

The Woman's Missionary Society.

[This Department is in the interests of the W. M. Society. All communications for it should be addressed to Mrs. Jos. McLeod, Fredericton.]

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A Short Sketch of Myself, my Family, and my Work at Balasore, Orissa.

[Mrs. L. C. Griffin, the Mission Correspondent of the General Conference Board of United States Free Baptists, who sends us the following letter from Principal Dina Nath Basu, of the Balasore High School, says: "The sketch will, I think, be interesting to your readers. That school must be ever precious to you because it was founded by your own A. B. Boyer."]

I was born in the French town of Chaudernagoie, situated about twenty-four miles to the north of Calcutta, the Capital of India. I am a Bengali by race. My parents were orthodox Hindus, and devout worshippers of Krishua, the great Hindu god—supposed to be in incarnation of Vishnu, the second person of the Hindu Triad. According to the special sect of the Hindus to which my parents belonged, salvation is to be attained by faith in Krishua alone, and not by any good deeds.

As there was no good school in our town, I got admitted into the Chinsurah Free Church Mission High School, which was nearly two miles off from my home. The principal of that institution was Rev. P. K. Chatterji, who was a Brahmin convert to Christianity. Little did I (who was then a Hindu lad of twelve) know that some day I should embrace the religion professed by Mr. Chatterji and marry his granddaughter. While reading there, I learned the four gospels from Rev. K. M. De, who had married my eldest sister before he became a Christian. Thus I received Christian education from my very boyhood, like those boys who were born of Christian parents. True it is that in my boyhood I used to worship the Hindu gods and goddesses, and pray to them for relief from little troubles and difficulties. I remember that in order to be cured of chronic dysentery, I used to pray daily to a Hindu god named Tarakeshwar (meaning God and Saviour), and carried about my person a charm. Strange to say, I got cured of dysentery, and my faith in that god was confirmed. I used to pray to that Hindu god every morning, and carried the charm (received from the priest of that god) about my person for some five years. But some five years later, when my faith in Hinduism had been shaken, I refused to eat some sweets which had been offered to Tarakeshwar, my favorite god. Moreover, I threw away the charm which I had carried for so many years. At this the members of my family were shocked and very much offended. They anticipated that all sorts of calamities would befall me for this act, to them so sacriligious. Cer-

tainly they wanted me to repent, and to do all that was necessary to avert the evil which, they thought, was sure to come upon me. But I did nothing of the sort, although I was rather uneasy on account of what I had done, as my faith in that Hindu god was not yet quite dead. When no calamity happened to me, my relatives concluded that I was no longer a believer in Hinduism like them, but was a "half Christian."

A year later I made up my mind to join the Christian church by publicly confessing Jesus Christ. My brother-in-law, who had taught me the everlasting gospel in my boyhood, was delighted to hear that I was going to be baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity. I was baptized in the London Mission Chapel at Bhowanipur, Calcutta, in the presence of some of my Hindu class-fellows and schoolmates. A day or two after my baptism, my elder brother, who is still a Hindu, brought some very strong men with him and waylaid me. Thus, they forcibly carried me away from the protection of my missionary friends, with whom I was staying at that time. At this the missionaries applied to the magistrate to help me to come back to them if I liked to do so. When I was asked by the magistrate if I would like to go back to Hinduism and stay with my Hindu relatives, the Lord gave me firmness of mind and grace to say that I would go and stay with the missionaries and other Christians. Ours being a caste-ridden country, I was looked upon as an outcast as soon as I publicly renounced my faith in Hinduism and was baptized in the name of our Lord Jesus. I was excommunicated by the Hindu society. It was not I who deserted my Hindu relatives, but they who turned me out because I was a Christian. I thank God that ever since my baptism I have served my dear Lord and Saviour, and I am not at all sorry for doing so. Would to God that I should remain firm in my faith till the last moment of my earthly existence!

Eight years after my baptism I married Miss M. K. Chatterji, the only daughter of Mr. P. C. Chatterji, and the granddaughter of Rev. P. K. Chatterji, who was the principal of the institution into which I was admitted while I was twelve. Now I have been blessed by our Lord with three sons and one daughter. The eldest son is fifteen, the second is ten, the third is seven years old, and the daughter is five years of age. All our sons are reading in the Balasore Christian High School, but the eldest son, who is in the highest class, has been advised by some Calcutta eye doctors to discontinue his studies altogether, as his eyes have become very weak. He will soon be looking out for some out-door work. My daughter goes to Miss H. Phillips' kindergarten school.

I am in charge of the Christian High School, where I teach English, mathematics and Scriptures for four hours every day. Besides teaching in the school, I occasionally take part in preaching in the church on Thursdays and Sundays. I, also, visit my educated and half-educated countrymen in their

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MURINE FOR TIRED EYES.

houses whenever I get an opportunity to do so. Many of these gentlemen receive me very kindly and listen to my talks attentively. Sometimes I am asked to discuss with their *gurus* (spiritual guides) in the presence of a large number of men. The harvest is truly plentiful, but alas! the laborers are so few. May the Lord of the harvest soon send more laborers, is the earnest prayer of

DINA NATH BASU,

American Free Baptist Mission,
Balasore, India.

February 24th, 1904.



HARTLAND SOCIETY.

As our society has not been reported for some time, we thought we would send a few lines to the missionary column. Our meetings are held on the first Friday afternoon of each month at the homes of the members. While the interest is not all that we would desire, we thank God for those who do meet together to pray for the spread of the kingdom of our Lord in the world. After devotional exercises we have the roll call of members, when each one responds by reciting a verse of scripture. Then come the items of business. This is followed by a short programme. We are making an effort to increase our knowledge of the work in the foreign field, and we are hoping this will also increase our interest in the meetings. At the close of our meetings we give a supper, prepared by the sister who entertains the meeting, for which we charge a small fee to all who attend. Besides the financial benefit from this, which amounts to from four to five dollars each time, we find the social side to be very helpful. We have become better acquainted with each other. God has made us social beings, and we should cultivate this grace. As a knowledge of our work is enlarged, so will our interest in it be increased; and so with each other, often the more we know people the better we love them.

During the last few months how human plans and hopes have been frustrated as the workers in the foreign field have been called to their reward on high. How many times our question-

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ing is hushed by the words of our Master, "What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter." The reward is to the faithful. May the thought that we are working for him who has promised this reward so encourage us that with renewed zeal we shall go forward in this work.

THE SECRETARY.



Waterville and Third Tier Society.

Since New Year we have held our meetings at the homes of the sisters, and have found it works well in every way. The attendance is quite large, rating from 26 to 116 persons. A tea (which is limited) is provided by the sister at whose house it is held. The

Continued on page 12.

INDIGESTION CONQUERED BY K.D.C.
IT RESTORES THE STOMACH TO HEALTHY ACTION AND TONE