

who in consequence have almost ceased to take any further part in that enterprise.

Against such a position, and showing the groundlessness and falseness of such statements, we have been urged by a friend to relate a few facts, which came to our notice only a few weeks ago, evidently proving that the Bible is at any rate, in some cases, its own teacher and witness amongst the people of India.

We shall not write an essay based upon the facts referred to, nor compose a story embodying those facts; but without ornament, gloss or comment, simply tell those things which our own eyes have seen and our own ears have heard. Interpretations, deductions and comments we leave to those who learn from us the facts.

The Bellary District in South India, containing 11,496 square miles, and a population of 1,653,154, has only one Protestant Mission Station with two Missionaries situated in the town of Bellary. The vernacular languages of the districts are Canarese and Telugu, the former being spoken principally in the West and North West, the latter in the East and South East. As the Bellary Mission has always been considered a Canarese Mission, the work of the Missionaries and the native agents has been with few exceptions, until recently, confined to the Canarese part of the district, the colporteurs, however, being sent occasionally into the Telugu parts for the sale of Scripture Portions.

In compliance with a wish expressed by the Committee of the Madras Auxiliary Bible Society that we would make a tour into some parts but little visited by any Christian teacher, for the purpose of securing as wide a circulation of the Scriptures as possible, we proposed a journey through the South-East and South of the Bellary District.

This journey was undertaken in the month of February last. After visiting many large and important towns, and commending the Bible to great crowds of people, we arrived in the course of our journey, on Saturday morning, the 24th of February, at a pretty considerable town called Bookapatnam.

In a very short time after we commenced our work in this town, an unusually large number of people showed great interest in us, our work, and our books. The people of one house in particular, on the raised seat in front of which the colporteurs had placed their books and sat down, appeared very curious to know who we were, and what we were doing, and asked one colporteur what caste he belonged to. He answered in a very ingenuous manner 'we belong to that caste called—man.' This answer amused and delighted them; and they further enquired who the gentleman was who had just come into the town with them; to which he replied 'He is a son and servant of our great Father.' On hearing this reply, they, as we afterwards found out, at once concluded that we were Christian teachers, and that the books we had brought were Christian books. A conversation ensued, in which we discovered that they knew much of the Scriptures; that they were delighted at our arrival in their town; that they regarded it as an answer to their prayers, and felt grateful to God. During the day our sale of Scripture Portions was very large, and various congregations in different parts of the town listened most attentively to us whilst we read several passages from the Bible to them.

As we intended to remain in the town two or three days, we did not deem it desirable, on the Saturday, to show any very special interest in regard to the persons above referred to; neither did we put ourselves forward to elicit any information regarding the ways and means by which they had become acquainted with the Scriptures; but we carefully marked everything we heard and saw throughout the day, and oftentimes did our hearts burn within us, and our souls overflow with gratitude to God, as we saw evident signs of more or less familiarity with the Word of God in several persons here and there about the town. Before the day closed we knew full well that the Word of God had gone before us to Bookapatnam, and that it had been glo-