

First Impressions of Work in India.

INDORE, APRIL 20TH, 1889.

MISS SINCLAIR:—Six weeks after reaching Indore we came to our own bungalow, and are now very comfortably settled. They would gladly have kept us at the ladies' bungalow, but, as you know, the sleeping accommodation in Indian houses is very limited. Sometimes I realize what a great distance separates me from the loved ones at home; but I have proved that He can satisfy the deepest heart desires.

We are both working away at the language—Urdu and Marathi. I find it very difficult, because Urdu is the vernacular commonly spoken in this part, and I seldom hear a word of Marathi. However, I recognize the advisability, or rather necessity, for a Marathi-speaking worker for Indore city. And even though I am eager to work, and to work as efficiently as I am able, yet I am willing, I think, to wait. But it will be months before I will have acquired even a very scant vocabulary. Since I came I have done a great deal of singing. I can read the words even if I do not know the meaning. I have started a weekly practice, for the singing in church was really very poor. Do you not think that the Gospel can sometimes be sung very effectively?

Mr. and Mrs. Campbell have gone to a hill station. I would tell you the name, but do not know how to spell it.

I have great cause for thankfulness as regards my health. Miss Rodger said a few nights ago, "It is perfectly amazing that you stand the heat as you do." And I am thankful.

Never have I had a moment's regret that I came to India when I did. There is enough of good, sound Presbyterian doctrine in me to believe that it was so fore-ordained. If I were to express an opinion on the subject, I would say that the idea in the minds of many at home—that to be an efficient worker, one must have medical knowledge—is exceedingly erroneous. It seems to me that it is of great advantage to have zenanas opened through medical visitation, but that such visitation is of little lasting effect, unless followed up by regular zenana instruction. However, perhaps I should not express any opinions until I have been here longer.