

**Report of the N. S. Central Board of W. M. A. Societies,
to the Baptist Convention, meeting at Fredericton,
N. B., August, 1878.**

With mingled feelings of regret for the past and of hope for the future, we send this brief report of what has been done in Nova Scotia during the last year:

The amount of money collected during the last twelve months, from the first of July, 1877, to the same date this year, is but \$305.38, against \$1086.17 of our last Report, thus revealing a sad falling off. We account for this partly by the pressure of hard times, and also from the fact that we have not had for some years a representative missionary from these Provinces in the Foreign field maintained by the funds of their respective Boards. This has all been against us. Then again, we have the names of seventy-two societies on the list kept by the Secretary, but only forty-three of them have reported themselves this year. What have the remaining twenty-nine been doing? Have they become extinct? or has their missionary zeal become cold just at the time when true friends should show encouragement, hoping for better days? This is the dark side of our picture.

With pleasure we turn to brighter scenes. Six new societies have reported themselves during the year. We have also been cheered to know that Miss Hammond has been accepted by the Foreign Mission Board as our future missionary, and will at once proceed to her labors in connection with Mrs. Sanford's Mission Schools. We wish her God-speed, and could have desired a longer visit from her in Nova Scotia, if time had permitted. Since she left Halifax, a request has arrived from Mrs. Armstrong, asking for a missionary sister to be sent out to her at once if possible, offering her a home, and stating that plenty of work is waiting for her there.

Mrs. A. remarks: "As soon as you can find the right person, we are ready for her here. I shall be very thankful if some one is ready to be accepted and sent by next meeting of Convention. There is a large field of work open to us here; any number of children are ready to be taught, and hundreds of women are within fifteen minutes' walk of our house, most or all of whom would be accessible to a skilful visitor. The field lies ready to our hand, but the ploughing and the sowing must precede the reaping."

We know not at present how to answer our dear sister's appeal, but feel assured that if all our sisters in our seventy-two societies, with those of New Brunswick and P. E. I., are faithful in *work and prayer*, an answer will surely come from our Heavenly Father.

In October last, the Central Boards agreed to send \$100 each to our three missionaries' wives, to be expended by them for school purposes, etc.; and in April of this year, another appropriation of \$500 was made to Mrs. Sanford, in answer to an appeal for aid in building school premises; making in all \$800 given to direct mission work this year.

We confidently hope that next year's report may present a better record, trusting in God's grace and the willing hearts of His people, who, we doubt not, will make personal sacrifices sooner than see the good cause of Foreign Missions decreasing in funds or interest.

By order of the Board.

M. R. SELDEN, *Secretary and Treasurer.*