

rified. We had accidentally ascertained much of the ways and means, but reserved our own enquiry of the whole matter till Sunday morning, when we went to the house above mentioned, where we were most heartily welcomed as the 'messengers and servants of the one true God, and preachers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.'

'In a very few minutes after entering the house, our attention was fixed chiefly upon a young woman who was a widow, a somewhat elderly woman of very respectable appearance, and two men, all of whom spoke of what they had heard, and what they had learned of 'the one true God, the Lord and Father of all, and of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of men;' quoting most accurately, and with astonishing aptness many passages from the Telugu Bible. We sat down in the midst of these persons, surrounded also by a considerable number of attentive and half-wondering listeners from amongst the neighbours. From the conversation, in which we soon became fully engaged, we learned the following particulars concerning Seeta Ram, a young man of about twenty-eight years of age, who had died some ten months before. His mother and widow, the older and younger women just mentioned, were our chief informants.

'About ten or twelve years ago Seeta Ram, a goldsmith by trade, a good workman, an intelligent, honest, highly respectable and respected young man a native of Bookapatnam, received from some Christian man, supposed to be a colporteur from Bellary, a few Scripture Portions, which he then and there commenced to read. He was so pleased with the books, and his mind so impressed with their truths, and attracted by their beautiful precepts, that he gradually put aside the Mahabharatam and Ramayanam which he had been in the habit of reading with great diligence, and which, it appears, he understood and explained well; and gave himself up to a careful study of the 'new books.' After reading the Gospel Portions he had received, he desired some merchants who traded between Bookapatnam and Bellary, to procure for him in Bellary a larger book, for which he gave them one rupee; and they brought him a copy of the Telugu Bible. This he commenced to read from the beginning. He read some portions every day, strove to walk according to its holy precepts, and to reproduce in his own life *their* lives who 'walked with God,' and were the 'friends of God.' All that he learned himself he endeavoured carefully and diligently to make known to all around him, and induced several of his friends to come to his house every evening, when he read 'the book' to them and explained it as far as he could. To this course his mother and his wife at first strongly objected; and it was with great emotion they themselves told us how often they had refused to place the lamp for him in his room, or to light for him his lamp, or supply it with oil when it was required. They tried by every means to oppose him. He, however, by kind and gentle persuasions, which he ever employed as more powerful means than angry commands, not only prevailed upon them at length to help him in these small offices, but to join the company which met to hear the Word, 'which,' they said, 'soon became sweeter than honey or the honeycomb.' This party continued to meet several times in the week, and invariably on Sunday, for more than three years. (I could not find out the reason of their choosing to meet on Sunday, or what led them to keep the Sabbath.) During this time Seeta Ram, for his upright and honest conduct, the sanctity of his character, his constant, earnest, fervent prayers to the 'One God whom his neighbours did not know,' his steady unwavering opposition to idol worship, and his faith in Jesus 'the Saviour,' was revered by many, highly honoured by most, and respected by all. Very few ever attempted to oppose him none to persecute him. He had never gone more than a few miles from his native town; and had never any inclination to go far from his home, even for a short time. He was ever wearied to see the idolatry and wickedness that prevailed around him; his pious soul longed to depart to the pure realms of light and happiness above; and he was often heard to say, 'I am quite ready to depart when God shall call for me.'