

There are, first of all, the Pictures or rather "Movies" as you call them, in the cinemas which show us America from every possible angle. There are books and magazines and newspapers. I know has several big libraries ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ where you can find them. There is also a Publishing House with a great and well stocked bookshop which is run by the American Methodists' Mission. There are the mission schools and there are the missionaries themselves, among whom I have found my best friends.

Perhaps you are astonished, Anne? For us in Germany in the good, old carefree days a "Missionary" meant a somewhat ridiculous, narrow-minded, badly dressed person who went out to catch souls in Africa. I don't remember having actually met any before I came to India, except in cartoons in magazines-as caricatures, of course.

Well, their narrow minded, rather stupid and intolerant type of missionary still exists- especially the wives of some missionaries sometimes still conform to our old image of them. But there are a great many American missionaries who are just the opposite. They are clever and kind, broadminded and tolerant, sensitive and tactful and deeply devoted to India and Indians, for whose sake they give their time and energy and health and sometimes their lives. The best of them- I am now thinking of a special friend of mine- an American woman, many years older than I am, who is the wife of a missionary and herself teaching in a College here- have given up the attempt to convert ~~everybody~~ ^{any} they can get hold of.

If one is a bit sensitive and open-minded one cannot live for years and years in a country like India with its age-old culture and long spiritual tradition, without being affected in some way or the other. One has to be, indeed, very fanatic in one's belief, if after having lived in India for a long time one still holds that only one's own particular creed is the one and only way to salvation and everything else is just "paganism" or superstition.

My American missionary-friend does not think so any more- though she did when she came out to India 30 years ago. She told me that now her and her husbands endeavour is not to turn Hindus and Moslems into Christians but to help Hindus and Moslems to become good Hindus and Moslems and to live up to the highest ideals of their own religions. For us, dear Anne, such attitude is quite natural and in fact the only sensible one but for an American Methodist missionary it means a great inner revolution to arrive at such a conclusion. - I have met several people like that.

There is a dear old lady who lives in a village