

the cheerful domestic reunion which accompanies the festival, the good is outweighed by the evil of a distorted aspect of the Deity, degenerating into a Fetiche. The *Indian Mirror*, a Hindu paper, says: "The Durga Pujah has degenerated into pure idolatry at the present day. The meaning of the mystic celebration has now completely departed from the popular mind. The emblematical display, originally intended as the initiation of the masses into one of the profoundest mysteries of nature, evolution and involution, has now completely passed into fetish worship of idols made of clay. No Brahmin, no Pundit, no holy man of religion comes forward to lift the veil from that mystery, to teach the ignorant masses, and even the educated Jew, the great significance of the Durga Pujah, and thus the festival has become a shameful travesty of religion, a season for the selfish enjoyment of the rich and a period for the lamentation of the poor; and nature herself resents the approval of the time, and famine and flood scourge the land. All round there is nothing but misery, and Durga deserts her votaries in disgust."

Woman's Auxiliary Department.

"The love of Christ constraineth us."

Communications relating to this Department should be addressed Mrs. Tilton, 251 Cooper Street, Ottawa.

A MEETING of the officers of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Board of Domestic and Foreign Missions will be held in Ottawa on Wednesday, April 16th, at 10 30 a. m., in St. George's Church School Room.

THE Secretary would draw the attention of members of the Auxiliary to the following clauses in the constitution: Clause 4—The officers of this Association shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, and a Treasurer. Clause 5—The wife of the Metropolitan shall be the President, and the Presidents of the Diocesan Branches, Vice-Presidents of this Association. Clause 6—The Recording and Corresponding Secretaries and Treasurer shall be appointed at the general meeting of the Auxiliary. Clause 7—A special meeting of the Auxiliary may be called at any time at the request of two-thirds of the officers of the Association.

ALGOMA DIOCESE.

A member of the Auxiliary, seeing a letter in the *Guardian* from Mrs. Fry of Seguin Falls, Muskoka, sent her a few Christmas cards. Up to the 16th of December these were the only things she had received towards a Christmas Tree for her poor children. Mrs. Fry's surroundings may be imagined by the following letter received a few

days ago: "I have promised the children a tree, and up to this date have received nothing but your Christmas cards. I thank God who has raised up friends for us. I am living in a very dull place; one by one my best neighbors have left, and are doing better, some in the States, some in Ontario, and one in Montreal; all who used to help me are gone. I will never feel so lonely again, while I have friends to write to me. I will describe my scholars who came yesterday. One boy, aged 13, had moccasins made of a cotton flour bag, his coat was very thin and poor, and his shirt was factory cotton. Another little fellow had on things that were an apology for boots—much too large; one girl had boots made of a piece of cloth, and a very poor dress. These were the best dressed of the family; there were three at home, crying to come, but had neither boots or clothes. If some good old clothing, old boots and rubbers for those poor families could be collected I should be so thankful."

EDUCATION OF MISSIONARIES' CHILDREN.

Extract from Mrs. Renaud's letter: "I am sure that the thought that there was some way opening up for the education of their children would bring relief and comfort to many a lonely missionary's heart. With this hope added to the now assured help of a Widows' and Orphans' Fund our great difficulty is removed which stood in the way of clergymen entering into this or other missionary dioceses. I should like eventually to see a Woman's Auxiliary Mission Home where missionaries' children (God's heritage) may be specially trained for His service. God has always His own instruments to do His work, and may not our Woman's Auxiliary be thus used by Him!"

"So long as our missionaries are doing their work so nobly on such a starvation pittance of salary as debars them from educating their children, is it not the bounden duty of our church and its members, in common justice, to try at least to provide such an education for them as will qualify them to support themselves decently, and perhaps even to help their parents in their old age."—E. ALGOMA.

COMMUNICATIONS.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY IN CANADA.

My dear fellow-workers,—

It may seem a little late to wish you a very happy new year, but not too late to ask you to rejoice with me over the precious recollections of the past year, in the many ways the Lord has blessed the missionary work. Let us praise Him together for the baptism of grace, for loving, consecrated service, upon our Church women in Canada, and for what he has for us to do during the coming year. Let every step be one of praise