

AMONG THE HEATHEN IN INDIA

Some of the Things That Make a Missionary's Work Difficult in Many Ways

MY DEAR FRIENDS:

About four months in the year have passed since I was appointed to the Shankerpalli Circuit, and I have been busy all the time, taking every opportunity to tour in the villages, and yet I wish that I had done more, for there is so much to be done, and I feel that the out stations cannot be visited too often.

The Bible women, stationed in the district villages away from all Christian influences, surrounded by temptations, have the responsibility placed upon them of shepherding and instructing the new converts; and they require all the help and encouragement they can get to carry on this work. We do thank God for some faithful women who in being saved themselves are helping to save others.

I have made several tours through the circuit and find that the people are waking up to a sense of their responsibility. In many instances we have heard the testimony that "Christ alone can save"; and from many places comes the call, "Send us a teacher, we want to be Christians". It has been possible to heed these calls and appoint teachers to only two places, and still there are many villages where Christian people are left without religious instruction. Although special stress has been laid on developing the character of the Christians rather than on making new converts, yet the gospel has been spreading through the influence of friends and relatives of the Christians, and fresh fields have been opened up. Another source through which the gospel has been spreading is the medical work. There being no doctor within fifty miles of Vikarabad, people come to us from distant villages and ask for the Christians medicine. A great number of people have been reached through this means, whereas otherwise might never have heard of Christ.

I have been enjoying much the privilege of living with the Bible women in the out stations, working with them, sharing in their troubles and rejoicing with them in times

One of the workers was having great trouble in starting a Sunday School. He had been to the place several times and was able to get together just three children every Sunday. He suggested that all of us—Bible women too, go to the village and try to work up enthusiasm among the people. Accordingly we went. As we entered the village we saw some girls carrying some stones and earth on their heads, helping to build a house. As soon as they saw us they said "Here comes the kidnappers; run, run!" We immediately sat down and began to unroll the Bible pictures and to sing. Soon curiosity got the better of them, and one by one they timidly gathered around. Older people, too, came and began to ask questions about the pictures which we gladly explained to them. They were much impressed when they heard the story of Christ and what he suffered for our sins. One man was much moved and exclaimed, "Not for me, not for me; O teacher, go to those who can live the Christ life; as for me, I cannot, I am full of sin". We talked to him a long time, pointing him to the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world. At last he said, "Teach me and the children too." We explained to them that it being Sunday, we had come especially for the sake of the children to teach them to sing and to know Christ. It was hard at first to get them to make any attempt at singing. They would listen to us but would not open their mouths. Finally an old man said, "People, let us learn; they are learning in other villages; why should not we?" So he led in the singing and every one joined in.

If there was no time or tune to the verse there certainly was a joyful noise. They seemed to think they knew every song and would join in vigorously. Our hearts were gladdened and each one felt God's Spirit was working, and that He was pouring out a rich blessing upon them. There were thirty-five children in the Sunday school by the time we got

through. We moved on to another part of the village and the crowd still followed, increasing in number. Although we were there hours and it was after nine o'clock in the night, yet the people were loath to let us go. But we promised to come again.

Another time our hearts were much burdened on account of the condition of the Christians in a certain village. They were once spiritually minded, but for some reason had partly gone back into heathenism. We prayed much about this, that God would send a revival among them; and at the same time we were working for that purpose. We visited them in their homes, met them at their work, and then had a special meeting for two evenings. These were poorly attended, and there was no response from those who did come. We felt sad, and thought perhaps it was not yet God's time for a revival. We decided to move our camp to another village and when we were in all readiness to go, early next morning word came to us that the baby of one of the chief men—a Christian—had died very suddenly during the night. They could not account for the child's death as he had been in perfect health. We went at once to comfort the parents. When asked whether they wanted a Christian burial for the child, after some hesitation and much consultation they decided they did, so we began at once to make preparation. Soon the word got about and the people from the neighboring villages came to see this new thing. A Christian burial. The heathen too bury their dead. But how? After the face of the corpse has been disfigured by paints—this being done to specify the merits of various deities—amidst great shouting and beating of drums the body is put into the grave which is barely one foot deep. The piece of old cloth which covers the body is removed so that it may answer the purpose of clothing for another member of the family. If the remains be that of a grown person, then it is covered over with some brush; if not, it matters not. The burial takes place generally by the bank of a river where it is easy to dig the earth. Then a stick with a rag attached to it is planted by the grave in order to frighten away the wild animals. The animals can see through this deception and often come and dig up the body and thus get their feast the very first night. The heathen have no hope of the resurrection and their grief knows no control. But the Christian way of doing is different. A deep grave was dug, a garment was made for the child out of one of my skirts. As we went on with the preparations the people listened to us. We told them that there is a resurrection day, that the spirit of the little one had gone to be with Him who gave it, and we too some day may see Him. We told them of heaven and of the things that are being prepared for us. The tears streamed down many faces; some old women said that all they could wish was to be buried as Christians when they died, and we told them how much more important it was to live like Christians. God's Spirit worked in the hearts of the people and we rejoiced to see the answer to our prayers. Over and over again came the words to my mind, "A little child shall lead them."

We thank God for the power of the gospel. We realize more than ever that "His word shall not return void, but it shall accomplish that which He pleases." Oh the great need for more workers and we believe that God who owns all things will supply this great need. In the Master's service,
RUTH A. PARTRIDGE.

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Dr. J. H. Kittredge, dentist, at Anderson house 25th and 26th of each month.

Children's Day

"Children's Day,—what does it mean?"

"Not that we should simply gather together one day in the year to sing out our sweet songs of gladness and work well done or just one day in the year, to rehearse the sweet story of Christ and his love, but rather a fore-cast of what every day may and must be to every boy and girl in this grand commonwealth. While there are many happy hearts and homes because of a knowledge of God's love to his people, which always includes the children, we must not forget, no never forget the fact, that there are 12,000,000 children in these United States who have no Sabbath school privileges, and nearly 2,000,000 children in this commonwealth who are working in mines and factories, and while we are sad because of such condition we must never allow ourselves to rest until the principles of Christianity are fully interpreted and have an all round application in the uplifting and enlightenment of every boy and girl in this land of the free and home of the brave. Suppose we recognize the rightful rule of Christ as both prophet, priest and king and now and forever break away from sin and sinful rule—adopt and apply our heavenly Father's universal law of peace on earth and good will to man as wrought out for us through the sacrifice of Jesus—how long do you suppose it would be until these 12,000,000 children would be learning the sweet story of love and obedience? How long until every child would be taken out of mines and factories and established in its inalienable birthright—to be trained in the nurture and admonition of the Lord? May God hasten the day when the sunlight of the universal law of love may drive out the darkness from every stronghold of iniquity.

"Mrs. M. E. POLSON"

Woodman Memorial day was observed in the usual manner last Sunday by the local camp. The members of the order met at the hall and from there marched to the cemetery, where the graves of the six deceased Woodmen were strewn with flowers and the ritual service was read. Three of the deceased Neighbors were members of the local camp at the time of their death, while the other three held membership elsewhere. It is a commendable feature of this order that its members are not forgotten after death, one day being set apart in each year for a memorial day, when the graves of all departed members are visited and decorated with flowers.

Notice of Special School Election

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of the School District of Laclede, in Linn county, Missouri, that a special election will be held at the public school building in said district on
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1911,
at which election there will be submitted to the qualified voters of said district a proposition to increase the annual rate of taxation to the amount of twenty cents on each \$100 of the assessed valuation of said district, for the purpose of raising funds with which to repair the school building therein, and purchasing new desks for and furnishing said school building.

The polls will be opened at seven o'clock a. m. and closed at six o'clock p. m. of said day.
Done by the order of the Board this 26th day of May, 1911.
C. C. BIGGER, Secretary.

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Sheridan, Wyoming	\$34.00	Circuit tour including North Pacific Coast and California	\$69.90
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