

THE COMMON OFFERING.

It is not the deed we do,
Though the deed be ever so fair,
But the love the dear Lord looketh for,
Hidden, with lowly care,
In the heart of the deed so fair.

The love is the priceless thing,
The treasure cut treasures must hold,
Or ever the Lord will take the gift
Or tell the worth of the gold
By the love that cannot be told.

Behold us, the rich and the poor,
We, Lord, in thy service draw near;
One consecrateth a precious coin,
One droppeth only a tear;
Look, Master, the love is here!

Christina G. Rosetti.

FIELD STUDY FOR FEBRUARY.

THE INDIANS.

THE people we study about and pray for this month are natives of our own country; in fact they belonged here when we did not, for when our grandfathers and grandmothers, away back, came from Europe, they found the Indians here in much larger numbers than they are now.

The coming of the white man brought many changes. Forests were cut down; railroads built; in many districts where many thousands easily got their living hunting and fishing, a few hundreds now barely keep from starving. The settlement of the country by white men not only cut off their food supply, but brought other evils to them. Measles, scarlet fever, consumption, etc., were introduced. Rum and whiskey are destroying them. In fact the farther away from white settlements they are, the better they are physically and morally.

The Indians in Canada number about 100,000—a larger population than Toronto. Many people deny the possibility of the Indian being civilized, and made into a good citizen, but our missionaries can prove the contrary out of the mouth of many witnesses.

It is true there have been failures, but they were attempts to educate without teaching the Gospel. It is useless to try to educate and civilize the Indian without bringing him to Christ. His wild, restless spirit can only be subdued by the love of God. Many are found at all our stations who knew this love, witnessed by their lives. One young man, in a letter to Mr. Tate, says:

"I know that I am not walking on that dark road as I used to walk before. Bless the Lord; for He

has got the light to shine on my way to see where I am going."

Steady progress has been made in the Homes during the year. In the Coqualeetza Institute two of the pupils are preparing to enter the High School this year, with the hope of becoming teachers. One new feature is a brass band of thirteen instruments, which delights the boys. The Indians are fond of music and have musical ability.

One Sunday in the year, instead of the Sunday school, they have a Missionary meeting. Every pupil is anxious to have something to give. They earn money by working for the farmers around or for the teachers in the school. This year they gave \$20.85—many giving all they had. Our own Sunday schools might consider this record and see how it compares with their own.

Last summer Martha, one of the first girls received into the Home, was married to Peter Smith. This young man was converted in the Institute two years ago. He is now employed in the British Columbia iron works at Vancouver. Mr. Tate, commenting on this marriage, says:—"This is the best way to solve the Indian question: civilize and educate them, then let them earn their own living as white people do, instead of being kept under government care, like so many overgrown babies."

Many of the people living in the East are reached by the little steamboat "Glad Tidings." There is a good picture of her, and an account of one of her trips in *Onward* for January 9th.

Our workers for both Homes are the same as last year, with the exception that Miss Beavis takes her well-earned rest, and Miss Clarke, formerly of Chilliwack, takes her place at Port Simpson. E. A. R.

QUESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

Who are the people for whom we are to pray, and whose history we are to study this month?

Had they any right to this country?

What changes did the coming of the white man bring? What evils?

Is it well for the Indians to live among white men?

If not, why? Is not this a sad fact?

How many Indians are there in Canada?

Is it possible for the Indian to be civilized? Who can prove it?

What has been the cause of failure to civilize him?

Why is it useless to try to civilize and educate him without bringing him to Christ?

Can you give an instance of any converted Indian?

What is said of the Indian Homes during the year?

Of the Coqualeetza Institute?

Are the Indians musical?

How do they set a good example to our Sunday Schools?

What can you tell of Martha and her husband?

What does Mr. Tate say of this marriage?

What of the Glad Tidings? Where will you find an account and picture of her?

What change in the Homes this year?