

Foreign Missions.

Contributions.

Ontario.

Church, Gainsboro'.....\$1 50
Wm. Elliott, Toronto.....24 75

P. E. Island.

Ermina Morrow.....2 00

Official News from the Foreign Society.

The Executive Committee met in regular monthly session, in Room 55, Johnston Building, Cincinnati, Ohio, April 15, 1892. Devotional exercises were conducted by O. J. Tannar.

FINANCES.—The receipts for the month amount to \$14,208.41; the disbursements to \$5,890.48. The receipts are unusually large. Their responses to the call for offerings in March are far more general and far more generous than they were a year ago. Thus the receipts for two months last year amounted to \$11,195.55; for the corresponding period this year they amount to \$18,872.95—an increase of \$7,177.40. The offerings have not all been received yet.

CONVERSIONS.—The following were reported: 1 in Birdjek, Turkey; 5 in Liverpool; 9 in India; 2 in Denmark.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD.—G. N. Shishmanian writes: "Our school in this city moves on as usual. We have over sixty boys and girls in attendance. We labor patiently, hoping and praying that the time may soon come when our brethren will be able to give us a suitable building."

Dr. Holec sends the following encouraging statement: "I have long had a desire to extend our plea over the whole of Scandinavia, Denmark, Sweden and Norway, but until now I have not seen my way clear. However, I have now on my own account engaged a Swedish brother for one year, and I hope for good results. I shall keep you informed of the work."

John G. McGavran, of India, reports the new school-chapel completed and dedicated. "It is a neat and commodious building, and makes us a home much needed. Three of our schools are consolidated there, and we hope to gradually make it a place where we shall train our own workers, and prepare them for lives of great usefulness. We confidently expected help from the brethren in Australia to finish this building, but the money has not yet come. We have finished it under great difficulty, and owe \$800 upon it. They may send it in a few months, but we need it immediately to pay for work already done. We have hundreds of brethren at home who could make us right with the stroke of a pen, and gain for themselves more genuine happiness than by any other investment. This house is to be the centre of evangelization of thousands of our fellow men." Mrs. Ellen Levermore Jackson writes of her work among the women: "The zenana work is progressing, and the Lord is blessing his own work. I feel the more sure of this because the devil seems to be a bit scared, and is trying to make trouble for us. He knows when his kingdom is in danger. Lalto, a young woman whose heart seems opened to the truth, made a special request at Christmas, through Kimibai, that I should give her a Testament. 'Tell Mem Sahib that I want nothing else, only a Bible.' I sent a New Testament, and, as she is able to read, she began at once to draw water from the well of salvation. Kimibai visited her every other day, explained what was beyond her comprehension, and taught her to sing our Christian hymns. These happy times, however, have been rudely interrupted. The

landlord of the house in which she was living flew into a passion, and accused her of harboring Christian people, and not content with ruining herself, must spoil the rest of the women. He then told her that she must be prepared to leave the house at once, and the consequence is that she and her people have retired into a garden just a few miles out of Hurda."

T. J. Arnold writes from China as follows: "The work has now gotten into full swing again after the New Year holidays. The people are more willing than ever to listen to the good tidings, and our itinerant trips are seasons of great blessing to ourselves. The good seed scattered broadcast or dropped quietly into good and honest hearts, will surely be seen again after many days." W. P. Bentley writes: "The cablegram announcing the death of Mrs. Williams sent a pang of intense grief through every heart. We could not realize that death should choose for its first victim in our mission one so prominent and indispensable. When we bade her farewell on the homeward bound boat, she seemed so bright and hopeful! Every one says: 'How can we ever do without her?' She was at once the mother of the mission and the sister of every one in it. She was honored, esteemed and loved by all who knew her. She was cut down at a period when she felt prepared to begin more systematic work among the women of China. Words fail to express our grief, or to tell our loss."

NEW WORKERS.—W. E. Cooper was employed to help E. M. Gordon in the work at Mungeli, India. His salary will be \$40 a month. One of the missionaries in that field says: "We must have reinforcements. This is a critical time in reality, not theoretically. If we are ever to accomplish anything it is now, for the people will soon begin to drift. We must have two or three more ladies to work among the women. We need these to go among the low caste women in their homes, and teach them the truths of the Bible." The work in India is in a critical condition. Thousands are being won to Christ. Dr. Durand writes: "We have made some changes in our work—giving more attention to village preaching than heretofore. We now have three men in different sections of the district on tour all the time, and expect to start a fourth next week and at least a fifth man after the rains. These men go to the villages at night when all the men are at home, sitting around out of doors, and ready to listen."—In England, Messrs. Spring and Hogg have been employed to take the work at Cheltenham and Gloucester.

F. E. Meigs sailed on the 16th for Nankin. Mrs. Meigs is gaining strength, and expects to follow in the autumn. The Committee expect to send out a group of missionaries to Japan before the year closes.

ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS THIS YEAR.—The desire that this amount be raised is quite general. If the friends of the Society determine to do it, it will be done. The sum is within the limit of our ability. The indications are that Children's Day will yield much more this year than it did last. There are signs of hope and promise all around the sky. We are surely on the eve of better days. All along the line there are expressions of enlargement. With a little extra effort and sacrifice on the part of the friends of the work, we will see the whole amount raised, and more.

A. McLEAN, Cor. Sec.

"J. K. Heister gives promise of success in his new work at Ames, Iowa," so says the Standard.

The Origin of Children's Day.

In an address made before the Foreign Society in Louisville, Ky., in 1880, J. H. Garrison spoke as follows:—

"Has not the time come for pushing our advance column into some pagan land, where the people know not God, nor his Son Jesus Christ whom he has sent? If what we have said of the reflex influence of our foreign missions on our home work be true, it will be true in a much larger sense when we shall have come in direct contact with those who have never before heard the sweet, old story of the cross. Nothing would so touch the heart and develop the missionary spirit of our people as to go to them and say: 'We want means to send the Gospel to those who have never heard the name of Jesus. Some of them, through the efforts of our missionaries, have learned of him, and are rejoicing in his love, while many are crying, "Tell us more about Jesus." We want you to help us with your dollars and dimes to tell them of the Saviour of sinners.' Such an appeal as this would open hearts and purses that never otherwise would be reached. Even little children would pour out their hoarded pennies in response to such an appeal. The night before I left home, when my little ones learned that I was to leave the next day for the missionary convention, went and brought their little jugs and emptied out all the pennies and nickels, amounting altogether to \$1.18, representing the savings and self-denials of many months, and brought it to me, saying: 'We want this to go to the children who know nothing about Jesus.' I accepted with gratitude, and brought it with me, and will turn it over to the secretary of this Society, and it must be held sacred for the purpose for which it was given. Need I remind you that, as yet, we have no mission where this little child offering can be applied? God grant that these few pennies may be a precious seed from which shall grow a Children's Heathen Mission Fund, that shall carry the Gospel of him who loved the children so tenderly while here into many a dark corner of the earth."

The Foreign Society was organized in 1875, but in 1880 we had no missionaries in heathen lands. The work was done in Europe. The suggestion made was referred to a special committee. After duly considering the whole matter, it was recommended to ask the Sunday schools to contribute funds for work in heathen lands. The first offering was made in 1881, and amounted to \$750. The offerings year by year since are as follows: 1882, \$2,175; 1883, \$3,205; 1884, \$4,125; 1885, \$5,125; 1886, \$6,085; 1887, \$10,518; 1888, \$15,002; 1889, \$19,128.08; 1890, \$17,765; 1891, \$21,411. The present missions in India, Japan and China were started and in large part sustained by the offerings of the children in Sunday schools. Work began in India in 1882; in Japan in 1883; in China in 1886. According to the last annual report there are seventy-six missionaries and helpers in these three fields; and the expenditures last year aggregated \$42,444.10. We want to raise \$50,000 on Children's Day this year; we must do this if we are to do the work projected at the Allegheny Convention.

A. McLEAN.

Only one spring is sent us to sow the golden grain,
Only one summer lent us to reap in joy or pain.
The autumn dawns not slowly; white hair to us soon will come;
We lay us down with the lowly, and all life's work is done.

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