

Missionary Link.

CANADA

In the interest of the Baptist Foreign Mission Societies of Canada.

INDIA

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"The Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising."—Is. lx. 3.

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Josiah Burder, Our Native Preacher.

Josiah Burder is a caste man. He belongs to one of the many sub-divisions of the Shudra caste. It is called the *Kurnum* or writer caste. It is not common in the south Telugu Country, but in the north, or in Orissa is quite common.

He is about fifty years of age; is about five feet six in height; has a good round body; is of a dark olive color; has grey curly hair, rather scanty on the crown of the head; his beard, whiskers, and moustache are quite grey; the expression of his face is mildly benevolent; while he has the most beautiful and expressive eyes I have ever seen in a man.

EARLY DAYS.

He went for a short time to the school established in Chicacole, his native place, by Rev. S. S. Day, of the Missionary Union. Here he heard for the first time of the true God and Jesus Christ the Saviour.

His parents hearing the character of the teaching in the mission school, removed the young lad and had him educated according to the Hindu fashion. His naturally devout spirit, being shut out from studying the Christian religion, turned to search the Hindu systems, and, as I have often heard him say, he left no means within his reach untried of testing to the full their capacity for satisfying his spirit.

Mr. Day had left Chicacole and had been succeeded, after a number of years, by the London Mission agents.

BECOMES A CHRISTIAN.

Heathenism, or rather Hinduism, could not satisfy Josiah's mind. He sought out the missionary, told his story of unrest—was directed to the Lamb of God and became a devoted disciple.

He entered the school at Chicacole, and soon became a teacher, and subsequently a preacher in the mission.

But little by little the missionary became an Indigo merchant, and Josiah his financial agent. The merchant-missionary failed in business as he deserved to do, and Josiah left.

SEEKS SECULAR EMPLOYMENT.

From Chicacole Josiah went to Ganjam in Orissa, and became a writer in the Irrigation Department at a good salary. While engaged in this work he did not forget the souls of his fellow-men. By his knowledge of Oriá he was able to preach on Sundays and in the evenings as occasion offered. Col. Coles, a pious engineer of the Public Works

Department, noticing his uniformly consistent conduct and great zeal, induced him to devote his whole time to preaching, while he, out of his private purse paid his salary.

BECOMES A BAPTIST.

While in Ganjam he came in contact with Rev. Dass-Anthravady, Pastor of the Baptist church, in the 41st Regiment, Madras, Native Infantry, a native Telugu. They had many fierce contests on the question of baptism, in which Josiah was eventually defeated, convinced and baptized. Shortly after reaching Cocanada, Bro. Gabriel spoke to me about Josiah, and wished me to send for him. Negotiations were opened which resulted in his starting in Jan. 1875, for our missions.

COMES TO COCANADA.

He reached our compound a few weeks after Gabriel had gone to Heaven. After seeing and speaking with him, we came to the conclusion that the Lord had sent him instead of Gabriel, whom He had called home. He had served His purposes thus far with Gabriel, now He needed another man, and He removed the first to make room for the second,—and He doeth all things well.

Physically, Josiah is, for a Hindu, active; mentally, he is clear rather than profound; meditative rather than metaphysical; studious and thoughtful, thoroughly versed in the religious customs and ceremonial of the Hindus; and has few peers in ability, in dealing with cavilling Brahmans. His knowledge of their scriptures is very extensive, while his facility in quoting the Word of God, and showing its beauty and purity in comparison with theirs, makes him an opponent to be shunned.

In his dealings with the native Christians he is kind,—yet firm,—and in his contact with the heathen conciliating and convincing.

The following incidents will illustrate some traits in his character:—One evening while we were all sitting chatting on the veranda, Josiah began telling of his experiences during the day—preaching in the streets—his conversation with the people and their eagerness to hear. Some one made the remark that it was pleasant to be so engaged, "Oh yes," said he, "my rice never tastes sweet to me in the evening, unless I have told some one about Jesus during the day."

Again, when Nathan Gabriel was making trouble among the Christian villages, he and Josiah came to the same village to spend the evening. Nathan by his arrogance and injustice had so exasperated the people that, stick in hand they were about expelling him supperless from the village. Josiah, though he had been vilified and abused in every possible way by Nathan, quieted the people and induced them to leave him unmolested. And when he could not prevail on the people to give Nathan supplies—gave him food from his scanty stock and sent him in safety on his way. "If thine enemy hunger, feed him."

He is a good man, full of faith and of the Holy Ghost; and much people are added to the Lord. May God long spare his valuable life to be a bright and shining light to his people and country.

J. McLaurin.

The China Inland Mission.

(Continued.)

"Then, in regard to means, our trust in God was not disappointed. On the morning of the 24th of May, when we met for our usual hour of prayer for China, I remarked, 'The Lord has lessened our correspondence, as I suggested might be the case, but this has involved lessened contributions. We must ask Him to remind some of His wealthy stewards of the need of the work.' I added up the amounts received by me from May 4th to the 24th, and found they came to £68 6s. 2d. I then added, 'This is nearly £235 less than our average expenditure in China for three weeks. Let us remind the Lord of it!' We did so.

"That evening the postman brought a letter, which, when opened, was found to contain a cheque for £235 7s. 9d., to be entered, 'From the sale of plate.' Thus the Lord made up the sum asked for, and even more, for the next morning the first half of a £5 note was also received from another donor. I need not say how joyfully we thanked God at our little prayer meeting, an hour or two later, for thus caring for our far-off brethren, and how earnestly God's blessing was asked for the bountiful donors and their families. Dear readers, 'trust in Him at all times'; you will never have cause to regret it."—*China's Millions*, 1875, p. 19.

"On the afternoon of October 14th we wrote to our brethren, Mr. S. B. Drake and Mr. W. L. Eliston, telling them that, the missionary party having left us, we were able to receive them with a view to their early departure for China. We mentioned that we had not a penny in hand towards the expenses of their going out, but reckoned, as heretofore, on the faithfulness of God to supply all that was needed. These letters were posted at 5.15. By the 9 o'clock delivery of that same night, a letter reached us from a distant European capital, containing donations for several objects. And amongst them one hundred pounds to pay the passages of two new missionaries to the very districts to which we had designated the above-named brethren. The kind donor knew nothing of the circumstances in which we were placed; but God, who knew all, had anticipated the prayers of that very day, and laid several needs, which we met by that letter, on the heart of his servant. In writing to these two brethren, whom we had known as desirous of serving the Lord in China, for two or three years, we had, as usual, to act in faith; but our readers will notice how soon after the Lord justified that faith which rested on His own sure word of promise. Mr. A. G. Parrott, who has been preparing for work in China about the same time, accompanies them."—*China's Millions*, Dec., 1878.

"On Friday, February 21st, we were able to make no remittance to China; and the funds were not yet in hand for the outfits and passages of some of the party expected to sail from Marseilles on March 9th. Under these circumstances it was remembered with thankfulness how frequently—nay, almost invariably—God has given special tokens of his readiness to help, about the time of a departure of new missionaries; and at the daily prayer-meeting from twelve to one o'clock, with