

thirteen hundred dollars has been expended on the additional buildings. The past winter we have had over twenty boarders, and although some have now left for the summer, we have still twelve children, eight boys and four girls. We are looking forward to a large increase of pupils next autumn, as we are now in a position to receive as many as forty pupils. As the necessary funds for the support of the homes have been supplied hitherto, we do not allow ourselves to doubt about the future. Yet I would remind our friends that increased numbers means increased expense, for besides additional provisions and clothing, it is absolutely necessary to get in the autumn an assistant to the matron, who will do the duty of seamstress.

In October last, Mr. and Mrs. Swainson left their work here to take charge of the Blood mission. Miss Perkes is to be married in May to the Rev. G. Holmes of Lesser Slave Lake. Mr. Haynes has resigned his position in the boarding school, on account of the work, and will probably go to take the place of Mr. Hinchcliffe on the Blood Reserve, who has been appointed to the Peigan mission. This almost complete change of workers is no small anxiety to me at the present time. Three weeks ago it was a great pleasure to me to admit by baptism into the visible Church of Christ, one of our old school boys, who had been for a year or more at the Elkhorn home. He was dying at the time from consumption, arising from scrofula. It was a happy day to me and to him. On Easter morn he passed away to the presence of our Risen Lord, and about midday of the same day we laid him to rest on a hill overlooking the mission, and near to the resting place of the remains of his sister, Little Katie.

J. W. TIMS.

Woman's Auxiliary Department.

"The love of Christ constraineth us."—2 Cor. v., 14.
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A SOUTH INDIAN PICNIC.

IT had been a long standing promise to our boarding-school children that on some fine holiday they should come out with me "preaching" to some Toda Mund, and when we woke up this morning the very day seemed to have arrived, for was it not a whole holiday, and the sky had not a cloud. So directly after prayers we sent out to engage a bullock cart for the little ones and to carry the cooking pots; and at last by 11 o'clock we were fairly under weigh, and our party was swelled by one or two English friends whom we invited as a last thought. After a four mile drive

through an exhilarating air, in which we passed nothing special of note except an encampment of wild-looking people who were bringing up sacks of "ragi" (a native grain), from Myson, and who during their halt had little tents pitched over their sacks to protect them in case of rain, we alighted, and leaving both bullock and pony carts by the road side, struck up the hill for the Toda "cathedral." The particular mound for which we were bound is famous as being one of the only two on the hills that possesses a temple of a conical shape something like a pagoda; they are generally bee-hive in form like the huts.

Arrived at the top of the hill the children were soon scattered here and there, some to collect sticks for the fire, others to run down the valley again to fetch water; and when I saw them fairly embarked on their way to their dinner I betook myself off to the "mund" where a salutation from me in Toda brought a chorus of "Why have you been so long in coming? You told us last time you would come again very soon." I tried to make up for past delinquencies by setting myself on the ground in the midst of the group of Toda women, and to thoroughly get their attention sang one of their own weird Toda melodies "about calling the buffaloes home as the sun was setting; for were not even the people in the towns leaving off tossing their rupees backwards and forwards and retiring to rest."

Then I told them first the story of the Good Samaritan, and afterwards the rich man and Lazarus, though so much in Toda guise that you would hardly have recognized them. For lo! the priest and Levite were turned into a Toda milkman and his assistant, and the good Samaritan appeared in the universally despised character of the poor parieeh. The rich man's purple also had become a Toda sheet, such as they wrap themselves in, and for their funeral ceremonies and other great days has one end very handsomely embroidered in dark blue cotton.

One woman of the group with a very sad face really seemed to want to make sure of heaven before the "great gulf" was "fixed," and when told believing in Jesus Christ was the way then asked what is believing in Him; and again, when she heard He was able to take away our sin asked how He would do that. Having explained to them as I was best able in Toda, I returned to the children whose rice was by this time boiling merrily in the pot, and after a little while in the sheltered nook we had found for our lunch, in a wood near, heard their Tamil "Be present at our table, Lord," sung with considerable gusto, and then for a little while the chattering ceased and there was silence while their hands passed rapidly backwards and forwards from plantain leaf to mouth.

Their curry was very good, for they had