American Baptist Historical Society
Tidings
from
A. B. F. M. Society
in
Bengal-Oriissa, India.

Village Preaching.
BENGAL-ORISSA FIELD DIRECTORY

Bhimapore, via Midnapore, Bengal.
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Jamshedpur, B. N, Ry:
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Rev. J. A. Howard.
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Miss Ethel Cronkite.
Mr. William Dunn.
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WEDDING BELLS.

On December 12th will take place the wedding of Mr. W. S. Dunn and Miss Gladys Doe. We are glad to know that Balasore will not lose either of them. The ceremony is to take place on the lawn at Sinclair Orphanage which has been the home of Miss Doe for nearly five years. Miss Cronkite, Miss Doe’s co-worker, is to be the bridesmaid. Mr. Browne will tie the knot, and Dr. Murphy thinks he has the best job of all, that of giving away the bride. Mrs. Krause and Mrs. Brush are to serve the dinner. A number of people outside of our missionary family are invited, and at present we are wondering, at least some of us ladies are, just what we shall wear to such a society affair.

The happy couple announced their engagement just before Semi-Annual Conference in July. Everyone offered congratulations, but along with the rejoicing there was also grief on the part of the young lady missionaries and to express this they presented the following Resolutions before the conference in session.

“Whereas in the inscrutibility of fate, Cupid in his wanderings to and fro upon the earth has pierced to the heart our beloved sister Miss Gladys E. Doe, removing her from our joyous circle to a state from which she may never return, we desire to give expression to our sense of loss and grief.

Our sister had launched upon a useful life and our expectation that
she would continue to be useful would doubtless have been fulfilled had not this dire calamity come upon her.

This calamity has not been entirely unforeseen by those who knew her best. For some time she has shown symptoms of heart trouble, but as is always the case, the end was a great shock to the whole community. It has thrown depression over the hearts and minds of those who knew her best.

She has passed on; she has gone a way we cannot go. We trust she has gone willingly. At the last in her delirium she expressed a wish to go.

The W.A.B.F.M.S. will long remember her as one who being ever thoughtful of their financial distress gave up her own pleasure, even her independence itself.

We shall remember her patience and her perseverance and trust her reward will be ample for all she has given up (but we have our doubts.)

Our hearts go out in tenderest sympathy to our fellow-sisters who were with her at the last and who bore with her during that period of heart strain and mental uncertainty.

These flowers we bring to-day as a fragrant memory of one who was once one of us.

Resolved that these resolutions be printed in Tidings and a copy sent to Mr. Dunn.”

Sd. The Committee.

The Bengal-Orissa Mission is the smallest and the latest acquisition of the Foreign Mission Society, having come into the family in 1911 with the union of the Baptists and Free Baptists. That does not mean that it is a new field for work has been carried on here for nearly one hundred years. No doubt you have often wondered why it has a hyphenated name. Sometimes we get letters addressed to Contai, Bengal-Orissa, which is
Bengal-Orissa Field.
like addressing a letter to Springfield, Illinois-Indiana. If you will take a large map of India you will find that it is divided into provinces which correspond to the States in America. In the early times the work here was begun near the line between Bengal and Orissa, some of the stations being in Bengal and some in Orissa. If you will glance at the map in this number you will see that Midnapore, Khargpore, and Contai are in Bengal, and Jellasore, Hatigarh, and Balasore are in Orissa. Some one has remarked that all the towns in India seem to be either "sore" or "pore," which we must admit to be true, and in North India many of them are "bad" as well. Jamshedpur, the big steel centre, and our newest mission station, is in still another province.

The work in each province is further confined to one district, or what we may compare to one county in each province. Balasore town is the headquarters of the district or county of that name, and the same is true of Midnapore. These districts are not very small, as for instance, Midnapore district contains 5,055 square miles, 8 large towns, 10,343 villages and 570,118 houses. In these houses live a total of 2,666,660 people. Of this population, 2,351,780 are Hindus, and 180,625 are Mohammedans. The Christians, both Europeans and Indians of all denominations, number 5,838. There are also 128,390 people of different unclassified faiths.

Balasore district contains 2,085 square miles. In it are two large towns, 3,485 villages and 200,715 houses. The population of 980,504 is divided as follows:—Hindus, 949,537; Mohammedans, 29,775, and Christians of all denominations, 1,192. Of these, 775 belong to our churches, and with the 819 Baptists of Midnapore District we have a total of 1574. Do you think that the missionaries whose names you see in the directory and a comparatively small band of Indian workers comprise too large a witness to the thousands of still unevangelized people in these two districts?
THE BEGINNING OF WORK IN BALASORE.

One is always interested in the beginnings of things. It was suggested last year that the histories of our different mission stations be written up. Mr. Dunn, of the High School, undertook the one of Balasore and although it is a bit too long for this little paper, I think you will be interested in a short review of it.

The work was begun by a Mr. John Peter of the English Baptist Missionary Society. He was a zealous and eloquent Bengali preacher, formerly a member of the Armenian church. He met a friendly reception from the European inhabitants and in a short time baptized a number of English soldiers.

Puri, the home of Jaggernath, and one of the sacred shrines of India is not far south of Balasore. Thither every year flocked thousands of pilgrims along the road which led through Balasore. These early workers preached to the pilgrims along the road and sometimes went with them to the shrine. In 1812 Mr. Peter presented one of the chief priests of the Jaggernath temple with a copy of the New Testament in the Oriya language accompanying the gift with a prayer that the darkness of superstition might be lifted and the Light of Divine Revelation might enter.

Four years after the arrival of Mr. Peter in Balasore, great excitement was caused by the conversion of a Brahman named Jaggernath Mookhoorjya. He was of a rich family and well versed in the Oriya and Bengali languages. He was so thoroughly convinced of the truth of the Gospel, that he renounced his caste, threw away his sacred thread and ate publicly with Mr. Peter to whom he expressed an earnest desire for baptism. He expressed great joy that Christ was able to overcome Satan and said he had nothing to fear from man even if his caste members should kill him.

In six years Mr. Peter baptized about thirty-four people. On his leaving to go to Calcutta, Rev. Amos Sutton also of the Baptist Mission came to carry on the work. He may be said to be the founder of the American Free Baptist Mission Society. After nine years of work in
Orissa his health failed and he returned to America. While recruiting his health he made earnest appeals in behalf of the Indian people and the Free Baptists were aroused to form a Foreign Mission Society of which Mr. Sutton was Secretary and Travelling Agent for more than a year. In 1835 he left America as the leader of a party of twelve missionaries which up to that time was the largest party that had left America for the Eastern hemisphere. The first two missionaries to enter Orissa for the Society were Rev. J. Phillips and Rev. Eli Noyes who spent six months in connection with the English General Baptist missionaries. At the end of that time it was mutually agreed that they should enter a new field. Sambalpore was selected. It was finally abandoned on account of its unhealthy locality and Balasore was next chosen.

Rev. Arthur Miller was another of the early missionaries. He arrived in India in 1859 and located in Balasore. He was a man of great physical strength and endurance, and a bold and aggressive preacher. About this time there was a great famine in Orissa and Balasore became one of the centers of desolation. Regardless of self, Mr. Miller superintended feeding the multitude. During part of the time from five to seven thousand people were daily fed with cooked rice. His strength was undermined and he died in 1868 at 39 years of age, the first male missionary connected with the American Free Baptist Mission to die in India.

The famine carried away about one-third of the population. The remainder seemed to have been in a very subdued state and were disposed to listen to the gospel. During this time many orphan children were gathered in. Miss Lavinia Crawford gathered the girls in an asylum at Jellasore which was in time moved to Balasore and was the beginning of the present Orphanage.

As the work continued, various buildings were erected and institutions were established. In March 12, 1854 the Balasore chapel was dedicated to the service of God. In 1840 a dispensary was established which was carried on for more than twenty years. Many thousands of people were treated and the first successful operation under the influence of chloroform in the province was performed here. After some years a
Government Hospital was established which gradually superseded the Mission Dispensary and it died mainly from lack of funds. This was a loss to the Mission as an evangelizing agency. In 1863 a desire for a workshop for the boys was expressed. This was during the Civil War in America. The tiny work of that time has grown into the present fine plant. In 1890 a resolution was sent to the Home Board asking for $30,000 as an endowment fund for an English High School. It seems that no such fund has been provided but some money was raised and the High School opened June 26, 1894 with seven boys enrolled. The Church like most others, has had its ups and downs. It has had some fine pastors and has been self supporting for a number of years. It has a membership of about 357, and the total Christian community numbers almost 800. The Girls' School has, including the kindergarten department, an enrollment of 170. The Boys' School has a staff of 12 teachers and an enrollment of 145, 35 of whom are Christians. The evangelistic work and the industrial work for boys and girls is being carried on as usual. However in spite of all that has been done and is being done we are still in desperate need of more educated Christian Indians to carry on the work. Let us work and pray that more of our young people may consecrate themselves to the task.

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THE YEARLY MEETING.

This year the Yearly Meeting or annual convention of the Churches was held at Balasore, November, 5-9th. The attendance on the part of the Indians was good, but the missionaries were very few. Mr. Brush was confined to his bed with jaundice. Mr. Oxreider was in Khargpur Hospital with an injured knee. Mr. Ager had fever. Others were kept away by illness in the family.

An Indian preacher from Cuttack gave some most excellent sermons. One address on “Ye are not far from the kingdom of God” was especially impressive. One of his illustrations was this,—“A man just
outside the iron fence at the railway station will lose the train just as much as a man two miles away. You must enter the train in order to go any place."

One of the speakers emphasized the importance of getting the young people to realize ownership. The church must be "my" church the society must be "my" society if it is to be brought to the highest efficiency. Another preacher said, "We have the theoretical side of religion worked out well and properly taught but we are very weak on the laboratory instruction. We need a greater amount of the practical application of religion."

Balasore church has a number of very strong Christian laymen. One is a doctor, another a lawyer and still another a professor. Several are in Government Service.

During the meeting, two large beautiful gray marble tablets were placed on the walls of the High School Assembly Hall. They were about two by three feet each. They were an expression of appreciation by the Balasore High School boys of Rev. Boyer and Dr. Coldren for their efforts in raising funds and establishing the High School. Large credit for this is due to Mr. James Hudson, an Indian Christian through whose efforts the money was raised.

For a number of years the churches have supported their own home mission worker at a village called Dompara. Recently an effort has been made to get them to feel a responsibility for the whole field. Hitherto they have been too prone to feel that the "Mission," that is the missionaries and workers in the employ of the mission, were alone responsible. To this end a committee issued a little pamphlet setting forth the extent of the field and urging each one to accept his share of the responsibility. It contains a prayer list, one object for each day of the month, and a copy of the church covenant is appended at the end. Mrs. Murphy, who did most of the work urged that it be kept in the Bible and used at the daily family worship. We are sure that it will do much good.
IMPROVING TIME.

This boy improves the time as he walks along the street, though time is not so much an object to him as money. He buys loosely stranded thread at the shop at about half the price of the properly twisted article, and twists it himself. This makes it much stronger and when he has enough he will use it to make one of the large umbrella-like fish nets which his caste use in catching fish. The thread is wound on an article somewhat like a top. He gives it a good twist between his palms or down his thigh and as it spins around it quickly winds up the thread which the boy keeps twisting between his palms. It is quite an art.
PUNDIT SAMUEL DAS

The men who have been the most effective in transforming the character of Nations are not those who have led armies on to victory, but the men who quietly, unheralded in a modest yet faithful way, have cast their lives into the molding of a new nation are the genuinely great men of history. Let us consider a man of this type.

A little over three score years ago in the rural village of Santipore, Orissa, lived a farmer named Mohan Chandra Das. His home was blessed with three sons and two daughters. His eldest child was Samuel, the subject of this sketch.

As a boy he was his father's helper in cultivating the fields of rice. When the famine of 1866 spread death over India he was but a lad of seven years.

After his primary education, he studied in the Teacher's Training School at Santipore for seven years. In early youth he was baptized by Rev. Jeremiah Phillips.

At the age of fifteen he was made teacher at the village school at Raiboni. After teaching two years, a position became vacant in the Teacher's Training School, and he received that appointment.

In 1877 a girl from the Jellasore Orphanage became his wife. God gave them in time, five sons and one daughter. Two children have passed away. One of them was a preacher. His eldest son has been a teacher and until his father's recent illness which necessitates his being at home, he was the very acceptable head-master of the Bhimpore Boys Schools. His youngest daughter was also a teacher, and prior to her marriage, was Head-mistress of the Calcutta School for the Blind.

Pundit was always faithful to his home duties. He never spent his time in worthless play but kept occupied in some useful work. His modest salary was spent economically for home necessities and for the advancement of his children. He neither loves luxury nor has he taught it to his children.
The 1886 he completed his six years course in the Bible Training School in Midnapore. At that time there were two Hindu teachers on the faculty. Dr. Bacheler, the head of the School did not wish to retain them any longer, so he appointed Samuel Pundit in their stead. When he began his duties he taught chiefly Sanskrit and Arithmetic. For thirty-six long years, with slight intermissions, he has taught in the Training School, and gone out in the district with the fledgling preachers during the winter months for their practical work.

During his term he has taught the Prophets and Epistles, homiletics and pastoral theology. His profound knowledge of the Bible gave him the power of making its deep truths clear to his students. He is a man of broad vision and sound judgment, not given to radical or fanatical theories.

Pundit was very punctual about his duties, arriving and leaving the Bible School at definite appointed times. His attendance was regular in spite of storms. He was never discouraged, nor did he dismiss class due to the fact that few of his pupils, at times, were able to attend. If only one came, he faithfully taught him.

All lessons were faithfully prepared at home before coming to school. It was his habit to constantly meditate on new books in order that he might do his work more efficiently. Samuel was solicitous that he might appear before his students as an excellent teacher and a wise instructor. His mind was full of beautiful and effective illustrations to make his points clear.

Samuel instructed his students as lovingly as if they were his own children. If it was necessary to punish them, he did it in such a fatherly spirit that the student confessed his chastisement as just, and for his own good. He used to say to his pupils, "Children, be faithful in your work and with your whole heart try to advance in it. Keep God always before you as you move forward in the work for which you are responsible. You should preach so that your hearers become established in the faith. It is not necessary to cause sorrow to spring up in the heart of any one. It is well to speak in private with a man about his faults."
Faithfulness in money matters is one of his commendable traits. He was church treasurer for a long time. One of his teachings was that a preacher should always be very careful in his financial relations lest his life be ruined. Samuel's own absolute trustworthiness in this regard caused his appointment as treasurer of the Evangelistic Board which handles the salaries for all the Indian workers on the field. He filled this position most acceptable until his recent illness obliged him to give it up.

He has a peaceful staid and humble nature. When he calls on God in prayer, it seems as though his entire life is centered in communion with his Heavenly Father. His sermons were sweet to the ear and inspiring to the heart. He seemed to weep in his heart as he delivered the message. Last year he was ordained. No one ever deserved this recognition of true worth more than he. He might have qualified for ordination long before, but he always felt himself too unworthy. One of the sorrows of his life is that he lost a year on account of sin.

The subject of our sketch has been so much like his Master that many of the Bible School students have made him their ideal Christian man. "Not I, but Christ" might well be considered his life's motto.

On being asked if he wanted to speak of any special event in his life he made the following significant statement, "I have no special event I want to mention. I have given all my heart to Jesus and for Jesus I am living my life."

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**NEWS NOTES.**

Those of you who saw the March number will remember the cover picture of Dr. Murphy's "Oxenmobile." Recently he hitched it up to a brand new Chevrolet engine and turned the oxen out to grass. Dr. Murphy grieves that he can't live in it all the time, but he and Mrs. Murphy will spend the cold season in it touring about among the villages and trying to reach with the Christian message the homes represented in the 87 village schools in their charge. They expect to return to America in the Spring.

In October a young Mohammedan named Mohammed John was baptized at the Midnapore church. When a small boy he had been taught about Christ in a Christian home where his mother worked as a
servant. As he grew older he often said he would become a Christian and mingle with the Christians. Finally his brothers told him he must choose, either stay away from the Christians or leave home for good. This brought him to a decision which he carried out at once by presenting himself for baptism.

There are Christians living in only 33 of the 10,351 towns and villages of Midnapore District. There are only two missionaries who can give part or all of their time to working in the district, and one of these two men expects to go on furlough soon.

Mr. Frost and his family expect to sail for America November 29. We wish we could welcome a number of new missionaries this fall, but so far as we know there is no one on the way except Mr. Long and his family who are returning from furlough.

About a year ago an appeal was made for funds with which to secure a tricycle for our Khargpore Indian pastor, Rev. Koilas Mohapatra, who suffered a broken hip from a bicycle fall. No money for this was received from America, but his missionary friends contributed and he himself made up the balance and he is now able to get around to his work on a ladies bicycle. We saw him the other day on the street and he expressed his gratitude and pleasure at being able to do his work as usual.

Our mission recently had the pleasure of a visit from Dr. and Mrs. A. W. Rider. Dr. Rider came as a representative of the board to report on our needs for new buildings.

From time to time we hope to present to our readers sketches of some of our Indian co-workers. “Samuel Pundit” as he is lovingly called, has been one of our best beloved workers. He has been lying weak and ill at his home for many months, and as you read, breathe a prayer that his last days may be filled with the joy of the Lord.

The old man whose picture you see at the extreme left in the cover picture is Samuel Pundit. At the right is another preacher and in between are Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Howard. They have been preaching near the Jaggernaut car which is seen in the background.

Little Jane Krause is five years old. The other day she was asked by a visiting “uncle,” “Well, Jane, how do you support your wife and family?” Jane replied, “O, I haven’t any children, and I’m a wife myself.”
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