

The India Alliance

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1935

A Village Saint

BY REV. L. E. HARTMAN

'He that hath entered into his rest hath ceased from his own labours.—Heb. 4: 10.

She is a widow, her husband having died in 1926. She is not by any means beautiful by nature. However, after first seeing her one is constrained to look again because there is a mysterious charm about her. She has broad, round features and her mouth is large, but about the eyes of this otherwise homely face there is an indescribable but none the less real expression of joy and peace. During the past eight or nine years Mrs. Hartman and I have often been in her village and in her home and on a number of occasions have lived in the same camp with her during village camp meetings. Again, she has lived on the mission premises with us in Anjangaon many times during special meetings. Twice she has spent a month or more here attending our short-term Bible school. Yet, we have never seen her in the least disquieted or that wonderful calm broken.

She cannot read, but she has 'ears to hear' and in this way has learned much of God's Word. Her life is a constant miracle because it is a life of 'constantly abiding.' She lives and moves in this perpetual calm because of the continual and, to her, very very real presence of *her* (not *the*) Lord. She never speaks of Christ in connection with herself merely as 'the Lord' but always in the most



A VILLAGE SAINT

(Continued on page 2)

Taking Men Alive

'Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.'—

Luke 5: 10.

The word in the Greek here translated, 'catch,' has in it the meaning of *taking captive* or *catching alive*. The same word is used by Paul in II Timothy 2: 26, where he declares that rebels against God's 'truth' are *caught alive* by the devil, at his will.

What a solemn truth is this, that every man will be captured alive by either the Lord or the devil. For every man is by creation a being who will exist forever either in fellowship with God in eternal life, or separated consciously from God in eternal death.

And what a tremendous responsibility is ours, that we are appointed to be fishers of men of such destiny; to catch them, not to destroy, but that they may live in Christ for God! This is a work that demands the best there is in us, all, in fact, there is of us. Nay, we are not in ourselves sufficient for such a task, nor have we such skill as this demands. It must be Christ in us in love and power and wisdom if men are caught for God. There are rules for good fishermen but the one that all can understand is, 'Keep yourself out of sight.' In fishing for men, if we keep self out of sight and let Christ reveal His loveliness, men will be drawn to Him and be *caught*, to their own eternal delight.

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reverent way as 'my Lord.' When she speaks of Him, of what He teaches her, or of the miracles He daily works for her and her household, her tones breathe a reverence which leaves the hearer in no doubt concerning her submission to, and rest in, the One Whom she calls *my Lord*.

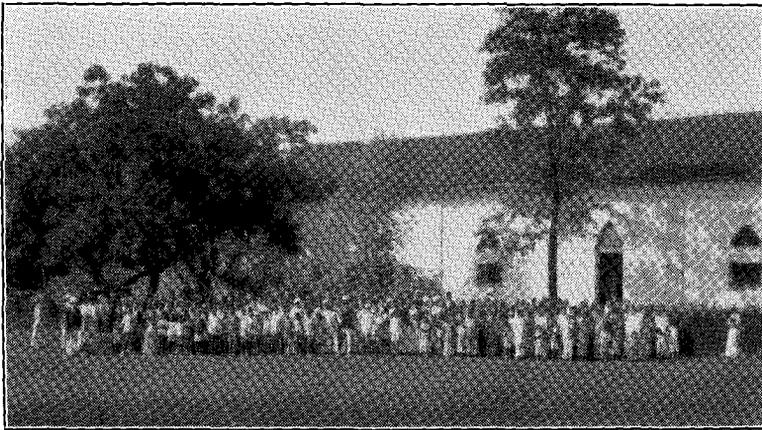
The spiritual rest which 'remains for the people of God' is beautifully typified in the rest of the 'seventh day' of Genesis, chapters one and two. That rest is experienced by those who through the grace of God have been brought out of the chaos of their own sinful nature, given life in Christ and led step by step until they reach the ripe experience stated in the verse which heads this article. These 'cease from their own labours' and learn to work, live and talk entirely under God's control. The one about whom I am writing always seems to me to be the best illustration of this truth that I have known. I hope in a later article to write something about some of her experiences.

The Story of My Life

(Continued)

BY REV. S. D. BOWER

I lived a very happy life for a while. Then a storm of testing came. Unconsciously I drifted away from God. The enemy pulled me down through my associates. Once more I felt myself to be a miserable sinner. I tried to uplift myself by self effort but in vain. Outwardly I may have seemed to be all right but inwardly I was like a boiling kettle. In 1909 I was again given godly repentance. I



AKOLA CHURCH AND BUILDING

humbled myself and confessed all my sins and failures and in His kindness God restored me to His fellowship. Later on, when Mr. MacPherson, a great preacher, spoke of the Holy Spirit, I received Him into my life.

When first saved I had been shown that I was to live in the service of the Lord and had studied in preparation for preaching the gospel. After being restored the Lord reminded me of His call and when my student days were over I joined the staff of Mission workers. Some of my friends did not like this because it was not, in their thought, favourable to my future life in the world.

I had a hard job and a low salary. The work was very trying and often disappointing. Many a time the enemy whispered worldly thoughts in my heart. But the Lord sustained me and gave me victory through His name. 'No man having put his hand to the

plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God' (Luke 9: 62), is a verse very encouraging to me in all times of crisis.

In 1910 I married the young woman who proved to be a very suitable companion for me. She, too, was saved and had received the fulness of the Holy Spirit in experience similar to my own. She had been a witness for the Lord in her early Christian life and after our marriage she worked as a Bible-woman. She passed in the Bible examinations of the Mission Bible Course. We now have ten children and she is still the cheerful, patient, smiling partner she has always been. I praise God for her.

After taking the catechist's course of Bible study I took the pastor's course, and with it all was doing my preaching work around the villages. These courses are very trying and lengthy ones. It took me thirteen years to complete them. But I am glad that these Christian and Missionary Alliance mission courses are free from all the 'isms' of present day teaching. They gave us sound and certain standards and foundations, and through them we were established in the fundamental truths of the Bible. That gave us a pure start in the knowledge and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and taught us rightly to divide the Word of Truth.

In the twenty-four years of service for our dear Lord which He has given us to do, we have been moved to several places. He has given us fruit for His name's sake. We have seen souls turning from their dumb idols to serve the true God. During twelve of these twenty-four years we have worked as pastors of churches. Under His guidance we are still working. Praise His name!

(To be concluded in a future number)

Raoji

BY REV. OLAN G. SCHLATTER

He is just a typical villager, one of the many millions of India's untouchables. Unlike many of his fellow outcasts he has succeeded in saving money with which to buy a field.

Several years ago an acquaintance in a nearby village became a Christian. Since that time Raoji has learned to know the evangelist who occasionally makes the six-mile trip from the outstation to hold meetings in his village. The need of salvation stared Raoji in the face. He was soon convinced of the fact that there was but one solution to the problem. In his heart the decision was made. The results, good and bad, were weighed. He had suffered ridicule

a few months before when he had assisted in the burial of his Christian friend's wife. The attempts which the enemies of the Cross made to win back his friend to Hinduism were also fresh in his mind.

Raoji's conversation with the missionary was very simple, such as we have almost daily in speaking with these people. He repeated a proverb of his people, 'If a thing is worth doing it should be done at once,' and added that its implication is that if one puts it off until a later date it may never be done. So he felt that he should take the step at once. Then he remembered that his wife might disapprove of his having done so. Said he, 'If one has several lamps in a room, some filled with sweet oil (which they often use in lamps) and others with kerosene, some will be dim and smoky while others burn brightly. All should have the same kind of oil! But if my wife will not become a Christian what of that? Let her go back to her father.'

We knew that the thought in his mind was that he could later on marry another wife. Our Western minds would say at once, 'Such a man is far from the kingdom.' In dealing with people of a pagan land where social and religious customs uphold polygamy and divorce we realize that in them 'conscience is defiled.' To them there is no sin in putting away one wife and taking another. In fact this sin may never come to seem as iniquitous to them as it does to us Westerners. But on our part, we have not yet fully learned that anger may be as great a sin as murder.

However, Raoji must be taught that a Christian will not leave one wife and marry another. And we are glad to report that at a later date he told his wife of his desire to be a Christian and brought her to the outstation to meet the evangelist's wife. From there they came to the mission station to spend a few days, 'seeing how the



SAYING IT WITH FLOWERS

Christians live.' The wife is of an open mind and very friendly toward the gospel. Pray that both of them may become true and strong believers in Christ.

Notes of Praise

For God's blessing on the short-term Bible schools held in a number of our districts.

For the Lord's gracious protection and preservation of the lives of all our missionaries during the dread scourge of cholera, which has taken heavy toll of lives in many of our districts in the past rainy season.

For abundance of rain over most of India, including the territory occupied by our Alliance work.

For a number of young men who are friendly toward the gospel.

For special opportunities each Sunday evening over a number of weeks, given Mr. Fletcher in Khamgaon, to preach the gospel to the assembled members of the Arya Samaj in that station.

For God's blessing on the days of prayer held in the rainy months.

For the manifest working of the Spirit of God in the Girls' School in Khamgaon. A goodly number were definitely converted, including one of the new teachers who had come to us but recently.

For the return to India of missionary comrades who had been on furlough. These are, Rev. and Mrs. Jas. F. Brabazon, Rev. and Mrs. Fred W. Schelander, Rev. and Mrs. Elmore F. Eicher, Miss Katherine Williams, and Miss Blanche Conger. Also for the return of Rev. C. W. Schelander, who retires on the field and will live with his son, Rev. F. W. Schelander.

For marked blessing upon the groups of Gujarati and Marathi pastors in the conferences held for them recently, for the discussion of their mutual problems and for Bible study and prayer. God signally blessed these two conferences.

For the ministry in our convention of Mr. George Paterson of Honor Oak Road, London. He is one of God's special, good gifts to His church 'for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.'

Look at the Pictures

A Village Saint will be understood by reading Mr. Hartman's article on the same subject. The *Akola Church* supports her own pastor even in these hard days. Her members do not live in 'ceiled houses' but they built their own place of worship and they keep it in repair. *Saying it with Flowers* shows a bride and bridegroom just after their wedding in the Akola Church building. Their friends have wished them happiness with so many flowers that we need say no more. *Where East and West are One* is at any mission house where there are brown and white children. They have no 'colour line,' no 'racial prejudice.'



WHERE EAST AND WEST ARE ONE

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Chairman: REV. KIEL D. GARRISON

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