

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

NO SOULS.

A RECITATION

Hark! O'er the waters a mournful refrain
Is borne on the breezes again and again
List! Hear ye not like a dirge as it tolls
We have no souls—no souls

We have hearts that ache and hunger and sigh
As the weary years go creeping by
But when the death shall over us fall,
Then that is all—is all

The story you tell us is wondrous sweet
Of One who would woo sinning men to His feet.
But we are nothing but brutes they say,
Nothing but clay—just clay

Oh maidens beloved, on whose earthly way
Sweet home-light and love-light is resting away,
Oh lovingly call these weary ones in—
Souls are to win—to win

Souls that might shine like the stars in His crown
Dear souls to the darkness of death going down,
Oh haste! lest they cry while eternity tolls—
We are lost souls—lost souls

Life and Light

MISSION STUDIES. NO. 2.

A SKETCH OF THE BEGINNINGS OF MISSION WORK OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES

THIS centenary year of Foreign Missions will no doubt be characterized by "Looking Backward." Let us hope that it may be more practical and profitable than Edward Bellamy's. Beginnings of an important movement are interesting; perhaps most of all the beginning of the Foreign Mission Enterprise. The Baptists of the Maritime Provinces manifested an interest in Foreign Mission work at an early period of their history. In 1814 when the missionary question was just beginning to engage the attention of the foremost nations of the earth and the spirit of missions was taking possession of a few of God's elect, though small in numbers and limited in financial resources, our devoted "Fathers," as we are accustomed to term them, were fully alive to this great question. When churches were few and pastors much fewer, these brave men went through these lower provinces, on horseback in summer and snowshoes in winter, preaching Christ and holding evangelistic services. They were not satisfied with their Home Mission work, but felt, even under these circumstances, that the parting command of Christ "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," was addressed to them, and after many powerful appeals to the people at an association assembled at Chester, the first contribution for Foreign Missions was taken, amounting to about \$40.00. Without a missionary of their own

to support or Foreign Mission Board to direct and encourage them, they continued to push forward this work.

In 1838, at Chester, the same historic ground where the first offering for missions was made, during an association assembled there, the following resolution was passed: "Resolved solemnly and in the fear of God, to form a united Society for the maintenance of Foreign Missions." One year after the formation of this Society we have our first volunteer for foreign service. It was decided that the funds should be sent to the A. B. M. U. and their missionaries be directed by the Board. Richard Burpee, a native of New Brunswick, was the pioneer missionary from the Maritime Provinces. The Provincial Baptists were deeply interested in Burmah. The labors and trials of Judson, so fresh in the minds of all, had doubtless developed this feeling, consequently Mr. Burpee was appointed there. Five short years of service among the heathen awaits his consecrated life when he is called to higher service. He returned home with his wife and went south for the winter in hopes of recovery, but died in Florida, 1853.

The next brother of divine choice for foreign work was Arthur Crawley, born in Sydney Cape Breton; converted at Acadia College, the birth place of so many souls and the nursery for foreign missionaries. Mr. Crawley was ordained at Wolfville and sailed for Burmah. Twenty-three years were granted Mr. Crawley of devoted labor. Many and precious were the gems taken from the mine of heathenism and polished by his skilful hand during these years. He died on the passage home and was buried at Liverpool, Eng.

We have come now to notice a very important fact in connection with our mission work, viz.: Our first lady missionary for foreign service, Miss Minnie DeWolf, of Halifax. She heard the voice of her master bidding her "go tell" to her perishing heathen sisters the "old, old story" of salvation through Christ. After five years service Miss DeWolf's health failed and she, too, was compelled to return.

In 1869 William George and wife went out to Burmah under the Missionary Union, but supported by the Provincial Board. The Master was still calling and the next to gladly respond was Miss H. M. Norris. His message to her was not only to go herself and carry the Gospel to the heathen, but also to ask her sisters to send her as their representative to Burmah and sustain her while there, by their gifts, prayers and sympathy, and thus do their part in fulfilling the great commission, consequently she went through these provinces organizing Woman's Mission Aid Societies, which