

## BIBLE WOMEN.

There are several Bible Women employed in reading the Scriptures and in other ways trying to promote the spiritual and general welfare of careless people in the city who go to no place of worship, and belong no church. For the last two years one of these missionary agents, Miss McVicar, has been supported by the contributions of the young men of Poplar Grove Church, aided by others in the Church who wish to help on so good a work. The following quarterly Report by Miss McVicar will bring before our readers the nature of her work, and facts as startling as those given by Mr. Patterson respecting the depth to which our lapsed population even in the small city of Halifax have sunk, within the perpetual sound of the Sabbath-bell, and within hearing and call of so many earnest labourers in the vineyard of Christ.

## MISS M'VICAR'S REPORT.

I have the pleasure to say that during the past quarter I have seen gradual improvement in cleanliness and order. I am generally out every day except very stormy ones and make from eight to ten visits. I have found the five shillings a week allowed for distribution by the Ladies Benevolent Society of Poplar Grove Church a great boon in enabling me to minister to the pressing need of sick persons and after the opening of Mr. Stairs' soup kitchen I found the soup made there what could be most readily and cheaply procured, and in that way many a weak and poor invalid was supplied with a nutritious dinner. I beg to return thanks to the ladies of Poplar Grove Church for repeated kindnesses and for the interest they have displayed in the mission. The cast off clothing which has passed through my hands has enabled me during the winter to fit out a good number of little boys and girls so that they have attended Sabbath-school.—The gift of clothing has in almost all cases been received with thankfulness by the parents. It is a token of kindly feeling which speaks to their hearts and makes them think more of the state of mind which prompts such kind deeds. To the children these old clothes have been the means of enabling them to pick up religious knowledge which with the blessing of God we hope to see bearing fruit in their after life. The poor have found the past winter a very hard one, work was hard to be got, and the cost of all food, fuel and clothing being high, the little funds obtained were soon spent. Rents have also been raised and the poorest room to be had costs 3s 6d to 4s. per week. Ar-

rears of rent accumulate during winter and it will be midsummer before many of the poor can square accounts with their landlord.

The amount of Sabbath day trading is very great and hundreds of people in the places I visit buy all the food and fuel they use during the day on that day. If wages were generally paid on Friday it would put beyond excuse those who indulge in such practices, and also prevent much sabbath dissipation and desecration.

In Albemarle Street a mother told me one day that her daughter about ten years of age, who attended the Sabbath school of the mission, had been speaking to her father and trying to make him break off the habit of swearing in which he indulged. In this instance the little girl displayed the true spirit of the missionary and showed by her activity that she did more than merely listen to her teacher. May God add his blessing to her labour of love.

It is with great pleasure that I desire to render thankful acknowledgement to Dr. Hattie, who has in every case brought to his notice by me, very generously and charitably given gratuitous attendance to poor patients.

The great danger for little girls and boys is getting into bad company on the streets. I have tried to instil into the mothers the need for keeping their children in at night, and I have tried to interest the little girls in stopping at home, by giving them a little patchwork to sew in the evening. And as the home influences are in many cases, inside is tenfold better than out, where drunken soldiers and sailors, and abandoned women corrupt and demoralise by their wicked example, and conversation the rising generation so disposed by nature to receive wicked impressions.

I begin at one end of my district, and visit from house to house right through, and it takes me 3 months to complete the work. In addition to this, every day I first call upon the persons I know to be sick and I learn who these are by messages sent by the children to the Mission School, or if they see me passing.

My visits are chiefly confined to Barrack and Albemarle Streets, between Sackville and Jacob Streets, but I also make some visits in Grafton, and Goringen Streets; and when I find that persons I am acquainted with, move to another part of the City, I follow them if I learn they are not visited by any one else.

In giving articles of food, I always give small quantities. In cases of sickness if I buy ½lb. tea and 1lb. sugar, I take it home and divide them among several, giving a little to each. And sometimes a little soap is as much a luxury, and as much needed as anything else. I like to make unex-