

Religious News.

Following upon the heels of the American occupation of the Philippines the British and Foreign Bible Society sent its agent to Manila and established an agency there. In 1899 the American Bible Society established an agency also in Manila. Both these societies set about the arduous tasks of translation and publication of the scriptures in the various languages of the people. The multiplicity of tongues makes that a tremendous undertaking. In Japan a single translation ministers to practically the entire 50,000,000 people; in Manila there must be at least six translations to carry the message to the 7,000,000 Filipinos. The various missions have been overburdened with the urgent calls for evangelistic work and have left this important department, the translation and publication of the scriptures, to the proper agency, the Bible societies. On the other hand, this work could never have been accomplished had it not been for the support and assistance of the missionaries.

The people were clamoring for the Word so it was impossible to tarry till the whole Bible or even the New Testament could be all translated, but as soon as a satisfactory translation of a Gospel was made it was published in a little booklet by itself, then two or more Gospels together, and as soon as the New Testament was all completed it was then published entire. With the limited means at hand it has been impossible to keep pace with the demands for the books. The work has been pushed with all diligence, and the entire Bible has been published in Tagalog, the New Testament in Ilocano, Panayan, Visayan and is already completed and either in the hands of the printers or ready for the same in Pangasinan, Pampangan, and Cebuano Visayan. Portions have also been published in Ibanag, Bicol, and translation work is being pushed in the Old Testament with the expectation of soon having the Bible entire in at least the three greater dialects, Tagalog, Ilocano, and Visayan. It is the most prodigious initial undertaking in the missionary work in the Philippines.

Victorian Indian Orphan Society.

Since our last article in the 'Northern Messenger' (July 31st) we regret to say that the work of the Society has made slow progress, and had it not been for the valuable assistance of some of our most loyal members the work could not have been carried on.

It has proved impossible to fill, entirely, the position held by our late Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. A. S. Crichton, who, up to the time of her death (June 9th), was so devoted to the work, but we trust that in the future our friends will render all possible assistance and thus encourage our new secretary-treasurer, Mrs. A. T. Taylor.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

By recent arrangements, postage on individually addressed copies of the 'Northern Messenger' to the United States and its dependencies costs us considerably less than last year, so that instead of requiring 50 cents extra postage, we now ask only TEN CENTS on each copy. Clubs of ten or over to one address, enjoying the cut rate of 20 cents a copy, cost us the same as last year, and so require only 15 cents extra per copy for the year's postage.

The rates for the United States will, therefore, be as follows:—

NORTHERN MESSENGER Rates to United States

	(Postage included)	Per Annum
Single copies	- - -	50c.
Three or more copies separately addressed	- - -	40c. each
Ten or more copies to one address	- - -	35c. each

N.B.—As some of our old subscribers in the United States were obliged to drop the 'Messenger' owing to the high postage, we will be very glad if our readers will mention the above reduced rates as far as possible to their friends who may be interested.

From the missionary in India we hear the good news that the girls in the Orphanage have made such great progress that it has been necessary to give them a more advanced teacher. They were preparing for the all-India Sunday School examination, which was to have been held July 11th, and the Council's examinations, which were to be held at the end of August.

Several of them had fever, but are all well now.

One more little orphan has been added to our family in India. Miss O'Hara found her when she was out driving. She is a very small child, and can tell little of her past, but seems to have perfect trust in the missionary.

We are glad to be able to report that the price of food in India is slightly lower, and the famine has not proved as severe as was at first feared.

We trust that we may hear from many of our friends during the next month, and that they will pray for the continued success of the work in this small part of the Master's vineyard.

Kindly address all communications to Mrs. A. T. Taylor, 205 Maryland St., Winnipeg.

Work in Labrador.

LITTLE WAIFS OF THE COAST.

SS. 'Stratheona,' at Sea.
July, 1908.

Dear Mr. Editor,—Year after year it has been our habit to make ourselves responsible for derelict infants, whom illness or accident leave unprovided for along this coast; and five gathered by the doctor at Battle Harbor last winter (left destitute by the cruel hands of poverty and tuberculosis) were annexed this voyage. One poor little one is so crippled that she will be hard to dispose of. The good care bestowed on them for several months by the doctor's wife in her own home had made the others look jolly and fat. On leaving for the season, a gentleman asked us this year to supply him with a healthy baby to bring up as his own. Indeed, I have had 'begging letters,' as if one went about with a baby concealed about one's person, and as if it were as easy to post a baby that 'must be healthy and an orphan and not be old enough to know its parents,' as to send a picture postcard.

Among yesterday's patients, as we lay off a small harbor, came an elderly woman, worn to skin and bone, in the sorriest of mean clothing, carrying a tiny baby with all the signs of rickets. She spoke with a strong Devonshire accent. 'Tis an orphan, zur,' she said. 'Twas my daughter's. She be dead of consumption; and my man, he be dead, too.' Where is the father? 'He be gone vishing to the southward since May, zur.' Are there any more children? 'Two, zur.' What food have you for them? 'Only vLOUR, zur.' No butter or sugar? 'Bless ye, no zur; not since Christmas.' Has he not written to you? 'Not a word, zur.' Having carefully overhauled the baby, and thinking of my rich childless friend to the south, I thought if I could nurse it back to the standard of sound health he required, the child would have a chance in life that some of my previous proteges are now profiting by. One, a fine young woman just graduating at an American college, we are expecting back to work with us as a colleague. 'You had better give me the baby, and let me write to the father. It will probably die here.' 'He won't part with un,' she replied. When did he leave? 'T'ust of May, zur.' And he hasn't sent any food or money since? 'Not so much as zur, zur.' Well, it seems to me that he has had to leave it, and shortly it will leave him, anyhow. 'It ben't no gud, zur, he said I weren't to part with un,' and the poor trouble-worn old body got up as if to depart, closely hugging the baby.

I have quoted this case at length because it illustrates a point on which we sorely need legislation. There are others besides this man, who, from a false interpretation of what love means, or even from at times worse motives, 'would rather see 'em dead, then anyone should have 'em.' Whereas, in reality they had far better die young, than live to suffer the evils involved by chronic starvation in youth. Sacred are the ties of families, and strong the claims to possession of a child's body and soul that parentage gives, that there should be no power to

step in and save a helpless and doomed child like this seems to call for common sense to supercede sentimentality. Fats and phosphates were badly needed, and these we were able to supply. Fortunately the clergyman of this one hundred and twenty miles section of coast was on board with me at the time, and we were able to hand over to him the help we were willing to give, unless the father accepted the sending away of the babe. It is not possible to help everyone wisely on their own terms. We had fortunately some infants' foods in a box sent us a short time previously; but fats we had scarcely enough for the ship's use; so we had to draw on the fat pork barrel. Unluckily, a very large 'cut,' falling on the cuddy of the boat was elastic enough to rebound over the side and sink, before it could be harpooned with a boat hook. It lay twinkling on the bottom in about ten fathoms of water, a tiny white speck. The boy who had come off for the supplies at once dropped his grapnel near the fugitive morsel, and when we steamed out of sight was still vigorously jigging for it with his cod jigger.

The furthest west our little steamer goes is to Meccatina, half way between Belle Isle and Anticosti. Here our Canadian Hospital is now in full swing. We can only reach it twice a year, and then we generally, as now, hand them over a cargo of supplies and patients that have accumulated on the passage. The fishing here is extraordinarily good this year, and the place is blessed with unlimited trout fishing, and good salmon and lobsters, besides, with endless sea birds. Before leaving, we tried sea-trout fishing with flies, in the salt water at the mouth of the Wetagamu River, and had the satisfaction of catching large ones as fast as we could land them through the breakers. The fish ran about five pounds apiece, and fought excellently. Had not time been valuable, we should have stayed to load our boat. Meanwhile, some of my crew were out lobster fishing, and a huge reservoir of them greeted our return, for our cook had purchased forty fine specimens for ninety cents, besides the men's catch. It surprises our visitors to see the little value put on these locally. Indeed, it is told of Admiral M. W. Kennedy that when first on this coast, he gave his orderly a sovereign to go and buy lobsters with, he was greeted with, 'Lobsters alongside, sir,' and was surprised to find he was the owner of a boatload. The boat, however, is on the other leg sometimes. Last week the clergyman of this southern district, an old Cambridge graduate, and what is most important, an excellent gardener, sent us aboard, as a most unusual luxury, a magnificent dish of radishes. My Newfoundland cook served them for dinner, remarking: 'They be terrible hard to boil, sir. I have had them on from breakfast right up to dinner.' In spite of our determination not to be robbed of the only radishes of the year, our courage failed us after the first sample.

There is smoke on the horizon, Mr. Editor. It must be the mail boat; so I must bring to a close this letter.

WILFRED GRENFELL.

Acknowledgments.

LABRADOR FUND.

Received for the launch:—Mrs. R. Richards, Chater, Man., \$1.00; G. E. Richards, Chater, \$1.50; Miss Richards, Chater, 25 cents; Miss Jessie Cole, Chater, 25 cents; A Friend, Lachine, \$25.00; Three Friends, Ont., \$1.00; A Friend, Blyth, Ont., \$1.00; Mrs. D. F. McLennan, Summertown Station, P.O., \$2.00; Edna L. Sanderson, Sault Ste. Marie, \$5.00; Total... \$ 37.00

Received for the cots:—Three Friends, Ont., \$1.00; A Friend, Dauphin, Man., \$5.00; M. E. F., Toronto, \$2.00; three months' giving by the Inter. Class of Delta S. S., \$1.50; Total... \$ 9.50

Received for the komatic:—Three Friends, Ont... \$ 1.00
Previously acknowledged for all purposes... \$ 1,676.51

Total on hand September 8... \$ 1,724.01

Address all subscriptions for Dr. Grenfell's work to 'Witness' Labrador Fund, John Dougall and Son, 'Witness' Office, Montreal, stating with the gift whether it is for launch, komatic, or cots.