

AMONG THE HINDU WOMEN

The following letter from Hon. Winifriede Sugden, Zenana missionary in Bengal from 1862 to 1891, was written to Mrs. F. W. Daniel of this city. Miss Sugden's words will be read with deep interest by all who are interested in missionary work :

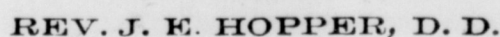
As a married woman a Hindu lady's life is miserable. She is entirely in the power of her mother-in-law, she has no education (at present one in every eight hundred is being educated among the women of India), nothing but her jewels to amuse herself with, shut up with her sisters-in-law in the smallest, darkest and worst room in the house, never allowed to walk even on the flat roof until it is dark. The Hindu lady passes her life with nothing to do after she has cooked her husband's food but to quarrel with those women who are shut up with her. One Hindu lady when asked by a missionary lady how she passed her time, said, "I sit one side of the room until I am tired, and then get up and sit the other." What must it be in these women's lives to have the regular visits from the white-faced woman, to be taught reading, working, and anything else the poor untutored mind can take in, and above all hear of the life beyond the grave when all cruelty and tyranny will be passed away for them? Can we who are educated and have God's word in our hands refuse to go and send what God in His mercy and love has given us, to those women in their helplessness? When a little daughter is born the father constantly curses the mother and child, and his only idea if a good betrothal cannot be arranged for is to get rid of her. I was told by a missionary in Peshawar that the Mahomedan fathers leave their daughters to die on the floor shut into a room. You can imagine the mother sitting and listening to her baby crying itself to death of starvation. The Hindu fathers put their little girls constantly out at night to be devoured by wild beasts, and it they do let them live a few years and if the children do not die a natural death, they are constantly put out of the way by poisoning with opium—for it is "only a woman" less in the world. When in India I read an account of the statistics of deaths sent in to the government, and it was remarked in the English paper, that about 2,000 girls had been sent in as destroyed by wild beasts in one year in one part of India, but not one boy. In Amabai's book she says: "Even the wild beasts are against women in India and take only the baby girls." 300 baby girls were destroyed by wolves in one year in the town of Amritzur, and no boy. In all the years I worked among the women of India I never saw a Hindu lady laugh—they have not the wish to laugh, they smile or perhaps giggle but in a Hindu village you never hear a woman's bright merry laugh. Friends have often from India told me that they have seen women laugh. So have I, the women belonging to the different Christian denominations and the low caste women who work as nurses and maids among the English in India, and who are perhaps the only native women seen by civilians and planters in India, can laugh merrily but a man speaking of the 40,000,000 high born women to whom it is a disgrace to be seen by any man but their fathers or husbands, who never go outside their zenana unless covered up in what we should call a box—who are never educated by their own people, who are never spoken lovingly to as they are

Never having a kind loving word is the usual lot of these widows unless the white-faced woman goes in the name of her Master to raise and comfort the fallen. A Hindu gentleman said that "The Hindus are not afraid of the mission school for they need not learn, they are not afraid of the mission books for they need not read them, nor of the preaching for they need not listen, but they are afraid of the foreign women and the medical missionaries who come into the homes and hearts of the women." What about the white-faced women who win their way into the hearts of the women of India? How many are there? Are they going out in crowd with their hearts full of gratitude and love for the Savior who has done so much to them? looking for fruit unto life eternal among the heathen and hastening the coming of the Lord. There are about 290,000,000 natives in India, there is one Protestant missionary to every 5,000,000 natives. In the district of Multan in the Punjab, with a population of 3,000,000 there are I believe 4 English missionaries at work in a district as large as England. The average of deaths is 20 a minute among the natives of India. Will you add this up and see how many of your fellow-creatures in that vast country are passing into eternity without any knowledge of their Creator as their Redeemer. What Christianity has done to the natives of India must be seen in the mission station of the day school in the Mudeea district for high-born little Hindu girls, daughters of some of them rich men, five years was the age at which they first came to school, there was only one who was ever allowed to stay until she had completed her 16th year. There were about eighty names on the roll when I left India, the daily attendance was about fifty. I never saw one of those little women laugh, they would smile in a sad quiet way and play quietly with the dolls I gave them, but the difference between Hindu girls and native Christian girls was always noticed by any one fresh from England. The Hindu girl is not recognized as a child in her father's house and made to feel bitterly that she was a thing not wanted there, and to be get rid of as speedily as possible, and the Christian child who knew she was cared for with her bright happy face and merry laughter, treated as a human being and not as a thing.

There about medical work, I believe that there are not altogether thirty medical missionaries working at this moment in India among the 120,000,000 women and that includes all sent from America and Europe. 35 to 45 percent of the women in India die when their little ones are born of fever and tetanus owing to the cruel way they are treated by their ignorant nurses. What with whole-sale murder and neglect or ill-treatment when they are ill they are only about 20,000,000 women to about 170,000,000 men. Is there any other country in the world where the proportion is the same. There are several Hospitals belonging to the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society, one in Amritzur in charge of Miss Hewlett, there were I believe in and out patients in one year numbering 7,500. Of the medical missions there are just as many as of the patients who would be left to die if there were no prompt medical help. In Toronto diocese the ladies are doing their best to support a medical missionary for the women of India, in the Niagara diocese. Mrs. Hamilton has kindly said she will do what she can to send me yearly support from the ladies in that diocese. Ladies also in Montreal, Ottawa, London and other places have kindly promised to send us still further donations towards building and supporting the Hospital, I hope, please God to have it in the Nuddea District, Bengal. It seems

**Dr. Hopper's Book on the Recognition of
Our Friends in^s Heaven.**

A fruitful subject for thought with all Christians who have loved and lost is the recognition of friends in Heaven, and all such must read with deep interest the new book, "Life in the Hereafter World," by Rev. J. E. Hopper, D. D. The book, says the author, is the substance of sermons on this topic which had afforded solace to members of a former congregation, and



in the clouds at present as I have only about £300 towards £1000, wanted to build and erect it but I know that at the right time that hospital will be built. I shall never forget the kindness and sympathy I received in Canada and when I return to India it will be a very pleasant work to write an account of my doings in that sunny land to my kind friends in the land of ice and snow. I cannot say that after India I quite appreciated that same ice and snow but I fully appreciated the warm welcome every one gave me and the warm hearts that listened to the story of India's women and who gave substantial help as well as kind words. Again in the Master's name I plead for workers and for support for these workers. The smallest sum given regularly mounts up, cannot each christian make up his/her mind, not to rob other missions by changing her subscription, but to give over and above what she now gives, regularly, a small monthly, quarterly or yearly something extra to go to the General Fund of the Church of England & General Missionary Society and also to hunt up others who support no other mission and get them to give something in the same regular way, by so doing good work might be done and help meet to the women of India.

Mrs. T. W. Daniel, president of the St. John branch of the Zenana Missionary Society, will be glad to receive any contribution to the fund.

An Appeal for the Consideration of the Good Work at Springhill.

A little "Quarterly" paper issued by the Rev. W. Chas. Wilson, rector of Springhill, has the following timely article from his pen on the "Decentralization of Charity." The point is well taken that charitable gifts and efforts gravitate towards large centres, while the advantages of such bounty are as well deserved and as much needed by smaller places in the land. The Springhill cottage hospital is evidently drawing attention and sympathy to its work. The article is the following:

ously been given by philanthropists for hospital endowment and extension. Several prominent Montreal capitalists have started a new large hospital, and some smaller ones have also been established. Large central hospitals, already richly endowed, have received still richer gifts. All this is very lovely. But the more lovely it was to be so serious, ask the philanthropists to scatter seeds to the poor to the poorer and less populous, and equally needy places. Montreal was already rich in well equipped and numerous hospitals. Large cities have many hospitals. But the smaller places of a country often have no such blessing nearer than ten or two hundred miles. Mining towns and railroad centres are the great wealth centres and consequently have a special claim upon the sympathy and liberality of the generous. The conditions of life in such places make accidents, sickness and suffering inevitable; and yet who sympathizing eyes and purses of those who could and perhaps would generously help up to the aid and succour in these large cities. Our little Quarterly seeks to draw the sympathies of the wealthy to the smaller and needy places where their gifts would be bounteous blessings and priceless boons. To build a hospital where none before was established; to erect a beautiful church, which shall tell the object lesson of the surpassing dignity

base his argument on the teaching of the Old Testament, the teaching of our Lord and the teaching of the Apostles. Then he does a most important task in referring to objections to the doctrine entertained by some, through ignorance and the crude conceptions of many not learned in scripture, etc. All in all, Dr. Hopper has dealt with the subject in a way to be readily understood by all classes of readers and yet has condensed a vast amount of scriptural argument into the 92 pages in which

of God and His Godly generosity of his servants, in a place where poor buildings abound; to endow a hospital struggling to perform its beautiful work in a neighbourhood composed almost exclusively of the laboring class; to send the bright, helpful, ennobling influences of kindergartens, cooking schools, etc., into these smaller places, where their advantages are priceless, surely such a scattering of charity would bring a larger return of helpfulness and national good than the concentration of all this noble work almost solely in large cities.

"I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living. . . I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all the people, In the courts of the Lord's house." Psalm 116: 9, 13, 18, 19.

“Enter not into the path of the wicked,
and go not in the way of evil men.” Pro-
verbs 4: 14.

"The earth, O Lord, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes." Psalm 119: 64.

Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue. What shall be given unto thee? or what shall be done unto thee, thou false tongue?" Psalm 120: 2, 3.

"Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord: that walketh in his ways. For thou shalt eat the labor of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants around thy table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord." Psalm 128: 1-4.

... O Lord, thou knowest my downsitting
and mine uprising; thou understandest my
thoughts afar off There is not a
word of my tongue but lo, O Lord, thou
knowest it altogether." Psalm 139: 1-4.
"Repent ye . . . and be converted,
that your sins may be blotted out, when
the times of refreshing shall come." Acts
3: 19.

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AYER'S SARSAPARILLA

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M. Hammerly, a well-known business man of Hillsboro, Va., sends this testimony to the merits of Ayer's Sarsaparilla: "Several years ago, I hurt my leg, the injury leaving a swelling led to erysipelas. My sufferings were extreme, my leg, from the knee to the ankle, being a solid sore, which began to extend over other parts of the body. After using various remedies, I began taking Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and, before I had finished the first bottle, I experienced great relief; the second bottle effected a complete cure."

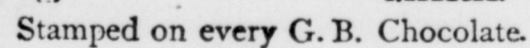
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