

"The tour extended from Calcutta to Rampore Beaulah on the Ganges. I went up by the Jelinghi, the only navigable river at that time of year. I visited several villages and towns. Everywhere the people received the Gospel message very gladly. Several of these villages have never been visited before. Bibles and Portions, in English and in Bengali, were sold. Greater success has attended the sale of the books this year than in former years, and the evangelistic work in the Mofussil is growing more and more interesting every year.

"The churches of God here and elsewhere can employ a portion of their resources in men and money to no better purpose during half the year.

"The educated and respectable classes now employ the preacher's time almost wholly everywhere. They do not seem tired to hear the Gospel. But I did not neglect the others. I sought out villages where largely the cultivators dwell. In one village the entire population of 100 families was Musulman. I had a hearty and warm reception there. I met an old man near the village, and began talking with him on general topics of interest. When he heard who I was, and what my errand was, he most cordially asked me to the house of the head-man of the village, whom we found seated on a low stool, spinning. As soon as I was introduced to him, he rose to welcome me, and most respectfully gave me a similar seat and offered his *kukka*. In a few minutes I was seated in a neat, well-ventilated and dry room, with perfectly clean mud walls and floor covered with red earth. Through a back door I could see the *Zanana* apartments, consisting of several neat huts surrounding a clean court-yard, studded with barns filled with grain and corn. The room was soon filled with men invited by my host, and there were about thirty women listening from the back door. I preached on sin and then showed the necessity of a Saviour, and pointed out who this Saviour was. After the discourse, they heartily entered into conversation with me on several topics raised in the address. We parted most cordially, wishing each other many blessings. I met with similar receptions at every village at which I called, and they were not a few.

"As Rampore Beaulah was the town I had planned to reach, I had to hurry on, and so could only spare an hour or two daily to stop at a place. There are very few villages on the rivers Jelinghi and Bhairab, much less than there are on the other rivers.

"In walking on the banks in the evenings, I used to talk to as many persons as I could find. One evening as I was walking alone, hearing footsteps behind me, I slackened my pace, till they came up to me. There were a man and a boy hurrying home, as they had been warned of a tiger prowling in the neighbourhood. I accosted them, and they were soon at home with me. I found the man was an ignorant Bengal peasant, whose mind is only a blank. I tried to put into his heart this simple text of Scripture: 'The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.' After some time, he took in the name 'Jesus,' and afterwards the 'blood.' He failed to grasp the word 'cleanseth.' 'Sin' was easily received. He failed to grasp the whole text, though we were together nearly half an hour. The exercise and cultivation of the minds of the common people is a work of the utmost difficulty.

"On the 14th day we reached Rampore Beaulah. I paid this visit after an absence of thirty-seven years. I began my education in the Government school, for that was the capital of my native district. I was there for six days. The preaching, and the sale of the Word of God was very encouraging. I visited and had long conversations with the people. I gave two addresses, one in Bengali and the other in English, to about 200 people, in the hall of a private gentleman's house. Another sort of public conversational address was given to a party of thirty persons. The rest of the work was from house to house, in an expository conversation. I have never met with a more hearty or a warmer reception. There is a marked progress of Christian knowledge in the community."