

Atlin Nurses

Upwards of a year ago, a committee of ladies was organized in Toronto, for the purpose of sending missionary nurses to the Yukon Territory. In June last, two trained nurses Miss Mitchell and Miss Bone were appointed to Atlin. They have ever since been diligently at work, and have been the means of great blessing to many under their care. The expense of sending these nurses out, and providing them with the requisite furnishing and outfit, has been, necessarily, expensive.

Some weeks ago Mrs. Judge Maclellan issued an urgent appeal on behalf of the Ladies Committee for contributions to maintain the work. Thus far, the appeal has not been responded to by many of our congregations or people. At present the fund is exhausted, and the ladies are most anxious that they should be in a position to meet the salaries of the nurses as they come due. It is earnestly hoped that contributions will be forwarded without delay. These should be addressed to the General Agent Rev. Dr. Warden, Presbyterian Offices, Toronto.

It is learned that a hospital building is to be erected in Atlin. The Ladies' Committee, however, have not yet received any official notice of this, nor is it known whether the building is to be erected specially for the use of the nurses employed by our church, or whether it is to be for the community at large.

It is hoped that the friends of the work will promptly provide the ladies with means that they may be able to meet the salaries of the nurses and their expenses in ministering to the sick.

The Bible Society.

The three-fold object of a Bible Society is: (1) an inexpensive bible issued at cost (or gratuitously if need be), (2) published in every man's language, (3) and placed in every man's hand. The great bible societies of the world are the (1) British and Foreign, (2) the National Bible Society of Scotland, the Hibernian or Irish, and the American. The course of the British and Foreign, the oldest of them all and most important, has been steadily shaped for the field by the organizing and extending of the work of the other societies named, and by the forming of new societies of a national character of late years. These latter, of which the Netherlands Bible Society, organized in Holland, in 1892, is an example—have relieved the British and Foreign of nearly the whole of Protestant Northern Europe, apart from Europe Russia.

The Upper Canada Bible Society, whose territory extends from the Ottawa river to the Pacific coast, is an auxiliary of the British and Foreign. So also are the Western (or London), the Quebec

Bible Society and the societies organized in the Maritime provinces. It seldom happens in any part of the world, or with any of the societies, that one auxiliary is organized within the territory of another, as is the case with the Western of London. The Upper Canada put into circulation 27,185 copies of the Bible—the whole Bible and parts—last year, in 32 languages, giving away 130 Bibles and 127 New Testaments at a cost of \$51.50.

The British and Foreign issued upwards of 5,000,000 copies during the year, making a grand total of 160,006,393 in the 95 years of its history. These it publishes in more than four hundred languages and dialects. It employed 725 colporteurs, peddling the Bible from house to house among the nations, who circulated a million and a half copies in the year. The colporteurs of the Upper Canada found 180 Canadian families entirely destitute of the Word of God. The number year by year, going back a year at a time, has been 64, 281, 386, 112, in the last five years. These it has supplied—by sale or gift, in every case where the Book was not declined.

Besides the 725 men employed as stated, the society employed also 552 Native Christian Biblewomen who have read the Bible to them, a weekly average of 31,500 of their illiterate sisters in India, Ceylon, Egypt, Palestine, China and Japan. These women worked under the more immediate supervision of the missions of the churches, to the advantage of all concerned. The society makes possible and secures their employment, at a cost for the year of £3,400.

To show how much the churches, one and all, are dependent upon the British and Foreign Bible Society in their aggressive work of missions let it be said that (1) up to two years ago the Bible and parts of it had been published in 381 languages and dialects; (2) of which 335 of the translations had been made (or been paid for and issued) by the British and Foreign; (3) leaving a total of but 46 translations to the credit of all other Bible Societies and Church Missionary Societies together. The work of translation and revision of translations has gone on a pace in the interval, the number of languages in which active work has been done in the last year being 113, thirteen of these appearing for the first time.

The Society has, by virtue of its work done in reducing languages to written form, become one of the greatest literary enterprises in existence.

There have been difficulties in the way: the more important of those surviving are continental socialism, which is at best unchristian, and Jesuitism. But the society that is constrained by the demands made upon it to issue the Bible from its presses at the average of more than 15,000 copies for each working day of the year, and is

backed by the united prayers and liberality of the churches the world over, thinks little of obstacles. Russia has taken a million of the Society's books in two years, India more than a million, the German Empire over half a million. China alone received from the British and Foreign last year 728,716 copies and an additional 429,813 from the National Bible Society of Scotland, making a magnificent total of 1,158,531. Bibles, mark you, these were Bibles! Read Isaiah 55: 11.

A Letter from China.

Shanghai, 380 Honan Road,

Jan. 11, 1900.

Dear editor,—I arrived here Nov. 8, began work next day and have been at it ever since. I thought I should like to vary my work by having two things going on at the same time. So one book is for the heathen and the other for the the church, symbolical of the two departments of our Society's work, for we reach a hand to each. The respected principal of Queen's College has furnished me with the matter for one work in his little book on the religions of the world. Andrew Murray has furnished the materials for the other. May I ask the prayers of your readers all over the country in behalf of all our staff now numbering six, how sadly inadequate to the needs may be inferred from the following list of books much needed still: Ecce Deus, Bernard's Progress of Doctrine, Liddon's Divinity of Christ, Bruce's Stalkers, Spurgeons best books and sermons, Book on God as Father, Bushnell's Character of Jesus, Books on Christian doctrine of Sin, Books on Conscience, Consolation in Affliction, Professor Drummond's most approved, Mission of the Comforter, Law's Serious Call to a Holy Life, Evidence of Christian Experience, Self-Support Literature; Lives of Spurgeon and Gladstone, Books relating to the Christian Home. We will welcome suggestions from any one in Canada who thinks of these matters and has an idea that will help us. Yours faithfully,

DONALD MACGILLIVRAY.

Mahomedans and the Lord's Prayer.

Mr. Hay, in his "Western Barbary," gives the following striking example of the power of Christ's words. He says—

"I remember on one occasion travelling in the country with a companion who possessed some knowledge of medicine; we had arrived at a door near which we were to pitch our tents, when a crowd of Arabs surrounded us, cursing and swearing at the 'rebellers against God.' My friend, who spoke with a little Arabic, turning around to an elderly person, whose garb bespoke him a priest, said: 'Who taught you that we were disbelievers? Hear my daily prayer, and then judge for yourself.' He then repeated the Lord's Prayer. All stood amazed and silent, till the priest exclaimed: 'May God curse me if I ever curse again those who hold such belief! Nay, more, that prayer shall be my prayer till my hour be come. I pray thee, O Nazarene, repeat the prayer, that it may be remembered and written among us in letters of gold.'"