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# Eastern Tidings

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## The Eastern Tidings

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### Field Reports

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#### NAJIBABAD

THE people have taken us by storm and will not let us settle. We had only been here an hour when they came begging us to go and see a sick woman. We told them we were not ready for work, but they begged, and so we went and gave the woman treatment. We did not get our breakfast until dinner time, and so combined the two. This woman was very ill, but as she is now much better we feel repaid.

We have given her three treatments, and her people are much pleased. They are wealthy merchants. To-day as we were leaving the house they begged us to go and see another sick woman near by. We went and found her suffering intensely, so gave her treatment. This morning I went to see Brother Massia, who has been sick with fever for three weeks. Brother Burgess and I gave him a thorough treatment. Miss Kurtz and I called to-night to see a sick woman and found her trouble to be chronic, so made arrangements for her to come to the dispensary. This made four patients to-day. They all live at the other end of

town, and it takes some time to go and come.

We have plenty of room here, and from the looks of things now will be busy. I cleaned the front room to-day, the one we shall use as a dispensary. I think there is a good opening here. The people are very friendly and seem so glad to have us with them.

M. BELLE SHRYOCK.

#### A RECENT EXPERIENCE

VILLAGE work in India, even among the low caste, is not always easy. We passed through an experience recently that tried our strength to the utmost, and made us long for one of our able ministers to be present.

Our medical workers were passing through a Mohammedan village, when they were invited to attend a meeting at which a priest from Calcutta was present. Not being familiar with the language, they could only gather that our religion was being scoffed at by this priest, who was very familiar with the Bible. They drove back to the bungalow for one of our Santal boys and me to go and defend our faith. We went over, and the priest began to ask questions. He wanted to know if the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost were one. We answered him, and then he wanted to know if Christ was God's Son. This led to the question of his being born of a woman, and if he was still God's Son when a man on the earth. He then attempted to prove that Christ was a sinner from the

statement, "Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is God."

I could see from his questions that he was only trying to catch us, and was undecided whether we should remain or not. But all about us were Mohammedans who begged us to remain, as they wanted to know which religion was correct. We talked until 10 o'clock at night, and arranged a meeting for the next day at 1:00. Before the time of meeting, they sent a man to take us over, and when we arrived they wanted us to go into the bazar, as Hindus, as well as Mohammedans, wished to hear the discussion. I positively refused for two reasons. I feared a quarrel between the Hindus and the Mohammedans, and then, as I explained, I was unaccustomed to work in such a public place. They seemed determined to have us go, but I would not. Finally, the priest said, "Well, then, we won't have the meeting." "Very well," I said, "We have come at your call; please yourselves."

The Mohammedan community would not listen to this, so they brought out chairs, table, etc., to make us comfortable. In the meantime, all the leading Hindus in the bazar gathered about us; and the priest finally again began to ask questions. We were at a disadvantage in not being allowed to ask him questions. This time he tried to show that Christ was a sinner from the text in John 7th chapter, where he told his brethren to go to the feast and that his time had not yet full come. The Urdu Bible reads, "At that time Jesus also went up in secret." He tried to make Jesus out a liar, because he went up immediately. We read from the Hindi Bible, from the Bengali Bible, and from the English Bible, the ninth verse, in which it says he abode still in Galilee. Some, I believe, were convinced, and the priest for a time was nonplussed. He

quickly aroused, however, and called our attention to Matt. 27:9, the quotation from Jeremiah the prophet. He then boldly declared, "If you can find such a statement in Jeremiah, I will be a Christian. Your Bible is full of mistakes." I told him if we could find a hundred such texts he would not be a Christian. I then asked for only five minutes to prove from the Scriptures that Christ came as a fulfilment of prophecy; but he would hear nothing more. "No," he said, "we cannot believe a book full of mistakes."

Although at the last he apparently gained a victory, nevertheless, I believe some good was accomplished. I am waiting for them to quiet down, when I will again try to begin work among them. We are holding regular Bible studies with a Mohammedan in this village who has a Bible and reads it to his neighbours. Just how they will receive us we cannot say, but we do believe they can do nothing against the truth, but for it."

DELLA BURROWAY.

#### HOW WE ENTERED INDAPUR

AFTER much delay and great anxiety, the way seemed open for us to locate in Indapur, a town eighty-four miles from Poona and fourteen miles from the nearest railway station. The Lord so graciously opened the hearts of all concerned that we have the privilege of using any of the Government or Irrigation bungalows in our district for eight annas a day. As there are about six of them in this one taluca, it is evident that we shall find a place to live.

The Indapur taluca is forty miles long and twenty wide, with a population of seventy thousand living in about one hundred towns and villages. It is wedged in between the Bhima and Nira rivers, which form the boundary on three sides and join

at the south-eastern corner. North, east, and south of us is a long stretch of territory which is unoccupied by any mission. The greatest objection to the country is that owing to a scarcity of rain the people are very poor and the country somewhat sparsely settled. However, there is an average of one hundred eighteen inhabitants to the square mile in this taluca.

Indapur town has a population of fifty-five hundred. There is one other town ten miles distant with a population of four thousand three hundred, and eighteen towns with more than a thousand population. Running across the southern part of the taluca is the Nira canal, which makes that part very fruitful.

We were anxious to get a foothold before the excessive heat, so after several delays had our plans laid to leave Poona February 1. Unfortunately, an attack of Grippe took occasion to visit us at the same time, so we were compelled to leave under unfavourable conditions healthwise.

Not being able to get a bullock cart at the station, we pushed on to the nearest bungalow with our wheels and the two children only to find no furniture and hence the questionable pleasure of only a hard dung floor. The next morning we came on in the trying heat and against a heavy head wind, arriving quite exhausted at 3 p. m. (Friday). We did not have time to investigate the water supply carefully, but accepted that which the people assured us must be all right, as it was the same as they drank. The next morning we examined the well, which was a very good one only somewhat riley owing to its constant use for irrigation purposes. We passed on to the next one, which our boy assured us was better, for he got good water there. We found No. 2 in the midst of a Mohammedan graveyard and full of dead leaves. On returning to

well No. 1, which was a step well, we were startled to find a man down in it washing his clothes. He had just finished, and they looked very white. When we protested, a bystander exclaimed, "But, Sahib, he is a Brahman." There was another step well near the dispensary, which had up a notice forbidding clothes washing, so I hastened there only to have my hopes dashed to the ground. It was near the pariah quarters and the women were just coming down in the early morning for water. Each one washed her feet nearly to her hips, then her hands and arms, her face, and after that her mouth, casting what water was left back into the well. After washing her dusty, grimy water vessel, she was ready to dip it down in the same spot and bear it home full for drinking and cooking purposes. After a morning's careful search with such results, our feelings can be imagined.

However, we started work the next week. We have with us three native workers, two of whom have their families with them. We have Marathi worship together at sunrise, morning preaching in the town, a noon Bible class studying together various points of present truth, and preaching services in the town in the evening. We have also started a day school in the low caste quarters which promises to be a great help to our work. The people all are very friendly, and we have had tokens of God's care and blessing.

Next month we shall have to leave on account of the heat during that month and the next, but we hope to have the work so organized that with a little looking after it can go forward uninterruptedly. With the exception of a little mission work done in Indapur many years ago, we are in virgin territory, the great majority of the people never having heard the name of Jesus. Brother and Sister Kelsey are making good use of this transition period of our work by putting in full time studying the language under a good pundit in Poona. By the time the money arrives to enable us to locate permanently, they will have a splendid start along this line.

Pray for us.

Geo. F. ENOCH.

# The Eastern Tidings

LUCKNOW,

MARCH, 1910

Printed by W. E. Perrin, at the Watchman Press, 19 Banks Road, Lucknow.

—WE understand that two nurses from America sailed from England the 11th instant on their way to this field. They will assist in the work at Mussoorie.

—ELDER MILLER and family, also Brother and Sister Weeks, go this week to Annfield to open up and prepare for another busy season, as seems evident now from all indications.

—DR. MENKEL spent last Sabbath in Lucknow on his way to Mussoorie. Mrs. Menkel was detained at Karmatar by the illness of Carl, but came through yesterday and went on up with the Doctor.

—As a sort of earnest that Elder Evans will surely reach India some time, word has been received that upon his arrival here he will audit all the Mission books. However, no date is set for his coming.

—RECENT word assured us that Brother Shaw is improving in strength and getting alone nicely. Of course, his sympathy, as well as that of Sister Shaw, is with India; however, it will be some time before his strength will justify returning to the work in a tropical climate.

—AT last Sabbath's services here in Lucknow the matter of the \$300,000 fund was taken up, and it was decided that we would help on it and raise one-half of our quota this year. Let all our people in this field do the same; we expect to share in the benefit to be derived from the apportionment of the fund; why not share also in the blessing of raising the fund?

—OUR hand press, which has been mentioned two or three times, has arrived and is doing good work. We are now happy and satisfied—until such time as we may reasonably expect other needed things from America and England. We are going to some expense now-a-days; but we hope that by the time the work is fully organized and large demands are made of us we shall be ready to put out all the printed matter that is required.

—BROTHER AND SISTER WEEKS arrived two weeks ahead of the date mentioned in last month's EASTERN TIDINGS, and found no one at Bombay to meet them, and on making their way to Poona found no one at Elder Enoch's to greet them. However, the servant opened up the house to them, and in a day or two Elder Enoch's returned. After a few days there they came on to Lucknow. All are glad to welcome them to this field, and we trust that with the help of Brother Poley, who reached Lucknow evening after the Sabbath, Brother Weeks will be able to accomplish much good in the canvassing work.

—WE here in Lucknow were very much surprised a short time since to learn that soon after locating with Dr. Oerholtzer, Miss Seecrist learned that she would not be able to remain and labour in the tropics. The advice of the civil surgeon was that she return at once, and so on the 5th instant she sailed from Rangoon for America. All are sorry that it seemed necessary for her to return, but hope that she may have health to do much good in the homeland.

—FRIENDS of Miss Smith will be glad to know that so far as Aden she had a pleasant voyage and was sick only one day. She wrote that it was good to know the Lord was leading, and that she did not come out to India on her own initiative, neither was she returning of her own personal choice. She wished to be remembered to all her friends, who will hope and pray that she may enjoy improved health at home.

—BROTHER AND SISTER BURGESS broke camp here at Lucknow the first of the month, and went to Denra Dun for a few days, where a meeting of the Hindustani brethren was held Sabbath, the 5th. Elder Wellman also was present and conducted an ordinance service.

“THE way for Christ's coming is to be prepared. In this sacred work no worldly schemes or practices are to be adopted. Those who work for the Lord should labour diligently and self-sacrificingly. Christ gave himself for us, and he calls for workers who will share in his self-denial. Let us remember that we are working for the Master above, not for ourselves, and that we can make the way easy for him to accomplish his work in the world. He foresees all the possibilities before those who work unselfishly.”