

gin with alternate showers and gleams of brightness. Then the rain begins in good earnest. For four or five days, sometimes a week, it will pour down continuously, day and night, in a perfect deluge. After this down-pour, you are very glad to see the sun shining down brightly on the face of weeping nature. Everything then looks spring like and gloriously fresh and green. The weather in Jamaica is, unfortunately, either too continuously bright or too rainy. When it does rain, it often becomes a flood, and when it is bright, that brightness too often ends in drought.

In the year 1879, in the months of September and October, it rained so heavily that all the rivers and brooks overflowed, and the water tore down from the mountains in torrents, washing away bridges, small houses and negro huts, causing great loss of life, and doing much damage all over the island. The Yallahs river became a flood of rushing water, which swept away numbers of negro houses, and drowned persons. After the floods, fine weather began at the end of October, which lasted six months. Here and there in the island a shower of rain fell, but too slight to be of any real benefit. This drought became very serious at last, large numbers of cattle died, and the ponds were dry in many places. There was much suffering for want of water among the poor people in these districts where there are no rivers. They even depended in some places on the parasites growing on the trees, which hold water within their leaves. Water was sold for a pound a pail in Mandeville, and it was reported, for sixpence a quart in other places where it had to be brought from great distances.

Vegetation in Jamaica is most luxuriant and various, varying according to the altitude. It is entirely different on the plains to that which you see on the mountains. On the mountains it is altogether more lovely and delicate. Beautiful ferns of all kinds, from the tree fern to the fragile maiden hair, abound. Delicate creepers of every description meet the eye, including the most graceful of all, the creeping bamboo.

In the plains you have larger trees—the huge silk cotton, guango, cedar, palms of various kinds, and many beautiful flowering trees. The silk cotton is the largest, and is always profusely adorned with parasites and creepers. A magnificent specimen grows on the road between Kingston and Spanish Town, its enormous branches extending far across the road. The silk cotton sheds its leaves about every three years, and when out of leaf it is covered with pods from three to four inches in length. When ripe these pods burst and scatter down the silky substance from which it derives its name. They do not all shed their leaves at the same time, as you will see them growing side by side, one in full leaf, the other long all over with its green egg-shaped pods.

Two of the most celebrated places for natural beauty are the "Boys Walk," near Spanish Town, and the "Fern Walk," near the "Newcastle" trap, up the hills. But Jamaica abounds everywhere in the most glorious scenery.

F. W. MURRAY.

AMONG OUR CHURCHES.

AYLESFORD.—The work is moving along steadily and quietly. The pastor, while securing the benefit of a change at the Bay shore, is attending to his regular appointments. At the July quarterly business meeting, it was decided to change the hour of business meetings from the afternoon to the evening; also, to change the conference hour from 2 p.m., on Saturday, to the Friday evening preceding the first Sunday in each month. This was done because it was felt that an increase of attendance at the conference would be effected thereby. It was also decided to drop the word "Upper" from the name of the church, which will be known hereafter as the "Aylesford Baptist church." We were encouraged by the presence of quite a number of sisters at the meeting.

WOLFVILLE.—The Wolfville church is finding it no easy matter to select a successor to Dr. Trotter. The congregation has had the privilege of hearing a variety of men. Whether any have supplied with a view to the pastorate does not appear, but certain it is that no attempt has been made at choice. Rev. W. B. Wallace, of Eden, N. Y., who was on a visit to his father, Rev. Isaiah Wallace, preached acceptably on the last Sunday in the month.

LAURENCE TOWN.—Bro. Low E. Wallace, who lately graduated at Rochester Theological Seminary, has accepted a call to the Laurence town Baptist church, and has entered upon his pastoral duties. His father, Rev. Isaiah Wallace, has disposed of his property in Wolfville, and will hereafter live with his son at Laurence town. We wish Bro. Low every success in his new field of labor.

CAMBRIDGE.—Seven members were added to the church at Canton on the 18th inst., of whom five were by baptism.

ANTIGONA.—Rev. Howard P. Whidden has been engaged as the stated supply of the Baptist church in this place.

BILLTOWN.—Pastor M. P. Freeman reports the baptism of nine candidates on the 4th inst.

KENTVILLE.—Pastor H. A. Porter is again at his post, much refreshed by his rest.

W. B. M. A. S.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR.

"We are laborers, together with God."

PRAYER TALK FOR AUGUST.—For our Convention and the W. B. M. U. annual meeting, that special blessing may be given to all present, and wisdom to guide all his affairs.

AYLESFORD.—A very successful public meeting was held in the Aylesford church on the evening of the first Sunday in July, under the auspices of the W. B. M. A. S. The attendance and attention were excellent. The President, Mrs. J. E. Morgan, presided and presented an address, which was followed by original papers by Mrs. L. O. Neely, Mrs. H. H. Taylor and Mrs. Clara Palmer, readings by Mrs. Gena Bishop, Mrs. C. J. West and Mrs. N. I. Bawby, and solos by Misses Pora Connolly and Nellie Taylor. Valuable assistance was rendered by the choir. A short address was given by the pastor in the interests of Home Missions, after which a collection of \$7.60 was taken for that purpose. The value of such a meeting is not easily

estimated and the success of their maiden effort should encourage our sisters to try again.

MORRISTOWN.—The July meeting of the W. B. M. A. S. was held at the church at Morristown. There were not as many of the sisters present as usual, yet we spent a pleasant, and we trust, profitable hour in the service of our Master. After the opening exercises, very interesting letters were read from our esteemed missionaries, Mr. R. E. Gullison and Miss Ida Newcombe, and others. Also, readings from Link and Tidings. Our numbers are not large, yet we are encouraged in our work. One sister united with us at our June meeting and one at our July meeting. We hope to see our number grow larger every month until all our sisters are workers together with Him.

Then rise up Christian worker,
And gird your armor on,
The heathen world beyond us,
For Jesus must be won.
Bow down before God's altar
And taught by love divine,
Say, "Lord, now and forever,
All that I have is Thine."

Weston Branch of Berwick W. B. M. A. S.

Until the past year our W. B. M. A. S. formed a separate organization from the Berwick Baptist Society, when we concluded to become an Auxiliary of the Berwick society. Now all our money we send to their treasurer and we are acknowledged a Weston Branch.

Our meetings are interesting, although the number is small. With only eleven members we have raised twenty-seven dollars this year.

We have on our list one of the oldest, if not the oldest, member on record, Mrs. W. H. Skinner. She joined the first society in Cornwallis and has continued all through these struggling years to give not merely one dollar a year to Foreign Missions due to retain her membership, but has given one dollar to Home Missions as well. Our sister has entered on her ninety-fourth year and feeling the Lord would have her make a special offering to Foreign Missions handed our treasurer \$12 for that purpose. The thought was suggested, with God's blessing, this gift to Him may stimulate others to contribute so no special offering and make our aged sister a life member of the W. B. M. U. Soon the \$12 was made \$15, then we asked Berwick society to co-operate with us. They responded with such a cheerful and hearty response as the people of Berwick are surrounding communities always do and the \$10 more was soon received. Thus our Weston branch society was enabled to constitute a life member from our church this year.

The two societies met Tuesday afternoon July 6th at the home of our aged sister. The certificate was presented by our pastor's wife, Mrs. D. H. Simpson, with an appropriate address. The presentation was a perfect surprise to our sister and the true symbol of her unimpaired Christian character is expressed by her in the thought that the honor should have been conferred on one more worthy. She was too much overcome to reply and her daughter, Mrs. C. E. Sanford, spoke for her mother. We felt very much encouraged with the visit from our sisters and our prayer is that many more "special offerings" will be found in our blessed Master's treasury.

Cov.

Weston, July 16th, 1897.