

**Powell & White, Cincinnati Ohio. United Christian Missionary Society,  
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Mary, One of Several' p 37. 1921.**

"When she first came to Harda, the meetings of the very small church were being held in the Wharton bungalow. There was one small school in the bazaar, and two very small schools in rented buildings. A small rented building in the bazaar was the home of the hospital. Having been a teacher in Australia Mary Thompson began her career in India in the school room. But in addition to that work, she felt that the mothers in the homes must be taught also. So, she began a systematic program of visiting in the homes of the people. Many of the women were not friendly at first, especially the Mohammedan women. They were prejudiced, and their husbands did not want their wives to learn from foreign women. But gradually the simple life of faith opened up the doors and the hearts of the Harda women. She secured the help of a faithful Bible woman in the person of Saru Bai. This woman is of a high type, a woman of great faith and devotion, who spends much time in prayer. These two made up an evangelistic team, and they have worked together since 1892, the second year of Miss Thompson's residence in India. They secured a tent, and a yoke of oxen, and toured among the villages. Sometimes they would stay for a period of three or four weeks. They sang gospel songs, read and sold the Scriptures, and talked to the people about Jesus. They felt that their chief work was introducing people to Christ, for many, if not quite all, had never heard of Him before. In this way through the years she built up a wide acquaintance with nearly all the villages within ten or fifteen miles of Harda. The man who drove her oxcart—the gari walla—was not a Christian, could not read nor write, and was as fine an old pagan as might be found anywhere. Miss Thompson preached, or rather talked to him about Christ on many a long trip into the country. She taught him to read and write, and one day she was rewarded by the man asking for baptism. One day I had time to go with Miss Thompson to see how she now does her work in Harda. We started out to visit some of

the women in their homes. Some of them were rather shy of strangers, she thought, but they might allow her guest to come in with her. Great was my surprise as well as hers, to know that every home except one to which we went was open to us. "If the Miss Sahib brings anyone to our homes, it must be all right." In one home the woman sat on the floor, and motioned us to sit down on an old bed. We sat down and Miss Thompson explained that I was new to the country 'and wanted to see her friends. I saw at once the anklets and bracelets and earrings the woman had on, and I began to count them out loud and express my surprise at seeing so many of them. The woman unlimbered in a hurry. Was the new Sahib interested in her jewelry? Well, she could meet him on that ground "She had more than that "Much more" And out came her jewelry. There had been a wedding in the home recently. There had been about two thousand rupees worth of jewelry given to the bride. And a woman across the street had a fine silk sari—native dress—and it was embroidered in gold " And would the son run across the street and have the neighbor bring over her sari, and her jewelry, and show to the new Sahib? Well, in almost less time than it takes to tell it, eight or ten women brought in dresses and jewelry, and we had a regular early morning fashion show. When the jewelry was all displayed, Miss Thompson sang, and told them that she be taught the song. Many times, says Miss Thompson, "I have gone past that home and heard the Mohammedan woman singing that Christian song. She now has a list of about one hundred homes which she and Saru Bai visit regularly. She teaches the women to read, knit, sew, and never fails to teach them of Christ. Others come into these homes also when she goes, so that her work is thus increased two or threefold. I saw an elderly woman baptized in Harda, who had been won by this ' kind of faithful work. On Saturday evening i n her home, Miss Thompson conducts classes for the Christian women. S h e gives them faithful instruction regarding their homes, the care of the children, and how to win other women to Christ. One non-Christian woman once criticised Miss Thompson for not coming to see her for a long time. I Miss Thompson replied: "I taught you to clean up your house and your children, and you did not do it. What's the use of my

teaching you when you will not obey? I am never coming to see you again until you send me word that you have cleaned up." It takes a good deal of moral courage to do a thing like that. But it worked. Not long after, she was 'invited to make a visit to that home and found it clean and neat."