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# W. B. M. U. TIDINGS

Vol 2 Amherst, N. S., August, 1895. No 21

## MOTTO FOR THE YEAR

"Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak for your work shall be rewarded."

## LETTER FOR "TIDINGS."

This is almost an ideal day for while the sun is shining too brightly for us to venture out of doors, we have a refreshing breeze which is certainly one of our blessings, for when we do not have it, the days are very sultry, at this, the beginning of the hot season. Looking out from our front door, we see such a beautiful landscape. Near at hand are plants and flowering shrubs with bright foliage, while farther away are the large evergreen trees, found only in the tropics.

To-night, directly opposite the same door, the southern cross will rise about nine o'clock. I remember how anxiously we all watched, for several nights, on the steamer for the first glimpse of it, and the feeling of awe it inspired, when at last it was seen. Would that all the inhabitants of this fair land might be as eager to see the cross of calvary in its beauty. More and more does the thought impress itself upon me, that of India as well as of

Ceylon it may well be said, "That every prospect pleases, and only man is vile." It is heart-rending to think that living amidst such beautiful natural surroundings, so many have not the faintest idea of the eternal God who made this world as well as themselves, and yet there are many who have little, or no faith in their own gods, but because of custom dare not break away from caste, and seek to know the truth. You in the home land (whom the truth has made free) pray earnestly for this poor benighted people (the mothers and daughters especially for they are the most downtrodden,) that brighter days may soon come for them, when the message of salvation will find entrance into their hearts. It is the gospel, the old, old gospel that this nation needs.

To me, being here only a few months, there comes a feeling of sadness as I notice the little real kindly feeling shown by the higher caste for the lower. It is great merit to give to a Brahmin (a god of the earth, as he considers himself) who perhaps is fat and lazy, but a poor pariah (who may be indeed in such a pitiable state as to make one's heart fairly ache) is supposed to have sinned, and therefore should bear his sufferings, and have no aid.

The cow is an object of such reverence that to kill one is regarded as a greater sin than to kill a low, or non-caste man, although when it becomes old, and

useless they allow it to starve to death, saying they do it no harm.

Last week here in the town, one of the keepers of the rajahs' elephants had taken an elephant to tank for water, and while there cruelly beat it, he had done the same thing several times before, and the animal had borne the treatment patiently, but this time becoming enraged, broke his chain, seized the keeper with his trunk, and crushed him, then ran through the town; the principal street was crowded as usual, and in the confusion two men could not get out of his path, so were grasped in his trunk and killed. The elephant could not be captured, and it was supposed he had gone to the woods, but the next morning he was at his old quarters at the rajah's and was as quiet as usual. The incident will soon be forgotten by the natives but not by the missionaries, for they realize that by the unkind act of one, three people have gone with no hope for the eternal life.

As in all countries where the people are ignorant, superstition prevails. Lamine things are used as objects of worship. We had a good illustration of this on the mission compound. Some carpenters who were repairing the roof of the bungalow every morning before beginning work, worshipped their tools by bowing to them with hands folded

against their foreheads. They did this so that they would not get injured while using them. This custom may seem foolish to us, but to them it is religion which only the grace of God can change

**CLARA L. COREY.**

**Vizianagram, April 1895.**

