Old Santa visiting the Missionary Children.
BENGAL-ORISSA FIELD DIRECTORY

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INTRODUCING THE CHILDREN.

Don't you boys and girls at home often wonder if there are any children among all those grown-up missionaries out in Bengal-Orissa? You must have thought there'd be a few, and perhaps you wished that you could join them riding on elephants and camels, and bullock-carts and other strange things, chasing monkeys, having thrilling escapes from snakes, and many other strange experiences.

We think we have a fine bunch of children. Our mission is noted for its boys. We have fourteen of them on the field at present and three little girls. I'll introduce the ladies first. Little Dorothy Kitchen, about two and a half years old, lives out at Bhimpore and has for playmates the little Santali children, with whom she talks in their own language, and sings with them, "I love the Bible, 'tis the God-given Book," pretending to read the words from the song-book held up-side-down.

Five-year old Jane Krause has the dearest little one-year old sister, —blue-eyed, rosy round-cheeked Carol Helen. Jane is glad to have a sister to play with because she thinks "boys are rough."

Now the boys. The last shall be first. Four year old John Brush just arrived with his father and mother from America about a month ago and he thinks India isn't such a bad place to live in after all. Its nice that he could live with the Hartley boys awhile. Ralph, seven, and Richard, four, were in the Hills all summer attending school, and are looking forward now to a wonderful trip on a big boat with their father and mother and baby brother to see their grandpas and grandmas who
live in Niagra Falls, Canada. Sturdy not-quite-six Philip Browne and brother David, known as “The Smiler,” and baby Arthur Eller who aspires to being an engineer like his daddy, all live in Jamshedpur. They have a wonderful sandpile where they play happily through the hot days of summer. Robert and Kenneth Frost are the oldest of all the children. Robert is about twelve, and he and Kenneth have been going to school and next year Gordon will be old enough to go with them. They have a five year old brother, Wilbur, who thinks his brothers are the finest ever, and is having a fine time now with them all at home for vacation.

Perhaps the hardest thing missionary children have to do is to leave their homes and go away to school somewhere in the mountains where it is cool, and where they can be with other missionary children, and of course it is hard on the fathers and mothers to send them too. Their school year begins in March and ends in November, so they can be at home with their parents during the cool season. You can imagine with what eagerness they look forward to Christmas.

John Howard, eight, and Billy, six, expect to go to school for the first time next spring. John has learned to read and write a little at home but Billy declares “he doesn’t want to go to College.” Baby Lee bids fair to be a student, as he sometimes picks up a book and appears to be studying it intently.

The older children are so pleased when any of their friends in America write to them, and I expect that some of you are glad to get letters from India, too.

When you pray for the little Indian children, don’t forget our little missionary children. Ask God to keep them safe and well; to help them to be good, so that their little lights may shine brightly for Jesus in this dark land, and that they may grow up with such a love in their hearts that some day they’ll want to come back as missionaries like their fathers and mothers.

Grace L. Howard.
At the Mission Conference a year ago, several character sketches of different members of this mission, past and present, were presented. We think you might enjoy reading them, so here is the one prepared and read by Miss Emily Barnes, who knew Dr. Coldren well.

**Dr. COLDREN—THE BELOVED.**

June 8, 1850 to July 26, 1911—These dates mark the earthly life-time of our much loved missionary, Milo Jones Coldren. He was born in Lagrange, Indiana, converted when he was eighteen, and went to his rest and reward while on furlough in Hillsdale, Michigan. A cable message brought us the word, and later a letter which he wrote to Miss Amy Coe in the same month, told of his expected return.

I know little of his childhood. One day he told us the story of his first ten cents. I asked him to write it for the children. It was printed in "THE MISSIONARY HELPER" in 1907. It was 'the very first ten cents that he ever owned. His father gave it to him. About that time a missionary came along and Milo heard him tell how many Gospels ten cents would buy for those who know not the true God. Also about that time a show came to town and ten cents would buy a ticket. His boy friends were excited and they were going and they began calling out, "Milo, are you going to the show?" Then the struggle in his mind began "Missionary or show? Show or missionary?" He changed his mind six times. The Missionary got it.

He attended Hillsdale College, graduating in 1876, and from the Theological Department in 1878. In 1871 he received his license to preach and preached in various places around Hillsdale during his college courses, and organized one church. He won many friends in Hillsdale and elsewhere because of his bright, happy life. There was sunshine wherever he went. To this day in one of the homes on College Hill where he was loved, there is an old desk; and they would not part with it, because it was Milo Coldren's when he was in College.

He was very sincere and earnest in his Christian life. I know of one
he won for Christ while he was in College,—his friend, Arthur Edwin Haynes, who for years after, was Professor of Mathematics in Hillsdale College. Prof. Haynes, greatly beloved, helped many others into the light. He was my precious Sunday School teacher.

Mr. Coldren was married in 1878 to Alice Sanborn, who lived only a short time. He took such loving care of her that Father Sanborn always had great interest in him and in his work in India. He had early felt the call to foreign missionary work, and he wanted to be sure it was God's call, not simply his own desire; he must know. He had a Sunday-School class of girls—happy, fun-loving, frolicksome girls; and he prayed, "Lord, IF YOU WANT ME TO GO TO INDIA, LET SOME ONE IN MY CLASS BE MOVED TO TEARS." The next Sunday as he was teaching the lesson, one of the most unlikely girls burst into a perfect flood of tears. So he had his answer.

He applied to the Free Baptist Board, and when they declined to send him on account of lack of funds, he resolutely set about finding the funds, and he succeeded in getting pledges for his support for five years. Some said he would never be able to learn the language. But he was not discouraged. With a brave heart he sailed for India, October 11, 1879. He had been in India only two years when the Board accepted him. He was glad of this, for each one of those personal pledges, when the money came, had to be acknowledged, and it took much time to write to each person. In November, 1882, Miss Emma Smith came from America to be his wife, and they were married in Calcutta.

He began the work in Chandbali in 1885. He built a school house which a cyclone soon blew over, then he built another. For six months they lived in Bhadrack, and then for a time in the school house in Chandbali. And later, gradually the Mission house was built. There was trouble and delay in getting workmen, and a Hindu carpenter long afterwards told me, "Coldren Saheb prayed to God for carpenters, and I was one who went from Bhadrack." He was surely a man of much prayer, taking everything in a simple, definite, direct way to a loving Father who heard and answered. At that time, four steamers a week connected
Chandbali with Calcutta, and four with Cuttack. He did not confine himself to the Indian work only. He gave himself for others too. Whenever there was a steamer in port on Sunday, there was always an English service at the Mission house, and Captains, Officers and neighbors attended. On other days in the late afternoons he often played tennis with them and joked and had a good time. A Chief Engineer who was a great drunkard was converted. A Captain who used bad language was spoken to so kindly and earnestly that he asked Mr. Coldren to pray for him. Our brother Ager, then a young man, was once very ill in Chandbali, and he took care of him like a father. Whenever he came to Balasore he called upon all Europeans and Government officials, not forgetting our native Christians. And all, young and old, rich and poor, loved him. He was so cheerful and lovable and helpful that everyone was glad to see him coming. He had a song he loved to sing:—

**Always Cheerful.**

1. Let our hearts be always cheerful  
   Why should murmuring enter there.  
   When our kind and loving Father  
   Makes us children of his care?

**Chorus.**

Always cheerful, always cheerful  
Sunshine all around we see.  
Full of beauty is the path of duty  
Cheerful we may always be.

2. When we turn aside from duty  
   Comes the pain of doing wrong,  
   And a shadow creeping o'er us  
   Checks the rapture of our song.

3. O, the good are always happy  
   And their path is ever bright.  
   Let us heed the blessed counsel—  
   Shun the wrong and love the right.
In Chandbali he used to have early morning prayer-meetings at the house with his workers. One day one of the workers came saying, "I feel so light and happy today, I don't know why." And Mr. Coldren replied, "So do I, but I don't know why. There hasn't been anything special here to make us so." He noted the date. About a month from that time came a letter from America, saying there had been very special prayer for them at that time. And strength and courage and joy came into the lives of those for whom they prayed 10,000 miles away.

He had a boat called the "Indiana," by which he reached the native villages that could be gotten to by water; and a little boat called the "Edna," named for his daughter. In January, 1894, when our party came from Calcutta by steamer, (no railway then) as we were nearing Balasore I spied an American flag on a boat coming toward us and our Captain said, "There's Mr. Coldren coming to meet you." Our steamer stopped and we four new people got on the "Indiana" and had our first thanksgiving and praise service before we reached the landing.

What he said was long remembered by the native Christians. He had charge of Bhadrack when I lived there, and used to come occasionally to preach. One day in his sermon he said, "Don't give God your smooth piece that you can't pass anywhere." After that my dear Bible woman, Rutni Singh, said she always looked to see that she gave good piece in the collection. A Christian grandmother who had a grandson who was not doing right said, "I wish I could get Coldren Saheb to speak to him. You know when he speaks, many times people turn from their sins." He was truly a fisher for souls.

I know of two men, one a Eurasian and one a European, who had fallen through drink in Calcutta. Mr. Coldren took them home with him to Chandbali to save them. Mr. Rae, the Eurasian, afterward became a preacher in our mission. This is the story of how he found Mr. Rae as he himself told it.

One day as the steamer from Calcutta arrived at Chandbali, he felt a very strong and definite impression that he must go by her to Calcutta on the return journey. He tried to put it away, as he was very busy at
the time and knew of no reason why he should go. As the day wore on however, the impression grew stronger, and falling on his knees he prayed God to show him whether the thought was from Him or simply an impression of his own mind. God told him to go, so in child-like faith he went, though he had not the slightest idea what he should do when he got there.

On arrival, he went to the Coffee Rooms kept by a friend he knew and having made arrangements for a bed, strolled down to the public room where outsiders came to get coffee and soft drinks. The impression was strongly upon him that he should stay until he was shown the work God had brought him to do. Several men came and went, and quite late in the evening a man sat down close beside him to whom he felt he must speak. After some commonplace conversation, Mr. Coldren began to speak of spiritual things, and the man opening his heart told him he was absolutely at the end of himself, and sick and tired of life, so much so that he had almost decided to put an end to it, when, as he was passing the Coffee Rooms, the strong impression came that he must go inside. Mr. Coldren talked for a long time of God's love, urging him to accept it. Finally, about midnight, he yielded himself to Christ, and Mr. Coldren felt that the work he had been sent to Calcutta to do was done. He returned to Chandbali by the next steamer, taking Mr. Rae with him, who afterwards did faithful service in our Mission, as a preacher in English and Hindustani until his death in Jellasore.

On his furlough he raised a large sum of money by visiting the Free Baptist Churches, which made the Balasore Boy's High School possible. He worked hard for this and succeeded. His honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him not a great while before he left India so we had not fully become accustomed to calling him "Doctor." But we had playfully called him "The Bishop" a good while and he laughingly said, "If I'm a bishop, I must be bishop of Chandbali." For a time he was the Honorary Magistrate there. How he loved to laugh and joke! His eyes were as blue as the bluest sky, and how they shone when he was telling some interesting story!

Just before leaving Calcutta for furlough the time before the last, a
sea-captain came to him bringing a sum of money. I think it was $100. He said he had gotten this money dishonestly, and wished to return it to the Company. He asked Mr. Coldren to take this money to the office and give it to them without giving his name. The officers of the steamship Company were much astonished, and said they did not know when this had occurred, and nothing of this kind had ever come to them before. And then they said, “Dr. Coldren, you take this money, and use it in your work.” He shared it with others in the mission. I received a little message that surprised me saying “I’m sending you a money order, it is for Oryia books. It is of the Lord, and will do good, I am sure.” This sea-captain was not at that time a thoroughly converted man, but while Dr. Coldren was on furlough he became an out and out Christian. The means God used was the reading of the life of George Muller which Dr. Coldren had lent him before he left. What a joy it was after his return to have Capt. Spense come in when his steamer was in port, in time to be present at family prayers.

Many speak of Dr. Coldren’s earnest prayers. Amy Coe’s first recollections of him was when she was a little girl:—his beautiful prayer, and tears in his voice and eyes as he expressed the hope that he would see her in India some day; and this hope of years before came to pass and he met her when she first landed in Calcutta. Sometimes when he was preaching a beautiful light and smile would come into his face, like a heavenly light. He once told me that he asked the Lord to never let him preach unless someone would be converted, or someone receive a definite blessing; and that he had the assurance that it would be so.

His last year of work was with the English Church at Kharagpur, and the people there soon loved him and he loved them all. It is interesting to notice what our Indian Christians say of him. Many say “He was a very holy man.” “He was a very kind man.” “He helped me when I was in trouble and need.” “Our Quarterly Meeting was not so good if he were not there.” And one brother says, “He was a man with a very pure heart.”

On furlough he enjoyed his friends, visited the sick and prayed for
them, and believed God heals the body as well as the soul in answer to prayer, having experienced it in his own life; and so he was blest and made a blessing. We thank God for his beautiful life on earth, and for the privilege of being associated with him in our Master’s glad service. In America or India he was truly our Dr. Coldren, the Beloved, and he is still our Beloved in the Glory Land.

THE YEARLY MEETING.

The Yearly Meeting or Convention of our Indian churches convened with the Ward Memorial Church at Kharagpur, Nov. 21-25.

Some of us had been looking forward to attending these meetings and many had been praying in advance for them, so with the very first session we entered upon a rare season of worship and fellowship. Wonderful weather,—Bengal at its best; an earnest group of Christian workers; the church auditorium so restful in arrangement, the speaking and singing coming to the audience with bell-like clearness, and the unusual atmosphere which seemed a part of the church.

Those who knew personally the beautiful life of Mrs. Ward, and the love and sacrifice of years of Dr. Ward to enable him to give this memorial to India, felt the very atmosphere hallowed by their spiritual presence. Dr. Ward’s cherished desire for years was to hear that it had been erected, hoping that he might be spared to visit India the second time and have the privilege of seeing the Memorial. The fulfilment of this desire was only deferred until he with his beloved, now view it from the “heavenly heights.”

A full and well balanced five-day program for work and inspiration was carried out with only a few changes. A different leader each morning for devotion, brought heart messages which inspired prayers of reconsecration to the work whereunto we have been called. The following papers were presented:—“What has Christianity given to India?” “In what way can the Health and Economic Conditions of the Christian
Community be Improved?" "How can we improve the Spiritual Condition of our Churches?" These papers were discussed in a spirit of earnestness and unity of mind and purpose to arrive at practical ways and means for advancement.

"Home Mission Day" marked the "high tide" of interest. The Evangelistic Board is composed of three missionaries and four Indian preachers. Two of the latter are travelling evangelists, one for Balasore, and one for Midnapore district. The reports of these men told of achievements and requirements among the people and churches of their respective fields. The report of the treasurer was most encouraging showing a large gain over the amount given by the churches last year.

The work at Dompara, known among the people as "our Home Mission Station" is by far the most vigorous in the entire field. The reason for this was pointed out to be the result of interest, gifts and prayers of all the churches for this one field. After some explanations by the originator of the motion it was voted to hereafter designate all the outlying village churches as "Home Mission Work," and that the Evangelistic Board be designated as the "Home Mission Board," a step toward enlargement of interest as well as responsibility.

According to the latest understanding between the Foreign Mission Society and the Bengal-Orissa Conference, any Indian worker in charge of a station or in a position which is not under the supervision of a missionary, is to be recognized as a member of the Mission Conference. Last year there were two such, and this year two more were added, Miss Khanto Bala Rai, as Secretary of the Midnapore Girls' School, and one member as a representative of the Indian Conference. This member was elected by ballot by the Convention.

Prof. J. R. Bannerji of the Scottish Mission, Calcutta, and Professor of Literature and Religion in Bidhyasagar College, a Hindu Government school, was invited to give the evening addresses. It was a real treat to listen to his clear scholarly, yet simple Bengali. He brought many illustrations from reading and research, but what told most was the relation of his own rich personal experiences in presenting the gospel by
contact as well as by preaching. He comes near to Paul and to Trumbull I think, in his experience of “Christ in you,”—a man gifted in spiritual things making his life count for his Christ in his daily contact with Hindu College students.

Sunday morning there was a service in Hindi for those who did not understand Bengali. In the afternoon following Mr. Bannerji's sermon, there was an impressive baptismal service. The well-arranged baptistry inside the church was used, and the right hand of fellowship was given to the two candidates immediately afterward. There was a crowded house and scarcely one left, as is so common, before the serving of the Lord's Remembrance.

Then just one hour for some of us to hurry back to the English Church where the new missionary pastor, Rev. E. C. Brush gave a great testimonial sermon on “What is impossible with man is possible with God,” Luke 18:27.

At 7:15 Mr. Bannerji gave his closing address, choosing as his text 1 Pet. 2:9, 10,—an appeal to his countrymen. In his address he said that many times he had shed tears for his people. When we see such consecrated lives as his, we are reminded of our privilege of co-operating with them—how? By our prayers for them. Christ's formula is “I in you” that you may win men.

MRS. H. R. MURPHY.

THE WORKERS' RETREAT.

At the last Midnapore Quarterly Meeting, a committee was appointed to arrange for a workers' conference or Summer Bible School, of which Mr. Kitchen was the chairman.

The first week in October was decided upon and plans made to go into camp, but weather was far too unsettled for camp life, so Mr. Kitchen who was then alone in the big new house, Mrs. Kitchen being in Naini Tal, turned the house over for the use of meetings and acted as host to
the fourteen men in attendance. The big verandas were fine for sleeping, and Chundra, the cook, served the meals in fine native style.

Mr. Kitchen had charge of the morning hours,—subject, “Christ’s Prayer Life,” using as his text Fosdick’s “The Meaning of Prayer.” Pastor Evangelist Natabar Singh took the afternoon sessions. His subject was “How to present Christ,” and he used many illustrations and quotations from Trumbull’s “Taking Men Alive,” which has been translated into Bengali and is the Study Course book for the preachers this year.

Dr. Murphy gave Bible studies each evening on the “Atonement.” It was a real treat as well as a “retreat” to our young men and we know they will enter into their season’s work with more enthusiasm and faith because of the help and inspiration they received while together in this way.

THE WOMEN’S CONFERENCE

Our Women’s Conference at Jellasore last year was such a successful gathering that it was voted to hold a similar gathering this year. The merits of several places were discussed, but finally Jellasore was decided upon again as being the ideal spot for such a conference.

In spite of the fact that fever was raging in all our stations, which prevented many from going who had planned even from last year to attend, the number of delegates was larger. The attendance was 155, 20 being from Jellasore, and 135 including 10 missionaries, coming from other stations. Two teachers from Calcutta were guests. Balasore led in the number of delegates. Last year the weather was unfavorable, but this year the welcome sun beamed on us from clear, bright skies. The delegates were divided between the church and the bungalow, and altho’ there were increased numbers, everyone seemed to be comfortable.

The main theme of the Conference was “The Life of the Cross,” and to keep this thought ever before the minds of the women this motto
was hung on the front wall of the church,—“Except a seed fall into the
ground and die, it abideth alone.” A large picture of Christ in
Gethsemane was hung below the motto. The prayer groups held in the
early morning in various places were a fitting prelude to the Morning
Devotionals which were conducted each day by Mrs. Chowdry of Howrah.
She took the theme of the Conference as the subject of her talks, and
developed it in a very helpful way. The spiritual atmosphere was very
manifest at these sessions.

The rest of the morning each day was given over to the presenta-
tion of three aspects of the Christian Life,—Conversion and Baptism,
The Lord’s Supper and the Christian’s Duty. These were brought
before us clearly and convincingly by Miss Nirmola Nayak, Miss Ruth
Daniels, and Miss Sorojini Mohapatra. Then Khanto Bala Rai, recently
returned from America, spoke one day on “The Place of Christian
Women in the Community;” and on another occasion she told about her
stay in America, and then brought us with her as she described very
graphically her journey through the different countries en route to India.
She had the rare privilege of attending the World’s Baptist Convention
at Stockholm. One new feature, which was enjoyed by all was the
vesper service conducted by Miss Thompson of Cuttack.

Another new departure was the display of handwork of different
kinds, which the women and girls had made themselves without any kind
of help. First and second prizes were offered for the best work of its kind,
and there were a good number who competed. The handwork included
embroidery, drawnwork, crochet, pillow lace, knitting, painting, drawing,
handwriting, basketry, and mat weaving, besides several unclassified bits
of work. Some articles were sold, and the interest seemed very keen.

The first day, the Bhimpore girls gave a very pretty kolsi—(earthen
water pot) drill, after which one of their number explained the Camp Fire
Movement as adapted for Indian girls, and the members had a typical
meeting as a demonstration. They also gave an exhibition of First Aid.
There were a number of Santal women present, and the girls pleased
them by singing a Santal song at the close. The Santipore girls gave
a dramatization of the "Good Samaritan," which was enjoyed and appreciated by all. The following day the Midnapore girls presented "Mrs. Jarley's Wax Dolls," which provoked much laughter. Miss Hill's mechanical laugh proved very contagious, and we heard the girls practicing it for a long time afterwards. Besides this there were several races. On the last evening the Balasore Y.M.C.A. members gave the "Life of Moses" in a series of interesting tableaux. The waves of the Red sea were very realistic, especially when they were swallowing up Pharaoh's hosts. After the tableaux, Miss Nayak read a letter from a missionary of the Mission to the Aristocracy of India, in which he told of the work that they were doing and hoped to do. Special prayer was offered that their effort might be successful.

On the last day all the missionaries dressed up in saries (the Indian ladies' dress) and some of us ate dinner with the Indian women on the veranda where they sat in two long lines facing each other. We also had our pictures taken in full regalia. On account of the poor light, the other Conference pictures did not come out well. Much praise is due Miss Barnes, who made all the arrangements for the comfort and convenience of the great crowd; and also those who worked so hard in preparing and giving the various entertainments. We also want to express our appreciative thanks to those who brought us such helpful messages, and we trust that the lives of many may have felt the uplift, and may have been benefitted by it.

Gladys E. Doe.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Raymond left for home Oct. 22. Their going was occasioned by Mrs. Raymond's ill health. They will make their home in Detroit, Mich.

Rev. and Mrs. E. C. Brush and little son arrived Oct. 18, and have already undertaken the work in Kharagpur.

Rev. J. H. Oxreider is expected back some time in January. He comes alone, his family remaining in Granville, Ohio.
Mr. Kitchen, of Bhimpore, has gone to Moga, in North India, for a special three months' course in the Project Method of teaching. He expects that this will help him to bring the Bhimpore schools to a more modern and efficient working.

Three of our missionaries are expecting to go up for their language examinations in January. We trust that all may be successful.

ENTERTAINMENT DURING YEARLY MEETING.

The mission bungalow at Kharagpur was built with a view to caring for travelling missionaries, Kharagpur being a railway junction, and while it was made to bulge and expand, beds filling office and verandas, there was not room in the "inn" for all. However the vestry rooms of the church filled every requirement and when the largest company sat down at the long table extending through both dining and living rooms, there were just thirty-three there to be fed! Even with cooks and "boys," the matter of serving tables is no small job, and Mrs. Hartley assisted by Mrs. Brush have the unanimous vote of thanks and appreciation of their fellow-missionaries! It was observed that our new man, Mr. Brush, can "do things" with his saw and hammer. Didn't we see him just nail up some boards in a jiffy for the long tables needed? The Indian delegates were well entertained in the homes of the people. Three mission motor cars carried us back and forth to the meetings which were held at the Indian church about two miles from the bungalow.