

relieve themselves from the stings of an accusing conscience, they would, under various pretexts, contrive as much as possible to evade joining in such worse than useless performances at all.

One of them—he whose father fell into such fits of rage—was at one time afflicted with sore eyes, which threatened to terminate in blindness. In order to ensure his recovery, instead of trusting to doctors, his parents being possessed of some substance, made two eyes of gold, which were taken to the temple of Kahi, near Calcutta, as an offering to the Goddess, to propitiate her favour towards the suffering youth. But his eyes beginning to be opened by this time, the deed had a contrary effect on his mind to what the ignorant and superstitious parents expected. Does not the continued existence of such an idolatrous custom among the Hindus to this day, forcibly remind us of its identity with the idolatrous practice of the Philistines, more than three thousand years ago, as recounted in the sixth chapter of Judges, where we read of the golden images of the emerods, or deceased enlargements of the hemorrhoidal veins, fabricated and presented for obviously similar ends?

While these young men—two of them from Bansheria—were here under probation, I received a letter from the Rev. Jagadishwar Bhattachargia, our ordained native minister at Mahanad—another of our branch stations about sixteen miles to the north of Chinsurah, and within four miles of the line of the railway to Burdwan, Ramgunge, &c.,—intimating that two young persons, one male and the other female, from the boys' and girls' schools, had come to his house, with a view to their publicly embracing the Christian faith.

The case of this girl, who is a young widow of only fourteen years of age, is to us peculiarly interesting, as being the first known to us, in which, in these quarters, a young female in one of our little girls' schools, and there receiving instruction, has been led boldly to come out from heathenism, and seek admission into the visible Church of Christ, on a profession of her own faith. Connected with the Mahanad station, there have been for some time several little girls' schools. These were originally begun, and are still much assisted by the wife of the native minister—having

been herself brought up under Miss Laing in the Calcutta orphanage. The young widow, already alluded to, became a pupil in one of these schools when first opened, and soon proved a very apt scholar, gaining and maintaining for herself the position of the first or most advanced pupil in the school. After the examination, two years ago, she was withdrawn from the school by the father, who thought she was too old to attend any longer—though then only twelve. Being expostulated with, he again allowed her to return; but her uncle and other relatives, regarding her prolonged attendance as a disgrace to their family, their influence prevailed, and she was again withdrawn.

The young girl herself, being of a quick, active, and studious turn of mind, expressed the deepest sorrow at being thus taken from school; but contrived to convey a message to Jagadishwar, beseeching him, to supply her with suitable books, which she might read at home. To this he most gladly responded, sending her the Gospels and various tracts in Bengalee, from time to time. About six months ago she sent word to him that she was ready and willing to embrace the faith of Jesus, and on the 6th of June last, she found her way to the mission house. Being known to all as a person of blameless life and character, there was no hesitation in giving her shelter.

The young man who was the means of getting her safely conducted to the mission house, was one of the highest class of the boys' school. He had long been under serious impressions, but halting between two opinions, owing to the fear of man, and the terrible ordeal awaiting him if he made known his convictions and ultimate intentions. Knowing the little girl and her friends, it was through him that books and messages were conveyed to her during the last two years. When, at her earnest request, he conducted her to the mission house, his own mind became greatly agitated. He had often intended to come himself, and as often hesitated to take the final step. But, now having brought the little girl, he began to realize his own position more keenly than ever before. He knew there would be great indignation against him in the native community for his share in the escape of the girl. He felt sure that he would be severely beaten