

first set aside and duly offered in the church. The same is done with the juice (unfermented) of the palmyra tree, jaggery, ghee and eggs. When a hen begins to lay the first egg is at once brought to the church, and every time a fowl hatches her chickens one of them is offered after it has grown a little, or its value is paid to the church. In the same way some of our people give the first fruits of their cows and sheep, or their equivalent in money.

There is another good custom prevalent amongst Christian women. Twice a day, when they prepare the rice for their meals, they put aside with a short prayer, the first handful of rice, or a small quantity in proportion to what they cook, and at the end of the month they offer these handfuls, saved from every meal, in the church. These small quantities set apart daily, however small they may be, in the course of a month amount to a quarter or half a measure of rice even in the houses of the very poor, whilst in well-to-do, large families, as much as four or five measures are collected. The last Friday in every month is set apart for the public reception and dedication of all these offerings. The people present what they have brought at the altar rails in the presence of the clergyman, and a short special service is held.

The object of introducing these customs is not only to teach our people their duty as set forth in the scripture, but also to encourage the system of self-sustentation in as easy a way as possible amongst the poorer and more ignorant classes of people who form the bulk of our Christians in Tinnevely, and thus to induce them to give freely and willingly for church purposes. The custom is also readily adopted by the people as consonant with their own ideas of what is due from them in return for what God's bounteous Providence provides.

ARTHUR MARGOSCHIS,

Missionary, S. P. G.

NAZARETH, South India, May 3, 1887.

Woman's Auxiliary Department.

Communications relating to this Department should be addressed Mrs. Tilton, 521 Cooper Street, Ottawa.

VERY little has reached us this month from the General Secretary of this department. Probably the holiday season is the reason.

THE work of Zenana Missions has lost a valued friend in the late Mrs. Gaviller, of Hamilton, who entered into rest on Sunday evening, July 17th.

THE Churchwoman's Mission Aid of Toronto claims to have the honor of first organizing woman's work in the Canadian Church. As it was established eight years ago it is certainly older than the Woman's Auxiliary to Missions, with which it is now affiliated. But with regard to priority of claim in point of age, Mrs. Houghton of Montréal, in the interest only of "honor to whom honor is due," writes to us as follows:—

"I hold in my hand a very unpretending MSS.,

the first annual report of the 'Woman's Missionary Union' of Lennoxville, Que., and the date is April, 1878, showing the society to have been in existence from 1877, two years earlier than the one in Toronto. It still exists and has done faithful work in and for the Canadian Church, both within its own narrow limits and by its influence far outside of them."

Perhaps someone may know of some branch still older.

THE Ladies' Committee of the Woman's Auxiliary, Diocese of Mackenzie River, are: Mrs. Wm. Spindlove, Mrs. M. J. Carbon, Mrs. G. S. Camsell, St. David's Mission, Fort Simpson, N. W. T.

Books and Periodicals Dept.

Prize Essay on Missions.—A little book of 293 pages under the above title, written by a Presbyterian minister, Rev. George Patterson, D. D., of Nova Scotia, and published by William Briggs, Toronto, is well worth reading and should be in the library of every clergyman. It is the result of a prize offered by a Christian gentleman some three years ago for the best essay on the need of Christian work among the heathen, and its value consists in the clear statement of the whole missionary case from the beginning to the end. It begins with the heathen world and describes its condition, entering into the peculiarities and horrors of all the various systems of heathen religion; and from this it shews the heathen's need of the Gospel, and then points out by clear and distinct statements the duty of the Church to supply this need. It is shewn to be the distinguishing point between the Old and New Testament and the outcome of all God's purposes previously revealed. A fine description of the missionary spirit of the early days of Christianity is given, and an appeal made for the Church to take up and continue a work so gloriously founded in days gone by and so clearly laid upon her by the charter of her existence and the direct commands of her Master. The comparison that is made between heathenism and the bright, pure and hopeful religion of the Lord Jesus Christ is valuable.

RETURNS BY PARISHES—FOREIGN MISSIONS.

DIOCESE OF ALGOMA.

D. E. Davidge, Rosseau.....	\$ 4 65
Rev. A. W. H. Chownc, Ullswater.....	2 00
J. Edgar, Sundridge.....	5 00
Rev. F. Frost, Sheguandah.....	4 60
Indian Homes, Sault Ste Marie.....	28 70
Rev. J. Manning, Ilfracombe.....	2 08
H. N. Phillips, Sault Ste Marie.....	4 85
Rev. F. C. Berry, Bruce Mines.....	5 00
G. H. Macdowell, Port Arthur.....	14 00
Rev. C. J. Machin, Port Arthur.....	1 00
S. Budgland, Bracebridge.....	7 39
Rev. J. Cole, Manitowaning.....	1 92
W. B. Tindall, Parry Sound.....	8 57
Rev. A. Osborne, Gravenhurst.....	4 50

\$94 26