

Foreign Missions.

W. B. M. U.

"We are laborers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please address MRS. J. W. MANNING, 240 Duke Street, St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR SEPTEMBER.

That God's blessing may follow the meetings of Convention and all helped be given to carry out the plans made for advancement in every department of his work.

W. B. M. U. Annual Convention in Main Street Church.

According to appointment the delegates to the W. B. M. U. Convention assembled in the audience room of Main St. Baptist church Wednesday morning the 21st inst. The floral decoration was beautiful and most artistic in arrangement, presenting a charming appearance. After the usual exchange of greeting on such an occasion the first session was opened by a short prayer service after which the President took the chair and proceeded with the business of the Union.

The reports of the provincial secretary were then called for.

Mrs. M. S. Cox of Chipman, the provincial secretary for New Brunswick, reported that the year financially had been a very good one. The sum total from aid societies and bands raised during the year was over \$3,000. There are 80 working societies, with a membership of about 1,700. Returns from 53 societies have been received. Two new societies have been formed during the year, one at Beniah, Kings county, and another at North River, Westmorland county. Moncton leads the societies in amount of contributions, sending in more than \$300. Fredericton, Chipman, Sackville, St. Stephen, and Germain street, St. John, all have sent in more than \$100. Nine life members have been made during the year.

Mrs. J. C. Spurr of Pownall, provincial secretary for P. E. I., presented her report. There are 22 societies, the same as last year, with 355 members. Three life members were made last year. The societies have contributed this year \$620.68; \$449.59 for foreign missions and \$171.11 for home missions. Last year the contribution amounted to \$655. Seven deaths have been reported. Joyous meetings have been held during the year. Forty copies of the Link are taken by the members.

Miss M. E. Hume, Dartmouth, acting provincial secretary for Nova Scotia, reported that it was difficult to give a correct statistical report. There are, however, 5,778 women in the churches reported, of whom 2,257 are contributors. 437 copies of the Link have been taken. Societies there are 141. Touching reference was made to the late Miss Johnston, former provincial secretary. This report was exceedingly comprehensive, touching upon all the various phases of the Union's work.

The report was received and adopted, and the thanks of the Union was presented to Miss Hume, who had at great inconvenience to herself taken up the work of the late provincial secretary.

The committee on the Link brought in a resolution to the effect that the Union's department be continued in the Canadian Missionary Link, but in a larger and more comprehensive manner, and that a special editor be appointed to look after this department. Also that letters from Tidings be published and reports from the provincial secretaries.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Convention then adjourned. The ladies of the W. B. M. U. of the Main street church provided luncheon in the school room. Three long tables were placed the full length of the room, with a seating capacity of about 175. A very dainty luncheon was served.

At the afternoon session a cordial address of welcome to the visitors on behalf of the local societies was delivered by Mrs. Wm. Alwood. Mrs. Blackadar made a graceful and appropriate reply.

The reports of the treasurer for Mission Bands, Mrs. Ida Crandall of Chipman, and the treasurer of the W. B. M. U., Mrs. Mary Smith of Amherst, were then given as follows:

For foreign missions	\$6,500.37
For home missions	1,833.27
From mission band treasurer for foreign missions	1,747.45
For home missions	139.93
Total for foreign missions	\$8,247.82
Total for home missions	2,023.20
Grand total	\$10,271.02
Total expenditure	7,136.47
Cash on hand	\$3,946.66

There were this year 44 life members, nine of whom were from New Brunswick. The donations from Nova Scotia W. B. M. A. societies were \$4,859.84; from New Brunswick W. B. M. A. S., \$2,531.86; from P. E. I., \$627.19; from donation, \$231.58; from other sources, \$134.05; grand total \$10,088.13.

The Corresponding Secretary's report and also the Home Mission report will be published in full at an early date.

The president's address as delivered by Mrs. Dr. Manning referred to the needs of the times and the many

agencies at work for good. The Sunday schools, the W. C. T. U., Y. M. C. A., and kindred societies, all worked for the coming of the kingdom, and the W. B. M. A. S. was no less a means for accomplishing the divine work. She dwelt earnestly on the crying need of the heathen countries and told of the purposes and accomplishments of the Women's Missionary societies during the past thirty years. If the purpose were only sincerely appreciated the society would go into the new century with a greater earnestness. The task was great and co-operative work and prayer were needed for any success. Sacrifice was also necessary. Christ gave his life and nothing less than ours could suffice now. The harvest was worth the sacrifice. More interest was needed—more incentive for the work and the only lasting source of inspiration was in Christ. Financially the funds of the society had steadily increased for years, but there was room yet for much more money and self-sacrifice. The time would yet come when each church should have its missionary on the foreign field. But raising money was not the primary work. The educational work should come first, and in this department the advance had been incalculable. One of the greatest needs of the society was a larger measure of Christ in the hearts and minds of the members, and another crying need was more workers. The master had called to the higher life many of their best, and the vacant places had to be filled with consecrated, earnest women, with souls filled with love of Christ.

The estimates for the year 1901-02 were presented by Miss Mary Smith as follows:

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Miss Clark's salary (past year)	\$325
Helpers and travelling	100
Miss Harrison's salary	500
Helpers, and etc.	100
Miss Newcome, salary	500
Helpers, etc.	100
Miss Archibald, salary	500
Help, teachers, etc.	200
Miss Blackadar's salary	500
Teacher	50
Miss Flora Clark's salary	500
Teacher	50
Books and tracts	100
Schools	250
Home literature	75
Contingent fund	250
School at Bobbitt	100
Hospital at Chicacole	500
Native Helpers	500
Two little girls with Mrs. Churchill	50
Tent for Bimlipatam field	100
For male missionaries, salary	2650
Total	\$8000

In addition to this, \$1,200 from the standing fund will be granted to pay the outward expenses of the departing missionaries.

HOME MISSIONS.

North West	\$600.00
Indian work	200.00
Grand Ligne	500.00
Home Missions N. B.	350.00
Home Missions N. S. and P. E. I.	450.00
Japanese work in B. C.	100.00
Total	\$2,200.00

The following officers were appointed: Mrs. J. W. Manning, president; Mrs. C. H. Martell, secretary; Mrs. Mary Smith, treasurer.

At six o'clock tea was served for the delegation and friends by the ladies of Brussels street Baptist Church. From the three long tables in the large vestry, daintily decorated with snowy linen, glittering cut glass and silver, and flowers in profusion, an elaborate supply of eatables was furnished to about 230 ladies.

At the largely attended evening service, after devotional exercises, Mrs. Ira Smith gave an earnest address of deep interest. History, she said, was full of the stories of women who had changed their countries for good or for evil, and the same power was theirs today to wield in either direction. As instruments in the hands of the Lord, their influence for good could be made incalculable. If the women of these provinces would take as their motto "Canada for Christ" it would soon be said of us, "Blessed in this nation whose God is the Lord." The women could doubtless do much good if they possessed the franchise, but that hope was as yet unrealized. Meanwhile they had a field in which much good could be accomplished; in which there was room for all their energies, and that was home missions.

A solo by Mrs. H. R. Hatch was followed by an address from Mrs. J. C. Archibald, returned missionary, on the needs of the work in India. She referred to Christ's command to preach the gospel in the uttermost parts of the earth, and pointed to the Christian's duty to carry salvation to all who were without it. There were many difficulties in the way both abroad and at home. The condition in India presented strong opposition to the spread of Christianity, but the obstacles were not all there. One of the hindrances at home was the prevalent thought that the heathen would be saved anyway; that God in his mercy would not condemn even these people who lived without a consciousness of guilt and died without repentance. Some try by this false belief to escape the responsibility that rests upon them. She had lived and suffered among these heathen, and knew that they were lost without the knowledge of Christ. She praised the work done by the women at home, but pressed the urgent need of three more missionaries this fall and many others later. We were stewards of the manifold grace of God, and upon us was the responsibility of carrying it to others. She appealed to those at home to put away their selfishness and engage more faithfully in the work.

Rev. L. D. Morse of Bimlipatam, India, who followed, pressed the claims of his work with deep earnestness. The W. B. M. U., he said, had been a source of great en-

couragement and cheer to him. Of all he had told the heathen of his native country nothing was more amazing than the accounts of the work the women here were doing for them. In a few graphic words he sketched the situation out there, making that great land and its needs, for a time at least, a matter of personal, vital interest to his hearers. To solve the missionary problem all that was necessary was to serve the Lord faithfully and wholeheartedly. Serving consisted in doing what we were told. Did we do this, he asked, we who professed to be his servants? Did we do what he asked, or did we serve our own selfish ends? The Lord's command was to make disciples of all the nations. This could only be done through our instrumentality, for God only wrought human salvation through human means. On us was the responsibility.

Thursday morning's session was devoted to the Mission Band department of the work. Reports were received from the different provincial superintendents and plans for increasing the usefulness of the Bands were discussed. The meeting was made more interesting by the presence of a number of members of the local Bands, who were addressed by Mrs. Archibald and Rev. L. D. Morse, returned missionaries, on Phases of Child Life in India.

After these addresses the reports of the provincial superintendents were received. Miss Flora Clark, N. B., Mrs. P. R. Foster, N. S., and Mrs. A. F. Brown, P. E. I., showing a marked advancement in this department.

At the close of this session the delegates were entertained at luncheon by the ladies of the Germain Street Baptist church.

Resuming at two o'clock, an impressive memorial service was conducted by Mrs. M. S. Cox of Chipman. After devotional exercises and appropriate music, a poem written in memory of Miss Amy Johnstone was read by Miss Bertie Webb, and the list of those of the society who had departed during the past year was given. Many touching references were made and earnest prayers offered for the bereaved ones.

An interesting paper on Canada and Home Missions was read by Mrs. Hutchison of Moncton. She dwelt upon our country's vast extent of lands and resources, of its religious, industrial and educational facilities, of the internal evils that militated against its progress, and of the remedies to be applied. The incoming tide of immigrants of all nationalities, while it brought increased prosperity, also brought increased responsibilities, not only for the government, but for the church, to which was given a glorious opportunity to serve its God and its country simultaneously. The work was large and ever growing and the laborers were far too few. Professed Christians in this part of the country should accept their personal responsibility in the matter, and strive together in doing their part in making the people of the Dominion an enlightened, God-fearing and prosperous nation.

Greetings were then received from other societies. A letter from the Baptist convention of Manitoba was read by the president, and Mrs. Hutchison read greetings from the women's board of Ontario.

After a solo by Mrs. Curry, Miss Rita Yull presented the programme of the Mission Band lessons for the ensuing year, which was adopted.

Rev. W. T. Stackhouse, the newly-appointed superintendent of Northwest missions, a young maritime province man who has met with marked success in his western work was the next speaker.

After a dainty tea, served in the vestry by the ladies of Leinster street Baptist church, the delegates of the W. B. M. U. assembled in the Main street church for the last meeting of their convention. The large auditorium was filled, and the proceedings of the service listened to with deep interest. Opening devotional exercises were followed by an interesting missionary address by Mrs. Nalder of Windsor, N. S., and a solo by Miss Taylor of New York, after which Miss Flora Clarke of Moncton, the society's missionary-elect, told of the influences that had led her to engage in mission work. She dwelt upon the vastness and deep necessity of the work, and pleaded for more unselfish interest in it from those at home. In closing Miss Clarke bade an affecting farewell to the officers and members of the union, with whom she had labored for five years. She was grateful to them for the trust they had reposed in her, and would try to justify it. She implored them to be true to the cause and to follow her with their continued prayers in her far-off field of labor.

Mrs. W. V. Higgins expressed her thankfulness at being once more fit for service. The thought of rejoining her husband and re-engaging in the work she loved was pleasant, but it was accompanied by keen suffering at leaving loved ones behind. For the proper prosecution of the mission enterprise there were needed lives consecrated to God and continually immersed in prayer. The prayers of those at home were needed even more than their material aid, and she pleaded with the members to be faithful in this respect.

A solo was given by Mrs. Hatch and Rev. J. C. Archibald, who followed, placed again before the society the needs of the mission work.

Following another solo by Miss Taylor of New York, Mrs. Archibald spoke of the Chicacole hospital work, telling of the inauguration of the enterprise and its accomplishments since, and asking for aid for its endowment.

A few heartfelt words of farewell on behalf of the W. B. M. U. were then extended to the departing missionaries by the president, Mrs. Manning. Three of them would be greeted on their return by the eager faces of those to whom they had ministered and for whom they had suffered sorrow and heartache and sickness. Her heart was filled with gratitude that their health had been restored and further opportunity for service given them. To Miss Clarke it would be an entirely new experience, and she hoped that her labors would be crowned with great success. She pledged on behalf of the society the deep sympathy, interest, support and prayers of the workers at home, and reminded the missionaries to keep the society informed concerning their needs and work.

The meeting closed with a brief consecration service conducted by Mrs. C. H. Martell and participated in by many of the delegates.