrong. Another one destroyed a tract in front of me, to show his contempt for the Christian teaching. Then there is the deep-rooted belief in false teaching and idol worship. One who leads a life of open sin, and has devoted her two adopted girls to the same thing, is very religious. As she sat down to listen to the Word of God, one day, she also prepared to partake of, or chew, some betel leaf, a kind of digestive taken after a meal. Before partaking of the leaf, etc., she put it to her eyes and nose and then into her mouth. When asked by me, "What is the meaning of such an action?" "All for God," she replied, so religious and pious is she. Later she told me that she worships the sun above. And why, I asked? "Oh, he is the witness that sees all I do, and he will not let on if I bribe him thus."

"Foolish woman," I said, "the God who gave you sight, sees you all the time, and needs no witness, for He knows all you do." This impressed her some.

In the very next house I visited that day, the woman who is both educated and wealthy, and has a son studying for his M.D. in Edinburgh, Scotland, was preparing for the feast to be kept the next day, in which she would worship the moon. When asked if she knew what the moon was, replied, "Oh, he is the same God—there is but one God."

These women have heard the Gospel many times, but this false error has such a hold of their minds, and their religion is one of the fruits of the flesh and not of the Spirit.

So many seek after the things of this world, but some are seeking the things which are above. To continue to go everywhere sowing the seed by the wayside, in stony soil and, we trust, sometimes on good ground; and we shall reap if we faint not.

Yours in the work for India's women,

LOTTIE GIBSON.

Cocanada, January, 1912.

"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." As far as numbers go, we may certainly rejoice in progress having been made, for we have now 97 houses and 20 pupils under instruction in Zenanas, an addition of 5 since this time last year.

The women, I need not say, as a rule give one a very affectionate welcome, and seem so eager to listen to the Bible. One cannot help being struck with the great desire among the young women for instruction. Many of them are willing now to pay for their books. It is wonderful to see some of the women, in spite of babies, cooking and many household duties persevering in learning to read. So many of the women are sadly deficient in steady application; one is glad to give as much time as possible to those who are really anxious to get on. Some of the girls I am happy to say, have committed to memory several of our hymns and Bible tracts.

I shall here relate a few incidents which were brought very prominently to our notice, and which I think will show that some of them really love the Saviour and some are learning to love Him.

Venkatarathamma (the blind woman) listens to the Bible very eagerly, and says that she has given her heart to the Lord, and that she knows He has cleansed her from all her sins. She has committed to memory a few texts. She is very poor, but has a very happy face. She looks out for our visits, and as soon as she hears our voices, watches for our footsteps to welcome us with a very pleased face and a bright "Salaam amma."

There is another old lady, who I think is already a Christian at heart. We called to see her when she was in great grief at the loss of her grand-daughter, an amiable young woman, who left a girl of two years old; she told me she felt so glad when she heard our voices, for she knew we would talk to her of a Saviour's love, and that was the only thing that brought comfort to her sad heart.

Another woman in the same house also seems much interested, and says she admires and believes in the Christian religion, and would become a Christian if it were not that she would have to give up so many dear to her.