

II (contd.)

In an almost as primitive way as the Indian villagers themselves. She wears Saris, she speaks the dialect of the villagers and she devotes her whole life to their welfare-but she does not baptise them. There is another American friend of mine, a woman of about our age, highly educated, with a degree in comparative religion, who after having worked for ten years as missionary in an Indian state, has married an Indian professor with four children, whom she is bringing up ~~as~~ her own, often under not too easy circumstances.

This brings me to another question of yours: Have you got friends?" which I will answer in my next letter. In this one I only wanted to show you that America seems to be far nearer to India ~~than~~ India is to America. Even our local paper has a column every day: News from America. If as people predict Americas influence in India ~~after~~ ~~the~~ will greatly increase, after the war is over, she will find that the Americans are no strangers here but old friends.-

III a

You ask, if I am happy in my married life. Yes, I am. - I remember very well the great amount of comment I caused when in 1934 I told my family and my friends, that I was going to marry an Indian.

There were those well-meaning timid souls who tried to persuade me to change my mind: surely nothing good could come from such a union with a man of foreign nationality, race and religion. Those people who had come to know my husband during his stay in Germany in 1931-32 always added: of course we like him very much personally, it must be nice to have him as a friend but marriage: no!

Then there were those who thought I was extremely courageous to take such a great risk, who congratulated ~~me~~ me for being so brave to embark on such a great adventure. - To none of them it appeared to be a simple, natural thing, that two people who loved each other and who were old enough to know their own mind should build a common life, though they were of quite different origin and background. It is interesting to reflect on this point: that though all my relatives and friends were liberals, socialists, very advanced and modern, seemingly without any prejudices, all believing and preaching the brotherhood of mankind, yet all recoiled and either expressed their