

CLASS ADJOURNS

The Young Men's class of the Winnetka Congregational church has adjourned for the summer. They will meet occasionally, however, for a ball game or a swim.

Mrs. Lyman Proctor, 860 Spruce street, is spending a fortnight with friends in Sault St. Marie.

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PAUL, A HINDU YOUTH, DEFIES ANCESTRAL GOD

Mission Leader Relates Strange Tale of Native Who Played Havoc With Idols

Editor's note: The following is a copy of a letter written to W. E. Wolsted, missionary of the Winnetka Congregational church in India, by the Rev. V. J. Chelliah, minister of the American Madura Mission at Manamadura, South India. The letter relates an extremely interesting story of a Hindu youth who pursued his own strange methods of defying the gods of his fathers.

The character of my story, I will refer to as Paul, because his real name is one of the Indian tongue-twisters. Paul grew up in the village of Maraikulam, which is about 18 miles from here cross country. He was a Hindu of a bold turn of mind. The more he thought of the Mission teacher and

school the more he was convinced that their religion was true. After all what were these stone gods that his people had worshipped and feared for so long? It was the Christian school and "way of life" that was bringing progress and enlightenment to the villages. Having made his decision he came forward boldly and announced it to the people. His family, friends and relatives were amazed. Entreaty and coaxing had no effect so they resorted

dead instantly, but strange to say, nothing happened.

Await "Death" Penalty

That evening the shepherds brought in their flocks and locked them up in the corrals for the night. Gossip had spread over the village of the strange actions of this man. Nothing had happened as revenge from the idol, but perhaps the gods were out sporting in the fields and would return in the night. Very well, they were all sorry for him, but, surely, the inevitable would happen. The little Christian band met together for prayer in the school but no one paid any attention. These Christians were only speaking again to their unseen god and how unreasonable a thing it was. True, these Christians were progressive and sent their children to school. But it was not "the way" (Tamil word for religion) followed by their people for ages. They were sorry Paul had been caught in the snare. Perhaps the Mission teacher would receive a bonus of Rs. 50 for trapping him, yes, even Rs. 100 for such were common rumors spread, about new converts. The mother beat her head on the ground and moaned. She had lost her son. Few who took up this new way ever returned to the old. It seemed it was like a demon that possessed the new convert and made him refuse the past. Furthermore, she and the father did not expect to see him live through the night. The Hindu friends sympathized, but they could only add fuel to the fire by reminding the family of old traditions, how terrible things had happened in the past.



Karuppanasawmy

to threatening. "Young man, you had better be careful," they said, "or some terrible disaster will come to you. Make peace with the gods before they take revenge on you." "What gods?" said Paul. They pointed to the idols, whereupon he ran over and pushed one over on the ground. The family, horrified, expected to see him struck

Idol in Cactus Patch

The next morning the village was all astir. One of the idols was not in its usual place. Moreover, Paul was around as healthy and robust as ever and, besides, there was a twinkle of merriment in his eyes when the peo-

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