

so to us? Was it from the words of a missionary who had lived amongst them? Then we will probably seek to get those whose help we desire, to hear missionaries speak of the field. Or did the reading a description of the labors of some devoted enthusiastic soul in heathen lands, first kindle a desire to share in such work, and our thoughts naturally turned to the field which God has given Canadian Baptists to evangelize? If so, how important to try and persuade others to read similar books or leaflets.

The use of Missionary Literature has proved one of the most efficient means of increasing the interest in Missions. The Rev. J. S. Forbes has said such wise things on this subject, that I have taken the liberty of copying some of his remarks:

"The mission enterprise has a great literature. Are we using either its great books, or the lighter and more ephemeral form it assumes—its periodicals—as we might, to quicken the hearts of Christian people? We want something to keep the stream of interest and benevolence always bubbling up fresh and strong. The whole cause depends on love and interest, and one great instrument for fostering this remains largely unused. We have got a new devotional library in Missionary literature, and if our ministers and people would use it more, the spiritual temperature of the churches would rise right away. There have been a number of Missionary biographies published within the last few years that it is impossible for any man to read, as they should be read, without indescribable emotion, and without the perfume of the presence of the Master being sensibly felt. The Holy Spirit uses these books. The power of God is in them. The doubter deplores the cessation of miracles. The missionary shows him facts that make him question if they have stopped at all. The Apostles never laboured amongst savages. They never had to give a written language to their converts in which to enshrine New Testament teaching. Missions are doing all this, and more; to-day Christianity is winning for itself new homes, and its proof is along the lines by which appeal is best made to the modern man. It is continuing spiritual experiences the counterpart of those at Pentecost, that demonstrate the incoming of a new force into the world. The cry about the decay of conversions in modern times does not find justification in the mission field. 2,000 Telugus have been baptized in one day, 10,000 in a year. Five years' labor for not a convert among the Kols; then, in eighteen years, 10,000, and the Gospel spontaneously propagating itself. Fiji, cannibal sixty years ago; to-day with 100,000 in church attendance, and mission work of its own. Hawaii, with 1,700 converts admitted in a day and 27,000 in six years. The Karens, touched by a mission that has passed through a baptism of blood—a missionary dying on an average every year for forty-eight years—to-day a Christian nation; and so forth.

"Many in the churches are not helping, nor giving, because they do not know what is going on; they must be made to know. We might make a greater effort to put in people's hands cheap and attractive editions of great missionary biographies. There are no books so influential; a multitude of soldiers, statesmen, scholars, and thinkers have been made by reading lives, and a multitude of missionaries.

"Just look, even in our times, at the power of one book. Besant writes 'All Sorts and Conditions of Men,' and the People's Palace rises to bless the dull lives of the East End. Booth sends out his 'Darkest England.' Money pours in, and his rescue homes and colonies begin. Paton writes his Autobiography, and a stream of interest, bearing gifts and service, sets in towards the New Hebrides Mission, and every other Christian mission, wider and deeper than ever before."

In both of our Women's Societies there are a number of books and leaflets at present unused, which in the hands of those now indifferent to missions, might change the course of their lives. Enthusiasm is most contagious. Let us get our own zeal kindled by reading of the zeal of others, and then looking to God to bless our efforts, try to induce others to take the books and read them.

When we think of Foreign Missions, does it not seem as if we had climbed to a mountain top, the strong breeze of a new and varied life was blowing upon us, and the great world lay stretched before our sight? As the different countries pass before our mental vision, men who were and are mighty in faith, walk through the cities, stand on the lake shores, pass up the rivers, and pointing to throngs of former heathen, bid us see how the grace of God has enabled them also, to love mercy, to do justly and to walk humbly before God.

Do you want the Victoria Nyanza to be more than a name to you, then read McKay of Uganda, and the Wagundas will throng its shores, and show you how the African can not only love, but die for Christ? Do you want the Congo to be something more than a black line on the map, then read the records of its mission work, and see Grenfell, Comber, Richards and others among the very cannibals which Stanley saw, who are now clothed and in their right mind and praising God by lip and life. ✓

Montreal.

AMELIA MUIR.

### "THE PROSPECTS OF MARTHA."

BY ANNE JAY, AUTHOR OF "MEL, MAID OF ALL WORK."

"It's my prospect's, my dear, as keeps me goin', an' old friend of mine explained one day. She and I were sitting in her little room, one of many others in a long row of brick cottages and facing a similar line of monotony on the opposite side. I used often to wonder to myself, what life would be like, if passed amid such commonplace, colorless surroundings.