

schools. In the schools of the Northwest were 332 children, and in those of British Columbia 100, a total of 432. Miss Craig pointed out that in spite of all the work done among the Indians, the larger number of them were still entirely pagan. Yet this was not considered so very discouraging for it was not more than 25 years since Miss Baker had begun her work at Prince Albert, the first work done by a woman of the church for the Indians. The speaker referred to the generations needed for the elevation of the British people out of savagery and asked for patience with the Indians and optimism in connection with efforts made. The curse brought in by white men was denounced in strong terms.

The work among Chinese women in Canada was being carried on with energy by Miss Gunn, of Victoria. Miss Craig asked that more attention be paid by members of this work and more interest taken in it.

The report of the traveling secretary, Miss Jameson, was presented by Mrs. Jeffray. A full report of her work was in the hands of the delegates, but this was supplemented by Mrs. Jeffray, who paid a tribute to the ability and tireless energy with which Miss Jameson has done her work.

#### Finances.

Miss Smith presented the report of the treasurer, Miss George. The total receipts for the year were \$63,735.45, a gain over the preceding year of \$5,156.68. Of this gain, \$4,094.40 was in connection with auxiliary funds, and \$552.89 in connection with mission bands.

At this stage of the proceedings greetings were received from representatives of other missionary societies; Church of Methodist, Congregational and Church of England organizations of a similar nature.

At the afternoon session a paper was read upon Mission Band work, by Mrs. Gardiner, of Ottawa. It dealt in a practical and helpful manner with the difficulties of carrying on the work among those being mentioned the frequent change of leaders of the Bands and the difficulty of getting workers willing to engage in this work. The chief requisite in leaders were consecration to the cause and a prayerful spirit. In discussion of methods, it was pointed out that many children, little suspected of ability in the line of art, could contribute very considerably to the interest of the meetings in this way. The speaker gave a sketch of a model mission Band telling the many things a member should see in coming to a Band meeting. The raising of money and the matter of taking part in the meetings were also discussed. The importance of training children properly in mission work was duly emphasized.

Mrs. Hamilton, of Boissevain, led the meeting in prayer after which Mrs. Counsell, of Winnipeg sang very beautifully "Come Unto Me." All the missionaries present were then called to seats upon the platform while Mrs. Griffith, of Honan, China, delivered an address. On rising to speak, Mrs. Griffith was given a very hearty welcome, all delegates standing to receive her, then applauding vigorously.

#### Work in Honan.

Mrs. Griffith in opening her address, spoke of a friend who said she was not very fully in sympathy with foreign mission work on account of the urgent needs at home. But while it was true that there was great need at home, it was true, the speaker pointed out, that there were many Christian workers in this land, while beyond the broad Pacific were millions of women in the deepest darkness with few or none at all to do anything for them.

Speaking particularly of Honan, Mrs. Griffith said that in northern Honan, a province about one-quarter the size of Manitoba, was a population of six or seven millions. The women and children there alone were 40 or 50 times as many as the population of Winnipeg.

The women in Honan needed Christ's word, needed it first because of their poverty. The most abject poverty any of those present had even seen could be observed in Honan any day. Poverty was due to the congested population and thus in turn was related to ancestor worship. The greater the number of male descendants the greater number to worship at the graves of their ancestors. Hence early marriages were unduly encouraged. In connection with the custom of betrothal were various abuses, some growing out of sheer greed on the part of soulless men who made a business of arranging betrothals upon commission. Another cause of poverty was found in the vices of the people, notably opium smoking, which was indulged by women as well as men. One of the miracles of Christianity in China was the reform of many of these opium fiends.

The women needed Christianity, too, because of the impurity of thought of word and action almost universal in China. Many words in the Chinese language were entirely untranslatable. This impurity was the cause of many of the diseases from which the people suffered.

Because of the defects in home life, too, the Chinese needed Christianity. Sons brought their wives home, until many families in some cases were under one roof and forming one household. The youngest daughter-in-law was the drudge of the whole household. The most bitter quarrels were of almost daily occurrence, and with but the thought of deliverance and revenge a young wife very often would be driven to suicide. A change was beginning to be noted and the evil customs of years were being broken by Christian converts.

The women of China needed Christianity, too, on account of oppressive customs. Among these was footbinding, which, though it is being less practiced than formerly in some parts of China, holds sway as rigidly as ever in Honan.

The teaching of Christ was needed, also on account of the cruelties practiced in attempts at the cure of ill physical and mental. One fruitful source of the horrors perpetrated in this connection was the almost universal belief in demons by which even fond mothers come to believe their own children possessed. Children were even cast out to die, when ill, in the belief that they were possessed of demons.

Ignorance furnished another reason why, the women of China needed the word of the gospel sent to them. One woman in 10,000 in north China, it was estimated, was able to read her own language. The women were eager to learn, even the aged, when they became converts, learning to read.

Having spoken of the needs, Mrs. Griffith went on to speak of what Christianity was doing to relieve the needs of the women of China. The emancipation of women among the converts, their training in the treatment of disease, the joy that had come into hundreds of lives were but a few things that might be mentioned. Some said that the Chinese were happy enough as they were and should be left alone. Even if this were so—and it was not so by any means—the speaker thought this no reason why the higher teachings should not be sent to supplant the lower.

The need of work at home was not a reason for denying nor even for postponing support to foreign work. Revivals were heard of in India and elsewhere and the prayer of workers in Honan was for a similar work of grace there.

At the close of Mrs. Griffith's address Mrs. Jamieson of Carman engaged in prayer and the session closed with the singing of a hymn.

At the close of the afternoon session, the delegates attended a reception tendered them at government house by Lady McMillan.

At the evening session in St. Andrew's Church, Dr. Hart, who is one of the oldest western members of the Presbyterian foreign mission committee, presided, with him on the platform being Rev. Clarence Mackinnon and Dr. Griffith, of Honan,

China. After a brief introductory address by Dr. Hart, Rev. Mr. Mackinnon, speaking on behalf of the W. F. M. S., summarized their report of the past year's work, telling of the 1,138 auxiliaries and mission bands and commented upon great advances made during the past year and upon the well known and fully tried loyalty of the women to their cause. What were these 1,138 societies doing? he asked. They were fighting apathy, overcoming indifference, spreading zeal, enthusiasm and knowledge. He defined scattered helpers, of whom there were 2,000, as helpers, scattering and yet increasing. There was a definite gauge of the progress of the society, a thermometer, in fact—the contributions. These were not only valuable in themselves, but also as an indication of healthy spiritual life in the societies. The total income of the year had been \$92,461, a gain for the year of \$5,157.

Rev. Dr. Griffith followed with an inspiring missionary address, which we shall try and give out readers in next issue.

#### FOURTH DAY.

This morning an announcement was made of the various officers for the ensuing year. The officials are the same as last year with one exception, Mrs. Hamilton replacing Mrs. G. H. Robinson as one of the vice-presidents. All the officers reside in Toronto.

A dedicatory prayer was then offered by Mrs. Johnstone, Paisley, after which an interesting missionary address was given by Miss Kate Gillespie, of File Hills, Sask. The speaker dwelt chiefly on the work of the missions among the Indians of the Northwest. In speaking of this, Miss Gillespie noted the wonderful progress that had been made among the Indians during the last quarter of a century. Some have said that you can do nothing with the older Indian. A few were often met with who adhered to the old traditions of superstitions, but the majority were amenable to the teachings of the missionaries.

Among young people the work of the auxiliaries was especially noticeable. Speaking of the File Hills Indian school, the speaker gave some interesting facts. During the last year the communion ranks were swelled by fifteen recruits, all of whom were young Indian friends, except three. Another cause for gratitude was the evident good-will of the older Indians. They seem very proud and satisfied with their school home. They themselves are slow to accept Christianity, but are quite satisfied to have their children brought up as Christians. The total giving for the field amounted to \$151.60. The young people enter actively into the work and take their turns in leading the meetings.

#### Thanks to Winnipeg.

The closing words of the session were spoken by Mrs. McQueen, of Hamilton, in which she briefly narrated the history of the progress of the society. On behalf of the eastern delegates the speaker desired to thank the representatives in Winnipeg for the encouragement they had given the eastern workers. Mrs. McQueen made an eloquent appeal on behalf of the work of the auxiliaries in her closing words. She exhorted those present to regard highly the work they were called upon to perform in the home, the family, and society, where the truths of religion were to be taught, divine laws to be obeyed and reverence for God's laws inculcated.

Votes of thanks were passed to the ladies of Winnipeg for their cordial welcome and hospitality in endeavoring to make the visit of the delegates a pleasant one.

After the singing of the final hymn, prayer was offered by Mrs. Shortreed, the president, and the convention was brought to a close.

The annual convention for the next year will be held in Brandon.

What God wants is men great enough to be small enough to be used.—H. Webb, Peplee.