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Literary Productions

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*Publish my "Christians Secret" in the
Telugu language.*

THE TELUGU BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY.

For many years the need of a healthy Christian literature for the Telugus has been felt. At a meeting in Nellore in 1878, concerted action was taken by the American and Canadian Missions, but the strain of the great revival was upon the few overworked Missionaries, and nothing was done. At the Quinquennial Meeting of both Missions at Cocanada in 1890-91, Dr. Boggs read a very valuable paper on the subject. But only in January 1896 did this Publication Society come into being.

In the early days of our Mission few of the Christians could read and fewer still could understand books of devotion, commentaries, history, biography, &c., for this reason we had little need of them; but now things have been materially altered. In the Baptist Missions along this coast there are 50,536 church members; in village and other schools there are 13,641 boys and girls learning to read; there are over 10,000 children and young people in Sunday Schools; and in our College and two Seminaries there are 546 students studying for different positions in life. Even granting that most of those in Village and Sunday Schools are the same we have no less than 15,000 persons under instruction. Thus a great reading community is being formed. It has been stated,

and we believe with truth, that in the Ongole region Christian readers outnumber all others combined. But what are these people to read? We are creating a thirst for knowledge, what are we doing to satisfy it? We are creating a want, a legitimate one, but what about the supply? It is neither kind nor wise to leave the people in this state. These regenerated and educated Parias are rapidly rising in the scale of being, and are profoundly influencing the classes, socially, above them. In many districts there is no preaching so powerful upon the caste people as the changed lives of the once despised Paria.

What have these people to read? Before me lies a catalogue of Telugu literature. There are 221 names on the list. Of these one half are evangelistic tracts or hand-bills for distribution among the heathen; more than half of the remainder are leaflets and Sunday School requisites for children. Thirty-eight only are called books, and of these twelve are hymn books.

There are a few other books published, but they are largely school books, either secular or theological.

We need more books of devotion—books to feed the soul, and to enlarge the mental and moral horizon of the people. We need biographical sketches of God's worthies from the

Apostolic Age down; a new edition of the 11th Chapter of Hebrews. We also greatly require semi-christian books on food, clothing, debt, honesty, sanitation, social purity, marriage, training of children and hosts of other subjects too many for enumeration here.

To meet this great need the Missionary Union supplies and partially equips one Foreign Missionary and one Native Assistant. These are overwhelmed with work. During the last three years, besides partially revising and seeing through the press 10,000 copies of the Telugu New Testament, and 25,000 copies of the Gospels and the Acts, they have written or translated sixteen books, tracts or sermons, and have issued over 80,000 copies, aggregating 1,277,000 pages of matter.

But we must have more help, or the present staff will inevitably break down. To assist in this work the Telugu Publication Society has been formed. It can at best only help. The income is only about Rs. 60 or less than \$ 20 per month. Neither is there much room for increase. Most of the Missionaries and their wives are members, and there can be no large giving expected from the Telugu Churches for sometime yet. We look to the Home Land for substantial donations. The Boards we represent will help as they can, but we must have other help. We appeal, in the name of our blessed Lord, and the needy

Telugus, to private individuals, to Churches and to our Young People's Societies. Some day soon, if the Lord will, we will ask for another Foreign Missionary, but at present we only ask for \$ 250 a year, for another assistant and a clerk, and \$ 1,000 a year for printing—only \$ 1,250 a year.

In addition to the work enumerated above two Telugu and one English Periodical are issued from our office. Several translations of good books and some of Spurgeon's sermons are ready for the press and are only waiting for money. Fifteen dollars will print three-thousand copies of one of Spurgeon's soul-winning sermons. Who stands ready to pay for putting some of Dr. Gordon's books into Telugu? How much we could do for Christian and heathen alike if we only had the means to do so.

Send your gifts through the Treasurer of the American Baptist Missionary Union, Tremont Temple, Boston, Mas. U. S. A., or to the undersigned.

At the request of the Board of Managers.

JOHN MACLAURIN,

*Spencer Road,
Bangalore, South India.*