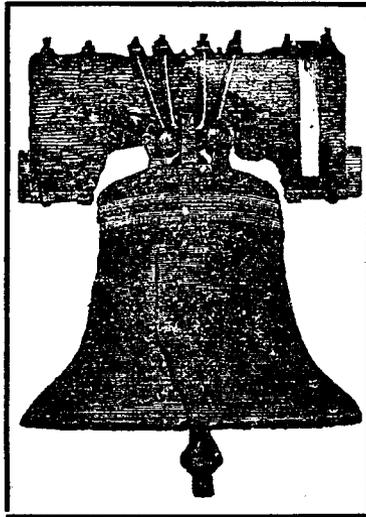


# Mukti Prayer-Bell.

He hath sent Me to bind up the broken hearted,

“The Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings  
unto the meek ;



To proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening  
of the prison to them that are bound.”

“ I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem which shall never hold their peace day nor night : Ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence, and give Him no rest, till He establish, and till He make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.” Isaiah xii, 6-7.

“ MUKTI ” KEDGAON, INDIA.

June, 1904.

**Balance Sheet of Accounts of Mukti Mission from  
19th July 1901 to 18th June 1904.**

Items.	RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Mukti Mission Fund ... ..	*2,72,394	2	1			
Food ... ..				1,02,853	12	1
Clothing ... ..				13,823	2	6
Building ... ..				27,531	1	5
Salaries ... ..				35,528	10	3
Church Expenses ... ..	1,387	12	4	46,140	7	1
Farm ... ..				4,733	13	6
Industrial School ... ..	4,211	13	0	15,745	9	0
House Expenses ... ..				16,646	9	0
Travelling ... ..				3,815	1	9
House Utensils ... ..				3,276	12	3
Postage and Telegram ...				1,378	12	3
Printing ... ..		1	2	0	1,328	13
School Material ... ..					507	9
Stationery ... ..					84	7
Miscellaneous ... ..					4,519	11
Balance ... ..					80	8
<b>Total Rupees...</b>	<b>2,77,994</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2,77,994</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>

Examined and Found Correct.  
D. O. FOX,  
Missionary.

\*Donations acknowledged :—

From July 19th, 1901 to July 18th, 1903...	Rs. 1,15,538	11	1
„ July 19th, 1903 to April 15th, 1904..	„ 1,42,564	7	8
„ April 16th, 1904 to June 18th, 1904...	„ 14,290	15	4

Rs. 2,72,394 2 1

Our praying Friends are requested to pray specially for our grown girls and growing girls, who are sorely tempted by the devil. Please Pray that they may be kept by the Power of God and remain holy and without blemish.

Also for our boys that, they may be cleansed by the Blood of Jesus in their spirits souls and bodies.



# Mukti Prayer-Bell.

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Vol. I. No. 4.      MUKTI, KEDGAON, INDIA.      June, 1904.

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## Meditation.

*Oh that My people had hearkened unto Me, and Israel had walked in My ways ! I should soon have subdued their enemies, and turned My hand against their adversaries. The haters of the Lord should have submitted themselves unto Him : but their time should have endured for ever.      Ps. 81 : 13-15.*

*O that thou hadst hearkened to My commandments ! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea : Thy seed also had been as the sand, and the offspring of thy bowels like the gravel thereof ; his name should not have been cut off nor destroyed from before Me.*

*Is. 48 : 18, 19.*

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## Praise and Prayer.

WE praise GOD that there is less sickness among the girls this year than there was at this time last year. We request our friends to continue to pray for them as they have done during the past months and ask our GOD to give our children good health of soul and body.

## An Accident.

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THE Prayer-Bell for June should have reached friends by this time, but the Editor is laid down with a broken arm for a while and so the publication of it was delayed. Manoramabai was riding on horse back one evening, when the animal took it into his head to roll down on the ground and she fell on one side; her whole weight coming on her arm it broke into two, and hurt her badly. But we are very glad and thankful to say that God has very mercifully spared her life, and delivered her from acute pain in answer to prayer. She is recovering very rapidly, and it is hoped she will be able to use her right arm again for the glory of our God. Friends are requested kindly to pray for her that, her life which was saved and redeemed by our loving Saviour may be devoted wholly to His Service and glory.

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## Faithful Witnesses of Christ.

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It is with sad hearts that we have to make mention of the great sorrow which has come to our dear friends and fellow-workers in the mission field, the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Norton, of the Boys' Christian Home, Dhond. Their eldest son Mr. Eben Norton who came out to India about eight months ago to help his parents in the orphanage work, received his home-call quite suddenly. Our hearts go out in sympathy to his dear parents in their bereavement. They are sustained by the wonderful grace of our Saviour and are praising God for His goodness. Some of us who went to Dhond to see Mr. Norton within four hours after the sudden death of his dear son, found him manfully bearing his great sorrow, and doing his work in his usual way, thanking and praising God. We were greatly impressed by his Christian fortitude and his life of faith full of praise toward God. It is on such occasions as these that people find out what the grace of

God can do for man. The witness that is borne by the Nortons to the saving grace of Christ in their daily life cannot be lost on the people, among whom these dear servants of God shine for Him. Our friends will no doubt join us in asking our dear Heavenly Father to comfort the hearts of these dear old people by converting and filling all their boys with the Holy Spirit, that they may see of the fruit of their travail.

During the short time he lived at Dhond, Mr. Eben Norton came to Kedgaon now and then and helped us in our farm and industrial work by giving us many hints and suggestions. He not only gave advice but worked with his own hand and showed us how to go about certain things which we did not know. He endeared himself to our hearts by his frank and open manner and by his Christian character which made a lasting impression on all who came in contact with him. We had the pleasure of a visit from him just two days before he was called to Heaven and we little thought that, that was the last time we were to meet him in the mortal body. May his sudden removal from earth be a lesson to us all and prompt us to be always watching and ready to meet our God.

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### A Fresh View of Mukti.

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**I**T is a good thing to leave the scene of one's labours for a time; there is a double blessing to be reaped. While away, one gets rest, refreshing and strengthening for spirit, soul and body; and upon returning there is much of encouragement to be received in seeing the progress made during one's absence.

After being away from Mukti rather more than eight months, I see many changes and much for which to "thank our GOD and take courage."

The buildings have grown: the unfinished part of the church has been worked at, and there is promise of it, some day, being a completed edifice. A quadrangle that has been in course of erection for a long time, and which suffered con-

siderably last rains because the roof was not on, is now finished and forms a good, airy day dwelling for the middle and little girls. Here they spend their leisure hours in study, reading or play; the spacious rooms are used as dining halls; and in the morning from 7 to 8 o'clock about 500 little children gather here for their "prayers" before the work of the day begins; in the evening, another company of girls assembles to return thanks to the LORD for the mercies of the day.

Each of the schools is more thoroughly established; real progress has been made in intellectual studies and industries; the work of the Bible School goes on regularly and three students are definitely preparing to go out to help some Missionaries in the autumn. These need to be specially prayed for, that they may obtain the fullest possible benefit from the daily teaching of the Word of GOD and training in ordinary work, and that they may be truly "sent forth by the Holy Ghost."

Then the improvement in general behaviour gives much pleasure and is a great cause for praise. The workers must have had many a battle fought in secret before GOD and in the daily work among the girls, but He, Who goes forth "conquering and to conquer" has not overlooked Mukti, and all round there are signs of His working. A Sunday spent with the widows and orphans at Kedgaon would, I think, help to dispel any cloud of discouragement that may have come over any weary workers at home. The Morning Service for worship is well attended, and the preaching of the Word listened to with quietness and earnestness by the majority of the large congregation: yet, perhaps the Sunday Schools give us an even better idea of what our GOD has done and is doing. The many classes of girls of all ages are seated around their teachers learning the International Sunday School Lesson and the Golden Text, while the teachers, themselves, not many years ago in heathen darkness and superstition, now having come to know the love of GOD to sinners, are joyfully passing on the message.

Some cause us pain, some who were naughty and self-willed remain unchanged, but, "GOD is able," is our firm ground of hope, so we continue to work in faith and hope and

love, praising and praying for all whom the LORD has committed to our care ; and we ask all our friends please, still to unite with us, that sowers, waterers, reapers, all, may rejoice together when the increase given by our GOD is manifested to the glory of His Name.

M. MACDONALD.

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## The Financial Report of Mukti Mission.

DEAR FRIENDS,—

**I**N sending out this financial report of Mukti Mission after nearly three years, from the time the last one was published, I am prompted to thank God our Heavenly Father out of a full heart, for His countless mercies showered on us. “O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.”

### PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

The work at Mukti and Kripa Sadan has progressed slowly during the last three years. I am deeply conscious of many many failings on my part, but I can bear witness to God’s goodness and faithfulness in every thing that has happened and is happening to us. How true it is that though we are faithless, He remains faithful to the last. I praise and thank Him for His longsuffering. He bears with me—and keeps me in this work. It is a matter of deep thankfulness to me that unworthy as I am, He is still letting me take part in His work at Mukti.

I record with deep gratitude that God has set His seal of approval on the work in which my fellow workers, the lady missionaries and our revered pastor the Rev. W. W. Bruere take part. I am very thankful to Him for sending these dear people to aid me, and grateful to them for their love and invaluable help.

The short account written by Miss Macdonald—is best calculated to give an idea of how the work has progressed.

Suffice it to say that, the girls have made fair progress in their school studies and other things which they are learning. Some girls are more intelligent than the rest and have been promoted to the upper standards. The course of instruction given in school is according to the Government Standard. No pains are spared to give the girls a good education. Many industries are also taught them with a view to give them a good start in life. Those who are in the industrial school have made satisfactory progress in what they are taught ; but it will take them another two or three years to learn the trades well enough to be able to support themselves.

More attention is being given to the weaving department of the Industrial School. It is hoped that the cloth woven by the girls will supply half the quantity of cloth needed for the use of the whole school. This will of course be a little more expensive than that which we buy from the market, but it will prove more profitable in the long run. We hope in two year's time we shall be able to get all the cloth needed by us woven in our own Industrial school and have a little extra to sell and pay the expenses of the department from the profits.

#### DIFFICULTIES.

Some people who, are jealous and do not like to see the Mission work at Mukti prospering, have sown tares of doubt in the minds of Government Officials. The District Officials mean well in all that they do, and the more we are tried and the more closely matters are investigated the better and easier will it be for us at the end to carry on this work, and all doubts will be banished from the minds of our friends and foes. But trials are not very nice when we are passing through them though we may be thankful for them and talk with ease about them when they are over. Our work has been unnecessarily increased tenfold and expenses largely added to by troubles arising from this source.

The minds of our girls have been upset to such a degree that, steady work in school and at home is rendered almost impossible. To work for and among such girls as I have in my Homes is not an easy matter. I have received such girls as

would not be received by many, either in schools or homes for women and children. Those that are cast away by society, unwelcome in Mission Schools, and those who have become troublesome in one way or other and cannot be safely kept in the Homes or Schools where they were, are gathered in my Homes. They give us enough work day and night. To watch carefully over them, to give them a training which will help them in after life, to look after their Spiritual welfare, to deal with their anything-but-angel-like-natures, to meet their natural and spiritual wants and a hundred other things, take up all our mental and physical, strength and occupy all our time. There is scarcely any time left for one to get sufficient rest and the most necessary comfort.

But think what it means when in the midst of all this, the quietude of your home is suddenly broken by an unexpected Official visit, and the Officer who—no doubt with the best of intentions—asks the girls questions which upset their minds and whose actions encourage them to be rebellious, will not take any statement of yours as having a particle of truth in it and will let the girls see and think, that he believes in whatever they say whether it be false or true, but disbelieves you. At such a time you need more than human strength to stand on your feet and to keep working steadily. It takes nothing short of Divine Grace to keep your mind calm and perform all the hundred and one duties that daily demand your attention. The devil is very busy at such times. He is on the alert to undo all the work you have done. He tries his best to set at naught all your religious teaching and all your efforts to influence the girls for good. People who do not depend upon the All-powerful God, Who is stronger than the devil, will succumb to the disheartening effects produced by such disturbances. It is under such difficulties as these that, this work at Mukti has been carried on in the name of God for the last three years. Our troubles of this nature began in January 1901 and still continue. Considering the difficulties which hinder steady work, there is cause to be thankful for what has been accomplished already.

### SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF THE GIRLS.

Some weeks ago a minister and his wife who are engaged in orphanage work in Southern India, paid me a visit on their way home for their furlough. In course of conversation the minister said, "How about the Spiritual life of your girls? Are they making good progress?" He touched the most vital point when he asked this question. I must say I scarcely know how to answer him.

Our girls are certainly changed outwardly. They look very different from what they were when they came. They are quite civilized and Christianized outwardly. Any person who had seen them when they were admitted into the School can find out how very different and refined they look now.

Most of them have professed conversion and have been baptized. They partake of the Lord's supper. They can pray as well as anybody can. But to tell the truth, the daily life of many among these girls does not show that a real change of heart has taken place. They certainly seemed quite changed when they professed faith in Christ and judging from their behaviour at the time, one was quite convinced that they were really converted. Now however many of them seem to have back-slidden and grown cold.

One Sunday a minister preached a powerful sermon in our Church. He spoke about the two debtors from St. Luke, 7:40-50. In the course of his sermon, the minister told us that the Lord Jesus was willing and had promised to pay our debts. And we must not feel sad and despondent, but accept His promise cheerfully and rejoice in His Salvation.

However I am afraid that there is not much despondency among us, our troubles do not arise from that source. The preachers who are not acquainted with the spiritual condition of our people, do not realize that our people are filled with the Vedanta philosophy, which has UNREALITY for its watch word. The people of India as a general rule are not convicted of their sin. They do not feel the burden of

sin to be in doubts whether so great a salvation as the Lord Jesus Christ has promised to give, can be theirs.

This is the sad sad condition of our heart as a nation. We are dead to the fact that we are sinners and need to be saved. The Vedanta and its teaching about unreality is drunk in by us with our mothers' milk. Everybody talks about everything around us as being unreal. It is all Maya. The very belief that we exist is Maya *i.e.* illusion. All things in the world including good and bad are a part of this illusion. They admit that people are punished for doing evil and rewarded for doing good. But this also is illusion!

Under these circumstances, it is very difficult to find out if people are convicted of sin and convinced of their great need of a Saviour and if they truly believe in Him and are willing to give up sin. Much prayer must be made for our girls that they may all be convicted of sin and look to the Lord Jesus and be saved to the uttermost.

#### THE LESSON WHICH OUR GIRLS ARE LEARNING.

Of late, the girls and matrons seemed to be getting careless about their spiritual life. They took it for granted that it was their right to get whatever they wanted and be regardless of keeping God's commandments in every thing.

In the middle of April, I paid all my bills and after examining the accounts, I found out that, I had no money left in hand save to pay a month's salary of the teachers, in advance. Immediately I stopped all fresh purchases, and wrote a general letter to the teachers telling them of my resolution not to go into debt on any account if the Lord did not see it fit to send us money. I was half inclined to keep our difficulty a secret from them, but the Lord's voice said, the time had come for me to speak to these people.

For seven years since the beginning of this work here, I have never informed the teachers or the girls anything about our financial difficulties when they came. These difficulties have come very often, but no one but the Lord and sometimes the storekeeper knew about them. This time however, I thought it would be a blessing to the girls and to our workmen and

teachers to know that we have really to depend upon the Lord and to pray for our daily bread.

I told them that should we all be of one mind the Lord was sure to bless us and give us our daily bread. But we must not borrow money from others to pay salaries or to purchase food or other articles. If any of them wished to leave on this account they would receive a month's salary in advance and be free to go away. If on the other hand they were willing to trust the Lord with us, they were welcome to stay, but no one should do this to please me. None of the Christian teachers, nor even the few Hindu and Beni-Israel teachers left except one. Our merchant and a few others from whom we purchase grain, milk, &c. regretted very much that I would not order anything from them. They said they would not mind even if I did not pay my bills for another six months. I said I could not order things unless I had money in hand to pay the price of them.

Our girls were told that there was food enough in the store-room to last for a few days, but they should ask our Heavenly Father to send it when it would be really needed. So they began to pray. A whole week passed on in this way.

Next week money was sent by the Lord to pay the wages of work-men and to purchase food for three days. When these were over He sent money enough to buy food for four days. This experience has been repeated over and over again since then.

By this time the girls are quite conscious of the fact that the Lord sends us our food and all other necessities of life in answer to prayer. So they pray regularly for their food and warn each other against breaking God's commandments and displeasing Him. The poverty in this world's goods has brought us great blessing inasmuch as it has become the means of spiritual awakening among our girls in a measure.

#### PERSONAL EXPERIENCE.

I must however, record with great humiliation that I have realized as never before the faithlessness of human nature and the weakness of my own heart and the utter worthlessness of our natural strength. Sometime ago I read the story

of a good man of God, who searched his heart to see if there was a particle of faith left in it and found none, when he was asked by his wife to peep into an empty barrel and sing the Doxology as he had often preached people should do. I was brought to a similar place of trial several times during the past three years, when I had to peep in the empty barrels and to search in my heart if there was any faith in me. To my great shame I found none until the Lord came to my rescue and put His faithfulness before me and bid me believe in it. I have realized that it is not our faith, but His faithfulness that never fails and always sustains me.

I have many a time felt the reality of the vision seen by Zechariah, when he saw Joshua, the high priest, standing before the Angel of the Lord *and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him*. When you have daily to meet "the accuser of the brethren" face to face and hear what he has to say about you, you cannot possibly stand it unless there is some one who, will support you with a prayer of faith, which is going up continually on your behalf and which serves as a mighty shield to protect you from the strange stare of the enemy. How thankful I feel at such times that the Lord Jesus Christ is mightily pleading for me and rebuking the enemy and telling him "Is not this a brand plucked out of fire?" I thank those friends who have stood by me in prayer and have come to my aid. They have written such letters of comfort, giving the sure promises of God for my encouragement assuring me of their continued prayerful interest. Their prayers have sustained me and the help they have given me in this and many other ways has brought great comfort to my heart. I have taken courage again and again, as day by day God sent His messages and tokens of love through these dear children of His. I thank them all most gratefully for the comfort they have brought to my heart by showing their love in words and deeds.

#### NEW EXTENSION.

It would seem strange to many that at such a time when we are having trouble and difficulties, new branches should be started. But it has been done. The need of Hindu widows

in various parts of the country is so great that one cannot shut one's ears to their cries for help. The Lord has given me four good women workers who have had many years' training in these Homes at Kedgaon. They know the methods of work and are conscientious Christian women. Several girls of ours who are being trained as Bible-women in our Bible School, are being sent to work with them and will bring the light of the Gospel to those who are still in thick darkness and misery. Four widows' homes have already been started at four different places. I have good reports of the work progressing there. It progresses slowly—all good works do—but we are sure God has put His seal of approval on it by giving us open doors for the entrance of His Word and willing ears to hear it. I earnestly beg of our Christian friends in every land to pray for God's blessing on these branches. Details of the work will be given on some future occasion. Our aim is to send Bible women to these stations and reach women and widows in their homes and give aid to such as are, in need of it. The following incidents will give at least a faint idea of how great is the need of women of this country.

#### A WRONGED WIDOW.

Travelling in a third class railway carriage in the women's compartment, is one of the best ways to get acquainted with women in this country. There the women are comparatively free to express their opinion on various subjects. Women living in distant places, speaking several languages, belonging to different castes, can be met there. They speak freely to each other. Listening quietly to them, you can have a clear insight into their condition.

I left Poona for Kedgaon with five girls on one Saturday morning. The women's carriage was not very crowded, so we got in there and made ourselves comfortable. I sat opposite a Brahman widow of about thirty-five years of age. She looked sad, had scarcely enough clothing to cover her body and was silent. I was anxious to speak to her, and wondered how I should begin conversation. At first it seemed as if it would

not be easy to speak to her, but I took courage and asked her where she came from and where she was going. Her answers were short, she seemed reserved, but I kept asking questions, gave her the Gospel message and told her I rejoiced in God who had saved me. She could not quite understand what I said, for she had never heard of Christ and of His love for mankind.

It is always difficult to make such people understand that God loves us. The story of His love is quite new to them. But we must take courage, the words are not quite lost on them. They may come back to them when they hear the story a second or third time and help to make them quite familiar with it. Our conversation ended with the message. But I wanted to know more about her condition.

An intelligent Marathi matron of the farmer caste sat by my side. She was nursing her baby, and quieting her talkative little girl, who asked various questions, by shouting at her as hard as she could. This woman fell into conversation with the widow. She was capital at asking questions and getting information. She asked many questions of the widow and drew her out so that I was able to gather the desired information regarding her.

“Have you any children—any one to take care of you?” asked the questioner.

“No,” said the widow, “I am alone in the world, I have no one to care for me. I have brothers and brothers-in-law but they do not care for me.”

“How do you then get your food?”

“By working in the homes of my relatives. First I go to one house where I am needed for work, and then I go to another and another—so all round the year. They give me food, and occasionally a piece of cloth.”

“Do not your brothers-in-law take care of you and give you a home?”

“No, they invite me to work for them. I am just returning from Bombay, where I have been working at my brother-in-law’s house like a slave for four months. I took care of his wife in her illness and worked hard in the

house and he has sent me empty away when I am no longer needed. He has given me nothing for the hard work I did for him and his family. He did not give me even a *saree* nor did he come to see me off when he sent me away, and now I hear I have to wait at Dhond for seven hours before I can get a train for Nagar. I have been travelling all night, it is my fasting day to-day and I have to wait at that strange place so long. So much for his thoughtfulness for me. I have not a pice with which I can buy something to eat!"

And the poor widow hung her head and wiped tears that were streaming down her cheeks while she told the sad story of her life.

"I have been a widow these twenty five years, I became a widow when a child and nobody cares for me! I work while I have strength for each meal I get."

This is a sad story indeed, I thought, as I listened to her. She has been and will be knocking about from place to place so long as she has any strength to work. But no one will lovingly care for her when she is old and infirm. No one, not even her own relatives love her. Society despises her. She is one of the millions of widows who are suffering wrongfully. How long, O God, how long!

When taking leave of her I told her that, I deeply sympathised with her, and gave her a few coins to help her in her journey. I told her that God loves her and I love her because He loves me. I said I would gladly give her any help if she felt inclined to come where my home is. Friends, pray for this wronged widow and for the millions like her.

#### A WRONGED WIFE.

I was travelling from Poona to the City of B. in December last. A Brahman young lady stepped in the carriage at H—Station. She looked quite a refined lady with good manners and modest demeanour. I wanted to tell her the story of God's love for mankind, so began to converse with her. I began by asking her where she came from. She said:—

"A great saint has come to H—. We, *i.e.* my husband and others heard of his great sanctity, so went to see him that we

might be cleansed of our sin by looking at him and worshipping him. Who are you? Are you one of Mrs. Besant's followers?" I said, "No, I am a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. I was a Hindu, a Brahman like you; but God has opened my eyes to see the folly of our ancestral religion and I am a Christian now." I told her of Christ and that He came to save sinners, that He alone can cleanse us from our sin, and how God loved the world and gave His only begotten son to save mankind. I then told her the story of my conversion. She listened very attentively and was glad to hear what I had to say. She had never heard the story of God's love.

I asked her if she had any children. Her countenance saddened, she looked the very picture of misery. She said, "No I have no children. My husband has married another wife, —she has a son,—I have been put away and have not gone home to my parents these five years since my husband married again. I must live as I am and take my lot as easily as I can."

She keenly felt the disgrace of being superceded by another wife and did not wish to meet her parents and brothers and sister under these circumstances. She puts on as pleasant a face as she can. She is serving and worshipping her husband and serving her sister-wife as a good religious wife is expected to do; but she bears the grief of her wrongs in her heart. It is eating her life. How many wronged wives there are in this country! They cannot lift up their voice against their wrongs, against the abuses of marital rights by their husbands. Their mute appeal is rising to the Throne of Grace. They do not know that the Son of God came to give them freedom. Oh, that there were millions of Christian women in this country who would go and tell their sisters the glad tidings of great joy and bring them to the liberty with which Christ has made us free!

This lady stayed only half-an-hour in the carriage, but I had sufficient time to know the story of her wrongs. When bidding her goodbye I assured her of my deep sympathy for her and told her that I would pray to God for her and for others like her.

On my return journey from the City of B. I met some other Brahman women. Their lot was a happier one. They were mothers of several children and had had some education. Their husbands are well educated and hold high positions. One of them said, "Our men are refined and civilized enough to look to their own convenience. They have set the old Brahmanical religion aside so far as their own convenience is concerned and adopted all English customs and habits. But we women are held to the old usage and our feelings and our rights are trampled down by them under their heels. I have a sister just twenty one years of age. A few months ago she was as happy with her husband as I am. But he died of plague, now she is as miserable as if she were living in hell. She is starved, she has but one coarse meal a day and her head is shaven. She has no right to be anything but a slave in the home where she used to be the mistress. Now all her happiness and her hope is gone—she is in the hands of her husband's relatives, and they can do with her what they will. I cannot lift up my voice against these wrongs for fear of displeasing my relatives. Much as I wish to do so, I cannot give my sister a bit of comfort or a second meal!" She could say no more. You can read volumes in this brief account. God help the wronged womanhood of our country!

#### DELIVERANCES.

I should have to write a large book if I were to give all the instances in which deliverance was sent, but I cannot finish this account without mentioning some of them. The difficulties encountered in the past two years were many but deliverances were many more. In each instance I was forewarned by God's Spirit to be prepared for some difficulty, some tribulation and fortify myself with prayer.

I had such a forewarning a few weeks before a great trouble came on me in 1903. My strength began to fail me, but the Holy Spirit, the great Comforter knows how to comfort His people. He spoke words of comfort to me before this trouble came. "Is My hand shortened at all that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver?" Is. 59:1. I had

not the slightest idea of what was going to happen in the near future, but He knew that I would be crushed down under its burden if He did not strengthen me with the sure promises of God. For days and weeks He kept whispering the following words in my ears.

“The Lord redeemeth the soul of His servants. And none of them that trust in Him shall be desolate.” Ps. 34 : 22.

The trouble came on in a short time. I knew then why the Lord had so constantly spoken to me about being prepared for it. So when it came on I was able to accept it in His strength and knew He would make everything alright.

At another time just before the rainy season began last year, I received just such a forewarning. It was a beautifully cool and peaceful evening, and yet I felt something dreadful was happening or was about to happen. My strength seemed to desert me, so I began to pray to God to give me His strength. He put Ps. 60 : 5, 11. in my heart as an appropriate prayer for that occasion.

“That thy beloved may be delivered ; save with thy right hand, and hear me.”

“Give us help from trouble, for vain is the help of man.”

I requested two of my fellow-workers to go all round the homes and see if anything was amiss. They did so and found every thing alright. There fell upon us a great calm on that evening. Everything seemed to be in its proper order. The girls went to sleep and we followed their example. The sky was cloudless, the moon was shining. Suddenly at 9-30. there began a thuder-storm and the rain came down in torrents. A new House was under construction and three quarters of it was finished and was occupied by nearly three hundred little girls. But a long row of rooms on the east side had not been tiled. When the storm broke it came down wall, roof, and all. The girls who were sleeping in the other part were greatly frightened when they heard the terrible crash and noise of the thunder. They huddled themselves together in groups of ten and twenty. Some, cried, some prayed, some shouted at each other and all were in

confusion. Help was quickly brought, they were all sent out of the falling house and safely lodged in the Church. We praised God for His mercies in preserving their lives.

Not one of them was hurt. It was all His doing. He had warned that some trouble was at hand and told us we were to fortify ourselves by prayer and by putting our trust in His preserving care.

The part of the house which was finished, was again occupied and the building which had been destroyed by the storm began to go up. We had no suspicion that the roof of the first part was not all right. But one day in January, a strong feeling came on me that I must take all the girls away from that building and put them somewhere else. It was the voice of God that spoke to me and I promptly obeyed. The building was vacated within eight hours. On the next day I was prompted to ask the carpenter, who had undertaken to finish the roof of that part, to examine and repair it and build the other part also. He went to do the work. There were more than fifty persons, carpenters, masons, and workmen engaged in finishing that part. The carpenter was working hard. It seems that he had done his work badly in one corner and was trying to repair it, when all of a sudden, crash! came down the roof, ten men were caught under it. We heard the noise, help was promptly sent and the men were released with great difficulty. Our resident physician and nurses were on hand helping the wounded men. Two were badly injured, one of them, the man who was repairing the roof was very badly hurt. There was little hope of his recovery. They were sent immediately to the Government Hospital in Poona—others who were not so badly injured recovered soon. How thankful we all felt that the Lord had undertaken for us and led us to remove the girls from the building whose roof, was to come down so soon. Had any of them been there they would have been crushed to death. The Lord is merciful and protects His children.

“The Lord is thy keeper. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.” Ps. 121:5, 7, 8.

Part of the Chappars put up for the benefit of the sick among our rescued girls were burned in February and many girls lost all that they had. This happened at midnight. Every one was fast asleep and no one suspected that we should have trouble in the night. Fortunately the moon was shining. The Hindus were busily preparing for the celebration of the feast of Holi. Some among the followers of the Hindu religion consider it a part of their religious duty to set houses and haystacks on fire. They cast stones at sleeping people in the darkness of the night. They also call bad names and use the most obscene language during this festival. This goes on for at least a month. One of the devotees of this filthy religious custom must have considered it his bounden duty to set our house on fire, so the deed was done and the flames began to consume the temporary sheds erected for the benefit of the Rescue girls. Our watchman was evidently bribed or threatened with some sharp revenge, for he was keeping watch right in the corner of the compound where fire was set, but he denied the knowledge of how it came to be there. Some of our girls were frightened at the sight. We were quickly aroused from our sleep and as the flames rose to a great height we thought we could do nothing but pray. Our workmen and teachers came to help and pulled down the burning sheds. Our girls worked hard and carried water to quench the fire. But there were some among our neighbours who simply stood by and looked at what was happening. Some thought it was a splendid opportunity to annoy us, so stole the food of our cattle from the haystack. But we praised God for His loving kindness, and rejoiced in Him.

“When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned, neither shall the flame kindle upon thee, for I am the Lord thy God.” Is. 43 : 2-3.

The first part of the Donation List has already been sent to our friends, the remaining parts are being sent with the Balance Sheet printed at the end. Our friends will be able to see how much money was received from July, 19, 1901 to June 18, 1904—and how the money has been spent. All the moneys

received from friends for the benefit of the girls and for the general work of the Mission have been spent for the purpose. Great care has been taken in spending the money most economically, and most profitably to the girls. The Rev. D. O. Fox has very kindly and generously given his time to examine the accounts and I gratefully thank him for the help he has given me.

I must once more thank you all for the generous help you have all given me, and for the prayerful interest you are taking in the Lord's work at Mukti. God our Father bless and reward you according to His riches in Glory in Christ Jesus.

*Mukti, Kedgaon,  
June, 1904.*

Yours gratefully  
in His Service,  
RAMABAI.

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## The Rescue Home.

“ I will bless the Lord at all times His praise shall continually be in my mouth.” Psalm, 34 : 1.

“**K**RIPA Sadan ” or the “ Home of Mercy ” has been the scene of much of God's goodness. When I came to live here a year and nine months ago our little hospital was full, some of the cases were in a dreadful condition, to-day many are well and at work. Their spiritual condition also, through God is much improved, but outward reform is very little good, though in many cases it precedes a real change of heart. A great outbreak does not lead to deep repentance, but on the contrary it seems rather to drive the girl further from God.

The ages vary from sixty years to one month, the age of the last arrival. As may be expected the numbers do not vary very much, there are about two hundred women and girls and eight children. The eldest child, little boy has rather an amusing history. One day I found the hospital nurse in tears. After a good deal of questioning she told me among the boys

brought to the school was her son. I asked why she cried so much? She said "because I do not believe Bai will let me have him to bring up.

I recommended her to pray and ask God to show Ramabai His will and then to go and ask for the child. Next day she was all smiles, she had the boy. But as she came from Gujerat and the boy from the Central Provinces one doubts the parentage. One thing is certain, they both are very happy, the mother has some one to love and care for, and the little boy has a good mother. They are a very affectionate set of people, and will do anything for those they love.

One night the temporary hospital caught fire. There were not many sick girls sleeping in it, but a number of those who were well, and the boxes belonging to the school girls were kept there as the dormitory was so crowded. The matron worked very hard and saved all she could never thinking of herself and when finished she turned round expecting to have lost everything. What was her surprise to find that the girls had rescued all her things but one old *saree*. It is supposed that the fire was caused by a match being thrown into the thorn hedge at the back of the hospital. Kripa Sadan proper has been turned temporarily into a hospital for the many who fell sick last rains. Our sick girls cannot be admitted into the general hospital therefore they are nursed on the Kripa Sadan premises.

The women who are too old to learn in school, work at the farm, of these there are twenty.

Then we have about nine who can do nothing but grind. Three of these are blind.

We generally meet for daily prayers at 6 A.M. which occupy an hour. At 8 A.M. all have to go to school except those who do farm work and who grind. The last six months there has been a much greater desire to attend school. Instead of the old excuse "I cannot learn, reading does not come to me." Now I hear, "And am I not to learn? Is not the school for me?"

I am afraid some will never accomplish much, but the

discipline of sitting still and applying the mind if ever so little helps them. School closes at 11 A.M. and at one o'clock industrial work commences. If a girl cannot do one sort of work she can do another. Indian women as a rule are not good needle women, work runs in caste, but nearly thirty are learning to sew. The great attraction in the sewing class is the sewing machine. But no one is allowed the privilege of working a machine until she can fix her own work. We want, as far as possible, to teach them a trade. Many more can do embroidery than those who can sew. Their taste for embroidery was discovered through the work they did on their cholies (short sleeved jackets) with thorns for needles and cotton drawn out of their saris for thread. Some weave tape for the bottoms of cots while others spin and wind the thread used in weaving saris, dhoties and towels, etc.

Taking us all together we are a happy family. Most of them firmly believe in prayer. When the task is difficult I have heard one say to the other, "You pray, I did, and God helped me."

Last year three left to return to their relatives. One married woman was sent for by her husband as he had become converted since she had left. A daughter returned to Christian parents. The sister of the third was a Christian, but not her parents. We need the believing prayers of God's children as Satan tempts us sorely.

E. BACON.

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## My Education as a Hindu.

*Continued from the last number of the Prayer-Bell.*

**T**HE following is a brief outline of the various subjects as they are taught in the Puranas.

THE ORIGIN OF THE WORLD AND HISTORY OF CREATION.

The great Vishnu lay asleep in the waters. Maya or Prakriti came to him. She laid a golden egg called Bra-manda because Brahma, the maker of the visible creation was born in that egg. A huge lotus flower sprang from

the sleeping Vishnu. In that was great Brahma born. He turned his head to the four quarters to see what existed around him, and so four faces were produced in his head. Then he wanted to behold what was above his head, thus another head or face came into existence. He was thinking deeply what he should do, when he heard a two syllabled word sound in his ears several times. That word was Tapas. *i. e.* austerity. He took it to be the command of his Creator to perform austerities.

He spent billions of years in doing penance. At last Vishnu revealed himself to Brahma and taught him philosophy.

After completing his studies with Vishnu, Brahma received a commission from his father to produce progeny. He gave birth to several sons. Four were born out of his mind, one from his thigh, one from his big toe, one from his breath, one from his skin, one from the palm of his hand, one from his navel, one from his ears, one from his mouth, one from his eyes, one from his brains. Death was born from his right breast, Duty from his back, Sexual love from his heart, Anger from his eye-brows, Covetousness from his lower lip, Language from his mouth, and from the lower parts of his body were born the rivers, and so on.

His sons were commissioned by him to beget children, and to inhabit the world. Accordingly they married and beget, not only men and women, but birds, beasts, reptiles, insects, fishes, rivers, oceans, mountains, islands, ghosts, and demons.

The great Brahma gave birth to four castes as follows :—

Brahman, the highest, was born from his mouth.

Kshatriya, the warrior, from his arms.

Vishya, the trader, from his thigh.

Sudra, the servile caste, from his feet.

Manu, the first man, and his wife were son and daughter of Brahma having sprung from each of his shoulders. Manu and his wife were parents of mankind. Manu was not only the father but the king and the lawgiver of mankind. Countless kings were born in his dynasty, and ruled the world. Vishnu and other gods and goddesses incarnated themselves, in his

dynasty, in order to "Save good people to destroy sinners and to establish religion in every age." There are countless divisions of time ; the one that most concerns us is called Kali Yuga. There are four Yugas. The Krita was the age of good works, Treta was the age of three fires, when sacrificial religion was taught. Dwapara, was the age of doubts. Kali Yuga the age of scisms, which is the present one. We are living in the fourth age. Division among the people, a general irreligiousness, inclination to sin, confusion of castes, disregard of the Veda, are characteristics of this age.

The gods used to walk on earth in former ages, but now only Ganga and Vishnu remain, all the other gods have left the earth because of the heresy of the people. At the completion of the 50th century of Kali Yuga, the holy Ganga was to leave the earth, (which she has probably done by this time.) and at the end of 10,000 years of this Yuga, Vishnu deserts this world, and for a long time the reign of unrightousness is to prevail. The Mohommedans, English or any other Mlechchha tribes that now rule the holy Bharata Varsha *i. e.*, Hindustan, do so unrightously, producing confusion of caste, which leads to the destruction of mankind. All this is in the order of the nature of the age, but the pious Brahman who desires to go to heaven must keep himself undefiled from the learning of these Mlechchhas. He must not even to save his life, learn the English or any other foreign language, or study any of their sciences ; for they are all full of errors, which lead to the confusion of castes and abandonment of the true religion.

The history of the ancient rulers of the world, is still more wonderful. The story of hundreds of kings whose reigns lasted twenty or thirty thousands of years, and who had a hundred or a thousand arms and ten or twenty heads, and who were thirty feet or forty high or several miles and who each had over 10,000 wives, and millions of sons were very charming to the childish mind.

*(To be continued.)*

# Mukti Mission.

THE Mukti Mission is a purely undenominational, evangelical, Christian Mission, designed to reach and help high caste Hindu widows, deserted wives and orphans from all parts of India. It aims at training the young women and girls sheltered in Mukti home, mentally, morally and spiritually. Everything is done to enlighten the women and girls who come to this home. After receiving a thorough training for some years, they go out as teachers or Bible women to work in different Missions, and many of them get married and settle happily in their own homes.

Friends desiring to help in this work of God are asked to interest as many of their friends in this mission as they can, to pray regularly for it. The Mukti Mission depends wholly upon God. Friends are therefore urged to pray earnestly for it, that the Lord may "make all grace abound" toward it, that it "having all efficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."

God's children who desire to pray for it, need not consider themselves under any obligation to pay money toward its support. The founder of this Mission knows, and has proved, that God answers prayer. The prayers of God's people are more precious than silver and gold.

Any Christian desiring to help this mission is requested to pray daily for the workers and the founder, that they may live and work in this mission, always doing the good will of God, "giving no offence in anything, that the ministry be not blamed: but in all things approving" themselves "as the ministers of God."

Friends are requested also to unite with the members of the Mukti Church, on the first Tuesday of every month, in special prayer:—

1. That all orphans, homeless women, widows and girls in India may be rescued and placed under the wise management of godly Christian people.

2. That all of them may be converted and saved to the uttermost, and not one of them go astray.

3. That they may be filled with the Holy Spirit, and that the Lord of the harvest may send forth many of them as labourers into His harvest. Matt. ix 38.

4. That those who become their foster parents may realize their responsibility, and faithfully discharge their duty according to God's commandment.

5. That the whole Indian Church may become a great evangelizing agency, so that the Gospel may be given to every man, woman and child in India by the Christians, as freely as they have received it.

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matt. xxi, 22.

Any other information in regard to Mukti Mission may be obtained by addressing a letter or Post Card to PANDITA RAMABAI, Superintendent of the Mission.

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Printed and Published by Pandita Ramabai, Manager and Proprietor, at the Mukti Mission Press, Kedgaon, Poona District.

# The Mukti Mission Prayer Union for Australasia.

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## OFFICERS.

### *Australian Secretary :*

MRS. VAGG..... 98 Hambleton St.  
Middle Park, Melbourne,  
Victoria, Australia.

### *Tasmanian Secretary :*

MRS. ADA GOULD ..... 18 St. George's Square,  
Launceston, Tasmania.

### *New Zealand Secretary :*

MRS. GEORGE MACKENZIE... Queenstown, New Zealand.

### *General Secretary :*

MANORAMABAI..... Mukti, Kedgaon, India.

### *Honorary Secretary :*

PANDITA RAMABAI..... Superintendent,  
of the Mukti Mission,  
Kedgaon, India.

The above named officers will be glad to supply local secretaries scattered members, or friends interested in the work with cards, leaflets, and information.

Any friends interested will greatly help by getting at least ten other friends to pray for the work. Such PRAYER CIRCLES can be easily organised without any rules, simply by asking each member to pray for Mukti Mission daily, and for one of the girls whose names will be given by the secretary, that the girl named may be saved to the uttermost and be baptised with the Holy Spirit, that she may devote her whole life to God's service and, kept by His power, be faithful unto death.

**N. B.**—Will members be kind enough to notify their local secretary of any change of name or address, and will the secretaries kindly report such changes as soon as possible ?

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