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REV. J. E. CLOUGH, D.D.,
MISSIONARY TO THE TELEGUS.

Among those wonderful recitals of the "Miracles of Missions" that thrilled the attenders at the great International Missionary Conference in London three years ago, says a writer in the *Christian*, perhaps the most remarkable and thrilling of all was that of the Telegu Mission at Ongole, India. The chief human actor in this unparalleled Gospel drama has been Rev. J. E. Clough.

Mr. Clough was born at Chatauqua, in the State of New York, in the year 1836. He lived the usual life of a farmer's son till he was nearly seventeen years of age. When he was at the age of eight his parents removed to the State of Illinois, and, five years later, to Iowa, then a very "new" country; the aboriginal Indians had but recently left it. When young Clough was seventeen he joined the United States Survey, proceeding to the territory of Minnesota. Here he spent the succeeding four years, at the end of which time he had risen to the post of Deputy Surveyor under the Government, with a salary about as large as he receives to-day after more than twenty-five years' toil in the foreign mission field. Being desirous of more education, he threw up this appointment, with all its lucrative prospects, and went to college at Burlington, Iowa, thinking to study for a few years, and then enter the profession and practice of the law.

Mr. Clough had not been in college many months when the Lord turned both his heart and his head in a different direction; but it was not till two years' further study that he yielded to the unmistakable call of God. While he was studying for the Christian ministry Dr. Osgood, then a returned missionary from Burmah, came along to the college at Burlington, and that visit was the starting-point of the young student's missionary aspirations.

For five years he taught and then resigned his appointment. Immediately on his resignation being accepted, Mr. Clough offered himself to the American Baptist Publication Society as a missionary colporteur in the State of Iowa. This post he received and filled for a year. Before that period had expired he had discovered that the work of colportage would not satisfy his longings. The Committee of the American Baptist Missionary Union, to whom he had applied, invited him to Boston to meet them and in August, 1864, he was accepted as a foreign missionary.

Just then the venerable Dr. Jewett, missionary to the Telegus, was at home seeking to revive an interest in that field. For nearly thirty years the missionaries had

toiled and seen little fruit of their devoted labor. A period of discouragement set in, and it was even contemplated to withdraw the workers to another field. It came to be called the "Lone Star Mission." Dr. Jewett, however, was determined not to relinquish the work, and as he was returning to India, the Boston Committee resolved to associate Mr. Clough with him in what seemed a forlorn hope.

In November, 1864, Mr. Clough was ordained at Burlington, Iowa, and immediately started with his wife and Dr. Jewett for Madras, which was reached in March,

quest, to Ongole, some eighty miles further north, and in September, 1866, he commenced work there. Dr. Jewett had permitted him to take with him some of the converts. He divided his little company of workers into couples, and sent them to all the regions round about to deliver the Gospel message. After about three months Mr. Clough and his helpers went out on an evangelistic tour, as Ongole had got too small to hold them. Then he sent word to the villages many miles around that they had come to preach this new religion, and all who wished to hear of it

In 1876 that part of the country in which he labored was visited with a serious famine. The missionary felt it to be his duty to step into the breach and endeavor to save the lives of the people, putting on one side for the time all special evangelistic work. For about the space of two years, no baptisms of converts took place.

As an important step in the programme of relief, Mr. Clough took a Government contract for excavating some three miles of the Buckingham Canal, then in process of formation in the Telegu district. He arranged for giving employment to large numbers of the famine-stricken natives, making no distinction between professed Christians and others. The Government made money advances to him, and out of these he purchased food for the starving people. They were relieved in detachments, and when they had gained some strength they were set to work on the canal.

Mr. Clough had chosen some thirty or forty of his most reliable catechists and lay-preachers, and appointed them as overseers of the workers, while he superintended the whole. In addition to the sums received from Government, contributions for the relief fund were received from the missionary Board in America, who approved of the action that Mr. Clough had taken. When the three miles of canal were completed, Mr. Clough withdrew from further responsibility, but the native catechist undertook two miles more, and thus continued to give the natives employment. Every Lord's Day morning the catechists gathered the people together, when the missionary preached to them collectively; for the rest of the day they were looked after by the catechists, and comforted in their loneliness and absence from home. While the men were at work the overseers would carry a Bible in one hand and a measuring stick in the other, so that no opportunity of benefiting the workers spiritually might be lost.

When five miles of canal had been dug the welcome rain came; and then of course every one wanted to go home and sow their fields; meantime, however, their cattle had died, and their houses were in a terrible state of dilapidation. The people had to harness themselves to plough and harrow in order to get the grain sown and covered in. When the crop was a little grown there came a long, cold, soaking rain and killed it all. Another crop was sown in the same way as before, when a plague of locusts came and almost everything was destroyed for the second time.

The outlook was now very gloomy indeed, but Mr. Clough did not fold his hands



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1865. After the lapse of two or three weeks they proceeded to Nellore, then the headquarters of the Mission. They found matters at a very low ebb. After more than twenty-five years' hard work by earnest and faithful men there were scarcely twenty persons in connection with the Mission as converts. There seemed to be no desire on the part of the people for the Gospel message, but the reverse. They were glad to receive the benefits of secular education, but they wanted no Bible teaching.

Mr. Clough was moved, at his own re-

quest, to Ongole, some eighty miles further north, and in September, 1866, he commenced work there. Dr. Jewett had permitted him to take with him some of the converts. He divided his little company of workers into couples, and sent them to all the regions round about to deliver the Gospel message. After about three months Mr. Clough and his helpers went out on an evangelistic tour, as Ongole had got too small to hold them. Then he sent word to the villages many miles around that they had come to preach this new religion, and all who wished to hear of it

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