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THE FIRST CONVERT in the CHIN HILLS



AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONARY UNION, BOSTON, MASS.

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AT a conference held in San Diego, Cal., in connection with one of the visits of the Home Secretary of the Missionary Union to the Pacific Coast, an aged gentleman, born in England, related the following incident: "I remember well the tradition in my father's family of the day when his father rushed home almost breathless from his little shop, and burst into the room where my grandmother was at work, exclaiming: 'Oh, mother, mother, there has been a convert!'" The reference was to the conversion of Krishna Pal, the first Hindu to accept Christianity under the labors of Carey, Marshman and Ward.

It had been stoutly insisted by the opponents of missions in England that the Hindus could never be reached by the gospel; and so when the news came

that one man, and he a Brahman, had been won to Christ, its influence was magnetic in reviving the confidence of those whose faith had been put to a severe test while awaiting the manifestation of the power of the gospel to save even those seemingly beyond hope. Krishna Pal had become a Christian! Afterwards he wrote the beautiful hymn which has cheered myriads of hearts, not only in India but throughout Christendom:

O thou my soul, forget no more
The Friend who all thy sorrows bore;
Let every idol be forgot,
But, O, my soul, forget Him not!

In India today there are more than a million disciples of Christ, and many millions more have been under Christian teaching. Now the joyful news is received of

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The tidings came from Rev. E. H East, M.D., whose recent visit to this

country and whose thrilling addresses are so pleasantly remembered by those who heard him. Dr. East is laboring among the Chin people in Haka, Burma, where he went in 1901 to join Rev. A. E. Carson, who opened the work two years before. The people are among the wildest of the mountain tribes of Burma, and have been very difficult to reach. At first they seemed to have scarcely any ideas of Deity at all, but they are beginning to respond to the gospel and are awaking out of their long sleep of heathenism. The following is Dr. East's letter referring to the conversion of the native Chin:

HAKA, Aug. 6, 1904.

DEAR FRIENDS:—This letter is dated August sixth, for that is when the mail starts from Haka; but I begin writing early Monday morning, the first, as my heart is too full, and I must let you know. I will give you a true copy of my last letter from Koset, one of our preaching stations, and you can judge for yourself as to the matter. This let-

ter is from Saya Shwe Zan, whom I placed in charge of the mission in Koset village when I opened that work April first. I give it word for word so that you may get the benefit of his letter.

July 25, 1904, KOSET VILLAGE.

SIR:—Your letter came to me and tell about the school which you spoke with Mr. Fowler. We little three here (meaning his family) were very glad. The time when we arrived here in Koset till this time, we try as well as we can for preaching, so that one man name Paung Shwin, his among three chiefs which you had been seeing, he believes Jesus can save him from his sin into life. He gave up all the bad things and come to us for worship God together every time with his wife and mother. He's very earnest in preach to other. Some men spoke to him and make him afraid, but he do not care what was the people said to him. As he knew more about Christ he preach more and more to other people. The time when you come to Koset he will (be) Baptist at once. As well as my master can, come soon.

Now we little here glad every time to preach. We hope our master and mamma and Sya San Win and his wife will glad with us in prayer. I cannot write English well; if I can write you will glad more than this.

One man name's Tum Harm; he is a chief among the three chiefs. Now he begin to believe Jesus. This night he come up to me for prayer God. Dear master, please remember for Tum Harm in your prayer. O my dear master if you arrive here this time, how you will be very glad for Christ.

As to school the people begin to build the school now. They got some post to the school place; in a few days I think school will finish. Some time I wrote about to stop school until the school (house) finish, and you tell I must stop; but I think in my heart it is better to learn every day so that I have school in my house.

Remember Paung Shwin and his household your prayer. As well as I can I try in write English. Please know what I mean as well as you can.

Your obedient servant,

SHWE ZAN.

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