

Laudour India

Oct. - 9. 1887

Rev. W. W. Belden:

Dear Brother:

I have too long delayed replying to your kind and important letter, but hasten now to do so that it may reach you before your week of service.

The fact stated by you that there is to be such a general and continuous meeting of God's people to engage in prayer and conference for this important object, gladdens our hearts. We feel sure that only good can come of such an effort. For myself and wife I can pledge much sympathy, and we shall pray with you and for you. I know too that others <sup>will</sup> join heartily in

response to your call to prayer.  
In regard to your second request  
I must say that I can furnish no  
instance. There has been deep  
disappointment in my heart to  
find what I expected on coming  
to India, quite unrelieved. I had  
surely and read that the heathen  
were calling for help, and that  
the bread of life should be given  
to them; and had come to expect  
a very different state of things  
than what I found when I  
arrived among them. The Bible  
however gives quite another pic-  
ture of the field, and our finds  
comfort in seeing that it is truth-  
ful. The cry from N. is the ar-  
ticipation of want (need) not of  
desire. I have preached in many  
towns and villages and have never  
or heard the wish expressed which

was born of any such desire.  
One here and one there moved  
by the Holy Spirit - in answer  
to the preaching of the word have  
made known such desire, and  
this too is what God's word  
leads us to expect. Death reigns  
now as it did when the Gospel be-  
gan to be preached, and the  
evidence of life from God is  
the crowing of that which the  
life needs!

A wrong impression I fear is  
often made by letters sent from  
Mission fields, and the affec-  
tion must be injurious in more ways  
than one. Much is written which  
is prompted by hope and sad to say  
the <sup>in many instances</sup> hope is never realized. There  
is always more or less pleasure  
expressed <sup>by the people</sup> when the Gospel is  
preached, but the pleasant word

spoken to the preacher do not  
always give an index of what is  
the state of the heart. One  
in a country like India is often  
sated at what is spoken by the  
hearers of the Gospel message, but  
one learns very soon to put it at  
a low value.

I do not think I have given  
too dark a picture, but if it is dark  
it is also truthful.

I am not discouraged - for from  
if: - The prospect of our work is  
as bright as the promises of God.

The Lord's people are being gather-  
ed out from the nations, and  
for that we labor and pray.

May the Holy Spirit be abundantly  
poured out in response to the united  
prays<sup>u</sup> of God's people.

With very kind regards

Yours affectionately

Thomas Tracy