TIDINGS
FROM
A. B. F. M. SOCIETY
IN
BENGAL-ORISSA
INDIA.

Jan., 1921. No. 1.

Sinclair Orphanage and Tank.

O Master, let me walk with thee In lowly paths of service free:
Tell me thy secret; help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.
Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear-winning word of love:
Teach me the wayward feet to stay And guide them in the homeward way.
Teach me thy patience; still with thee In closer, dearer company.
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, In trust that triumphs over wrong.
What?

A means of teaching directly many friends of individual Missionaries, as well as friends of Bengal-Orissa Mission as a whole, who never see a letter or perhaps a printed article from a missionary whom they know personally.

Why?

Pastors and churches realize the need as well as the benefit of the local church bulletin, which makes the work of the church known to all its members, and the personal items within the church circle all tend to create interest and sympathy. It, in truth, becomes the church family news letter. In a similar way our missionaries have seen the need of a medium, other than letter-writing in order that a larger number of our constituency might feel the personal relation a little closer. Since the passing of the Missionary Helper, one year ago, the need is greater than ever before.

To fill these needs therefore the Bengal-Orissa Tidings is sent forth. Will not anyone in whose hands copies may be placed kindly consider himself a committee of one to extend notice of the arrival of the B-O Tidings. Copies may be had at the Rooms, 276 Fifth Ave., New York City.

E. G. M.

BHIMPORIE.

The annual Teachers’ Convention at Bhimpore was attended by seventy five teachers. A wave of malarial fever was sweeping the country at the time and many were sick and unable to be present. The lectures and classes were of special interest and help to the teachers. Pundit Samuel Das conducted evangelistic services each evening during the Convention which were attended by all the teachers. While no public decisions were made during the Convention the meetings were of great interest and we feel sure that the truth presented will bear fruit.
Good for Sore Eyes.

The Teachers' Convention was followed by the annual examinations. The number taking the examination passed the three hundred mark this year. As no building was available large enough to hold them the examinations were held under the great banyan tree in the Mission Compound. Straw mats had been prepared and the sight of 300 children each on his little mat with ink-well and paper, working away on the questions was a sight to be remembered.

There is a great deal of malarial fever this year and of a very severe type. During the month of November the out-patients at the Bhimpore Dispensary numbered 1718. Standing in line three feet apart they would reach just a mile.

The new bungalow is very nearly completed. Mr. Oxreider is pushing the work that it may be ready to move his family into it before going out into the District for Evangelistic work the first of January.

Ruth and Mona Oxreider came down from Darjeeling Dec. 1st. Both have rosy cheeks and the house seems quite like a home again with two kiddies skipping about.

These are days of great things and we who have seen "other days" at Bhimpore are finding ourselves saying "These are Historic days." Why? Well, imagine us two memsahibs and our sahibs, all of us coming out to Bhimpore in the Station Ford—a truly car! I simply had to pinch myself and seat companion to emphasize the fact!—That Ford sure is a great thing for Bhimpore! Just the other day the Oxreider family went to Midnapur to shop and returned between sunrise and sunset. No wonder we say history is not repeating, but beating itself! Then right across the way—we can see it from our front veranda—is a big new house. Sometimes I think for a second that is a dream—well it is a dream come true! yes, and prayers answered. Two houses and two families living in Bhimpore—that is History—sacred history too!

E G. M.

MIDNAPUR.

A Year in India.

This past year has been broken up into many parts. I began language study within a few days after my arrival. If multiplicity of
teachers tends to proficiency in learning Bengali, surely I should be able to speak most fluently for I have had six. But alas, often "too many cooks spoil the broth." I should not urge others to try the same experiment unless necessary.

After Miss Daniels left us for America, Miss Bond and I continued our language study with frequent unavoidable interruptions until the beginning of the hot season. We went to Darjeeling the last of April where we remained for study until the middle of October. We returned to the plains in time for our Indian yearly meeting and Annual Conference. Since then I have been busy preparing for my first year examination. That is past and now the holiday rush is on.

The coming year promises plenty of opportunity for work along with the language study. We only pray that we may be given faith, patience and wisdom to meet the tasks as they come.

Elsie Barnard.

Interest in the Midnapore Hospital

Mrs. Cook, our Magistrate’s wife, invited us to take tea with her on the 9th of December, stating that following the social hour, there would be a meeting at which plans would be suggested for arranging for linen and articles of clothing for the needy patients at the hospital.

Due to illness, only about twenty were able to be present at the tea. Later, however, fifteen or twenty of our Indian friends joined us for the business meeting.

A generous amount of money was given that afternoon, and a subscription list was circulated later so as to make it possible for all friends to contribute to the worthy cause.

Mrs. Cook kindly consented to receive the contributions and to purchase the needed articles. Much interest was shown, the gathering was greatly enjoyed, and we believe most profitable. M. E. Bond.

"We are having a fine time in Mofussil. First we stopped at Bhangamora, a place seven miles west of Midnapore where we lived in tents a few days; then we came six miles further west to the Dak bungalow in Chandra, now we have come two miles further where we are living in tents again, and Tuesday we go on to Dahajuri where we will find another Dak bungalow."
Its a fine life and we are all enjoying it—Bible women, preachers and we. Judson's cheeks are as rosy as can be and he promises to make a happy worker in Mofussil—busy and cheery all day long. Ayah is able to help a little in the work here, for there are many Santals. We are touching many who have never before heard of Jesus. I hope this field can be worked every year now. We're so thankful for helps—the flute, the autoharp, the magic lantern, the willing spirit of the workers, and even for the baby; for he is a great attraction.”  MABEL R. LONG.

---

BALASORE.

“Dear—

I will tell you a few of the things we did last week. Harold and I went to call on one of the Hindu boy’s parents Friday afternoon. The boy, Bipin, is sixteen years old and about as tall as Robert. He is studying in the Junior class in the High School and has a very bright face. Miss Coe had told us that one of her teachers had held a Sunday School in his village, but she (the teacher) had been sick and could not attend for a month, but Bipin kept the School going just the same. He has learned lots of Bible verses and Christian hymns. His folks were very pleased to see us, and told Miss Coe they thought it must be because Bipin had kept the S. S. going that we came to see them.

Miss Coe says she can see from this one case what a lot of good will be done by our going to the homes of all our Hindu boys as we hope to do now that we have a car to use.

Sunday morning Robert, Kenneth, Gordon and Wilbur went with me to call at one of our Christian houses where a son had been very ill with black water fever, but had been restored to health after the doctor had given up hope. His mother said the Hindu people had helped them a lot. I asked “What Hindu people?” She said “Boys from the Hindu Boarding. They prayed for our Christian God to make him well.” Harold smiled when I told him about it and said he had been giving a course of lectures on the Bible and Social Living and teaching them to help each other especially in sickness. I hear that the Assistant Surgeon—a Hindu—when calling to treat the sick boy, overheard the prayers of some of our Christians by the boy’s bed-side and was quite impressed by his recovery.
Saturday we took the whole family to call at Hem Babu’s house. He is a lawyer in Government employ and has a son in the High School. They have an enormous house with beds, tables, mirrors—more furniture than one often sees. A brother and three sisters (widows probably) with their children make up the family. The sister told me I was a nice lady! While we were there a woman came with some big crabs to sell. They were alive and the boys wanted them to play with, so the Babu, bought a couple, paying two annas (four cts.) for them. The boys were much excited over them, but the next day they were dead, so they were cooked and the boys had them for breakfast. One day the boys went to Mrs. Taylor’s and came home with a little goat three or four months old which she had given them. Robert told her they would bring some pice to pay for it the next day, but she said No; she was giving it “by her love” as Robert said. It is a great pet. This morning the boys went to walk with me as I had an errand in a near-by village to see a sick girl and Robert took the goat along leading it by a rope.

One of the Boarding boys has a baby rabbit with which our boys sometimes play, so you see they are finding things to do all the time.

The cool weather has come and Gordon and Wilbur are already looking better than they were.

Yours affectionately———.

---

Kharagpur

Program of the Christmas Week.

Tuesday, Dec. 21—An illustrated sermon on the life of Christ. Lantern slides showing the principal events will be used. Very interesting for children as well as adults. Time 6-15 P.M.

Saturday, Dec. 25—Christmas Service, Communion, 8 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 26—Sunday School Program, Time 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 28—Illustrated sermon, Lantern slides will be used. Again the children will want to come as well as the grown ups. Time 6-15 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 31—Annual New Year's Social at the Parsonage, followed by a Watch Night Service in the Church. Everybody welcome. Time 8-30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 2—A New Year's sermon with appropriate music. Time 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 8—Annual Sunday School Picnic. Open to everybody. This date is subject to change if necessary. Watch for further announcements.

Just Ourselves.

Dr. and Mrs. Murphy arrived in Calcutta, October 18th, and the following day were off to Balasore for the Annual Conference after which they left for Bhimpore where they were gladly welcomed and where they are already "up to their eyes" in work.

Rev. J. A. Howard and family arrived in Calcutta, December 17th and spent Christmas in Midnapore with Mr. and Mrs. Long and Judson Rix. Contai is eagerly waiting for them.

Mrs. Clark of Santipore is talking of taking a visit home to Australia with the two children in the coming Spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Tasker spent a few days in December at Sinclair Orphanage, Balasore, where she used to be the Superintendent as Miss Gaunce.

Mr. Ager and his wife are spending the Christmas holidays with her sister Mrs. Chapman at Balasore.

Miss Barnes from Jellasore spent Christmas in Balasore. She is everything to the community where she lives—Advisor, Judge, Physician, Teacher, Companion, and Shining Example.

Mr. and Mrs. Grimes with their son Harold are spending a short time at the Orphanage where she was formerly Superintendent as Miss Dawson. They have been taking a short furlough in Australia.
SANTIPORE.

All the Evangelistic force who were out in the District came in for Christmas and are now preparing to sally forth again. They report unusual success in attentive hearers; many Nicodemus-like, others openly calling themselves inquirers; large sale of books and portions of Scripture; thousands of tracts distributed and places reached that have been unvisited for a long time and some to which no messenger of the Gospel has ever gone.

"I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling" wrote the Apostle Paul, and the "Lives of great men all remind us" that after all they were human beings like unto ourselves, that they experienced like happenings, like doubts and fears as we, and they too had their times of difficulty: and through and over these they triumphed. Mission work is not easy: each succeeding year emphasises the fact, but we endure as "seeing Him who is invisible."

One of the problems we now have to face relates to our schools; it has been said that some people die not from want of food, but from want of hunger. This surely is the state of our village schools, and just at present we are trying to solve the problem as to what should be done. For years the Mission and the District Board have co-operated in endeavouring to educate and improve the Santals of this locality, but with what result? To find a literate Santal is about as unusual an experience as to meet with a European. The local Santal Primary School has cost about Rs. 100 per annum for years, yet the state of our Santipur Santals remains unchanged. In the surrounding villages conditions are the same. In at least 10 different villages schools have been established, but there has been no real hunger, with the result that they have died away. To-day only three remain, and two of these are ready to die. The District Board has closed down its aid for these two because of the small number of scholars, and whilst we are prepared to increase the Mission aid if the villagers will give something toward the masters' support it is practically certain that they will do nothing and the schools will have to be closed. Until the parents have a desire for their children's education it is useless for us to thrust it upon them. When they desire it sufficiently to be ready to really co-operate with us, then we may hope for some success, and not till then. It is a sad state of affairs, and it makes one's
heart ache to look upon those whom we would help who refuse it all and turn to their wallowing in the mire. I believe the day will come when the desire will be born in them, but it has not yet arrived, and until it does it is better for us to take in the few lads who are ready to enter our Boarding here and pray that they may become a leaven to leaven their villages when they return home.

We need Santali-speaking workers, and need them badly, for other things being equal, they are far abler to work among Santals than those who know only Oriya or Bengali. At Rangiam, however, Sirish Fullonton, who knows no Santali, is trying to build up the local Christian Church and community, and is meeting with some measure of success. He reports that the brethren wish to erect a Church building of their own, (though they will be glad of outside help,) and several members have made substantial promises as to what they themselves will do.

Besides this he is endeavouring to get them to make regular contributions to God's work, and on a recent Sunday when I gathered with them for worship, three men contributed Rs. 8 as their year's offering. May their bow abide in strength is our earnest prayer.

P. J. Clark.

"Baseball in Jamshedpur."

I was painfully surprised at the indifference of the Americans toward Sports upon my arrival in Jamshedpur last January. There seemed to be plenty of pep among the Britishers in regard to both Cricket and Football, but not a single American was to be seen on the Athletic field participating in either of these games.

I at once decided to do my best to arouse these Americans from their lethargy and interest them in Sports. The playful instinct should be kept alive and active, and the best way to do this is to play. I proceeded to purchase some baseballs and collected what gloves I could find with the end in view of organizing a baseball Team. The one Sport which will resuscitate an American and restore to him the buoyancy of youth is baseball.

I was informed that it was a hopeless task to undertake to arouse interest in this game. At first all kinds of excuses were given. I found a few who were interested, so we began to meet on the maidan for practice.
I was out with them, and we soon worked the kinks out of our muscles and, after an evening or two, spectators began to assemble to view our strange proceedings, for Baseball is a novelty to many of the Britishers.

I had interviewed Mr. S. K. Sawday, Town Administrator, relative to organizing a Baseball Team and found him interested in the move. Mr. Sawday is a Britisher but is a fine athlete, and later proved his ability as a Baseball player by knocking a home-run in the initial game. Well, something unusual had to take place to get things in motion and here is the way it happened. Mr. Sawday conceived the idea that the Britishers could take the Americans’ measure in an exhibition game, and he issued the following challenge to Mr. F. L. Lindemuth, Superintendent in Greater Extensions and an American.

“Sawday’s Super Swatters who have twirled their way from England to the Orient by the home-run route, the way Uncle Sam’s sea babies rang the bell in Belleau Woods have signed the dotted line for Friday evening when they are to meet Lindemuth’s Lop-eared Lulus.

This International fracas will be pulled off at 5 p.m. on the village green and Lindie’s Boosters, Braves and Bonus Babies will find the British Bull Busters right there with a kick in their wrists that for Power, Pep and Precision will make a package of T.N.T. look like a bottle of Mother Seigel’s Soothing Syrup.

So wind up your wings, you Would-be World-beaters and watch the British Bulls Jazz themselves into the old Score Board.

Look-a-here! We aint no nickel-plated Sunbeams when we’re rattled.”

S. K. Sawday.

A copy of the above was sent as a challenge to Mr. Lindemuth and one to each of his "BRITISH BULL BUSTERS.”

Mr. Lindemuth accepted the challenge and the following is his reply, a copy of which was sent to Mr. Sawday and also to each of his own “SINGHBIUM SLUGGERS.”

“HA!!! Sawday’s Ambitious Athletes have committed themselves to destruction. Their topee is in the ring. At sunset Friday evening the fragments will be decently swept together and silently borne away into the night.

11
Your Glittering Glorious Galaxy of Scintillating stars sonorously surnamed SINGHBHUM SLUGGERS, diamond fame is yours. Babe Ruth and Tris Speaker have never ridden the old horse hide as you will do. Hans Wagner never failed a bird at second in a style compared to yours!

We meet again to-night at the Old Town Square to keep our soup bones supple and to gallop off old Charley Horse.

All you old Texas Leaguers out! All will share in the glory that will be ours to-morrow Friday night at five o’clock.”

F. L. LINDEMUTH.

This contest was pulled off in great style and the final score was twelve to-eight in favour of Lindemuth’s SINGHBHUM SLUGGERS. It created an interest and I took advantage of it. A meeting was called at Mr. Lindemuth’s home and a four Team league was organized with a schedule of 12 games.

Many Britishers participated in these games and some have developed into fair baseball players in a remarkably short period of time.

Great interest was manifested and the games were closely contested, the pennant being won only after eleven of the twelve scheduled games had been played.

We are now planning a game for Christmas afternoon and it will be the great game of the Season. The stars from the four teams of the League will be selected and a good game is assured. This may seem an inappropriate way to observe Christmas, but it is far better that the men assemble on the ball field and have a rumping good time in God’s fresh air than to steal away to the boozer and drink and tell vulgar jokes.

Yours sincerely,

C. L. CONRAD.

Orissa Mission Press, Cuttack.

12