

[This paper is supposed to be written in 1935, when our Society would be 50 years in existence.]

SEMI-CENTENNIAL OF THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY, 1885-1935.

BY MISS A. MELLISH.

(Concluded.)

So the Auxiliary ladies were awakened and began to help the Band leader instruct the members in the constitution, parliamentary drill and latest missionary tidings. These children in time grew up and conducted other Bands, and they are today our energetic and intelligent workers. Perhaps the effect of this change cannot be seen more clearly than at our annual Branch meeting. The solicitous president no longer spends sleepless nights and anxious days over the grave responsibility of her office, but arrives at the Branch meeting knowing that every member of the convention feels that the success or failure of the meeting depends solely on individual effort. The corresponding secretary no longer supplements her extensive literary work with a Klondyke journey through the country in mid-summer, speaking eight nights out of ten in order to arouse enthusiasm. Now, a private secretary is by her side, and the district organizers are responsible for any waning interest in their respective districts. The Recording Secretary no longer has an incomplete roll-call, for the expected delegate is either present or has forwarded the name of her alternate. The Band Secretary no longer writes in vain, for her letters are promptly answered by systematic little business-women. The Treasurer no longer waits until the eleventh hour for overdue returns. The former urgent appeal from the Branch platform requesting that the President, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer of every auxiliary meet and compare their books and forward an accurate statement to their respective Branch officers at the close of the year, has at last been effective.

Just one word about our far-famed Palm Branch. Formerly the faithful Editor, no matter what joy or sorrow crossed her path, was responsible for its monthly publication. But now, she is assisted by an efficient staff, and every Band in Canada guarantees at least one original article each year. In 1900 the Band President, realizing that the children were the mainspring of the Society, unitedly memorialized Board for a larger supply of literature and a more convenient way of obtaining the same. They claimed to have had the same exercises many times and in refusing to sanction the use of secular pieces were greatly handicapped in their work. As the age progressed and the Society extended, the limited supply of literature by no means met the required demands. Therefore a brighter and more varied assortment of selections was imperative. The result was that the Board called for more writers in Canada, communicated with English and American markets, and in three months established in every District a literature exchange depot. We all know of the more recent changes; of the Reserve Billeting Fund, to which every Society is bound to contribute for the entertainment of the Branch meeting. We know that instead of the

former Banner competition, any Band with a certain average percentage is entitled to a certificate and mentioned on the Honor Roll. We know that every woman who has her name on the church record in the conference is a member of our W. M. S. We all know the perfect system under which the Branch is governed, the methodical business capacity of our women, the extent to which systematic giving has grown and the general Christ-like tenor of the whole Society. These developments are due to the recognition of the Band children and their claims. Dear friends, the W. M. S. is now a firmly established organization, second to none in America. And at this our Semi-Centennial let us thank God for the faithful Band of women who, by prayer and perseverance, broke down every barrier, overcame every obstacle, and laid the foundation on which we stand to-day. It was no easy task, the cold world frowned on them, the skeptic sneered, the critic prophesied that any society presided over by women would not succeed, and that its glory would soon fade. But another has said: "If this work be of men it will come to nought, but if it be of God ye cannot overthrow it."

Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Christmas Missionary Exercise for Four Little Girls.

[Each child presents a gilt letter of G I V E at the close of her stanza.]

I.

"From Greenland's icy mountains,"
So runs the hymn of old;
Beside those mammoth icebergs
Dwell hearts perhaps as cold;
But warmed by Christmas sunlight,
Illumining the land,
Bleak earth becomes an Eden,
And so for G I stand.

II.

You know how run the verses:
"From India's coral strand"
Comes forth the call for workers—
A larger, stronger band;
Buddhist and erring Brahmin
The Saviour's call must heed
And taste God's peace eternal,
And therefore I must plead.

III.

From far-off Venezuela,
To popish bonds a slave;
From Van and Voroneje,
Which Eastern waters lave,
The same loud voice is calling
Which sounded years ago:
"Come over here and help us!"—
The cry of Macedon.

IV.

From Ethiopia's borders
And wastes of burning sands,
Which cruel, dark-skinned Arabs
Infest with hostile bands,
By day and night unceasing
There comes the pleading cry:
"Bring us the truth you cherish!
O, bring it ere we die!"

[TOGETHER.]

Give of your prayers and blessings;
Give of your store, though small;
Give of your time and service;
Give self—best gift of all.

In Mission Dayspring.

ISABELLE H. FITZ.