

W. B. M. U.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR:

"We are laborers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. J. W. MANNING, 178 Westworth Street, St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC.

That a great blessing may follow the meetings of the W. B. M. U. and Convention.

Thank God for the missionaries who have decided to go this autumn to India. May the money be freely given to send them.

Notice.

The 14th of October has been appointed as Crusade Day for our W. B. M. U. Will not every Society make plans to observe it this year, that our membership may be greatly enlarged.

Notice.

Mr. Higgins will take any parcels for India sent to him before October 10. Please give contents and value of each parcel. The freight per foot is about \$1. Address: Rev. W. V. Higgins, Wolfville, N. S.

Notice to Presidents of all Mission Bands in Nova Scotia.

At our annual meeting in August it was decided to have each month in "Tidings" a suggested programme, a lesson and reading for our Bands. In order that the first copy may reach you in time I have sent the name and P. O. address of the President of every Band which reported to me in July, to the Publishing Committee in Amherst. Will any Bands who did not report to me in July please do so at once? Direct: Miss A. E. Johnston, Dartmouth, N. S., and give me the number of members in your Band, the amount of money received by your Band up to July, 1897, and also the name and P. O. address of your President and Secretary.

A. E. JOHNSTON, Prov. Sec'y for N. S.
Dartmouth, N. S.

The price of Tidings is only 25 cents a year. Our Bands will all need it. Please send payment to Mrs. Mary Smith, Treas. W. B. M. U., Amherst, N. S.

Notice to Secretaries of Aid Societies in Nova Scotia.

At the request of the committee I have made out a list of the names of all Secretaries with their post office address in order that you may receive the annual report. The number sent to each society is much smaller than usual. Please be prompt in remitting the five cents per copy, to Mrs. Mary Smith, Treas. W. B. M. U., Amherst. Any society not receiving the reports will please notify me at once.

Dartmouth.

A. E. JOHNSTON,
Prov. Sec'y, for N. S.

Home Missions.

The committee on Home Missions held their first meeting for the new year on Monday Sept. 6th. It was moved by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Hall that Mrs. Norman MacDonald be added to the committee. The estimates for the coming year were read and discussed. These as passed by the Union at the annual meeting in August were:—For the North West, \$600.00; Grande Ligne, \$400.00; Indian work, \$200.00; N. S. and P. E. I., \$450.00; N. B., H. M., \$350.00. Total \$2,000.00.

To meet this we have a balance on hand of \$152.14. The Secretary reported that a number of Societies in each Province had not contributed to Home Missions during the last year; and it was thought that a contribution from these would make up the extra amount to be raised this year. It was decided to make no further plans towards suggestions for raising this amount till the next meeting. The Secretary reported that the Home Missionary committee was to have a space in Tidings each month; and suggested that the members of the committee furnish these items in turn. After some discussion it was decided that Miss Johnston take this work for October, Miss Hume, for November, and Mrs. Hall, for December.

The subject of a permanent place in which to hold the meetings of the committee was discussed, and Mrs. Smith kindly proposed that we continue to meet with her. Her invitation was most thankfully received and the committee adjourned to meet early in November, the day to be decided upon later.

In a recent letter from Mrs. W. F. Armstrong she says: "We have had a marvelous outpouring of converting

Foreign Missions.

power in the last few weeks. Over 300 young people in Rangoon have come out and declared themselves on the Lord's side, and half of them are among the Tamil and Telugu people. It has been a work confined almost exclusively to our schools, occasioned by the visit of the Sunday School Secretary of the Sunday School Union for India. Wherever he spoke with one exception souls confessed Christ. Since his leaving, the work continues and we all are greatly rejoiced and comforted. In one of our Schools during his stay, there were 111 in one day confessed Christ, and many more since. None have been baptized yet. Many are too young to be admitted by law, unless their heathen parents consent. Two teachers in another of our schools are having a hard time with their relatives, one a Brahman, has made a bold stand and is reading the Bible to his household and praying earnestly for their conversion." Let us all thank God and take courage.

Foreign Mission Board.

NOTES BY THE SECRETARY.

The Mission of the Church.

Christianity is essentially a mission. Jesus Christ its great founder and head was in an emphatic and unique sense the "sent of God." He is the divine messenger, the helper long promised, long looked for, who brings in his own person the light and peace and spiritual power which the world elsewhere sought in vain. He reveals God—He redeems man. "The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world." Such being the origin, purpose and spirit of Christianity it follows that if the church be mindful of her own origin and true to the divine thought which gave her birth, she cannot hear unmoved the appeal of the world's need, or stay her hand of help while any whom her Lord came to enlighten and redeem sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

The whole world lies before us discovered. There remain but few lands to be explored. The wastes of heathenism have been traversed, even the Dark Continent has been penetrated and its secrets disclosed. There is scarcely a region that is not accessible to the gospel. The keels of our ships can touch scarcely a strand where the missionary's foot may not tread.

"When our Protestant missions began," writes Mr. Johnston, "China was hermetically sealed. It was death to preach the gospel in Japan. India was closed against all missionaries, Carey had to take shelter in a little plot of ground owned by a foreign power. South America was tabooed by the church of Rome. The difficulties experienced by African travellers were enough to deter the most adventurous and Asia Minor was inaccessible, while Mohammedanism stood in its pride and independence."

Now all this is changed. God has wrought revolutions. The empires of the world are now under the sway, or amenable to the influences of Christian powers. The progress, too, of invention has made world-wide communication possible and comparatively easy.

In view of these facts what are we as Christians expected to do in this matter? Let us look to our orders. When all else fail us and we get perplexed the marching orders of the Great Captain are clear and explicit, and no child of God can mistake their meaning unless he really wants to do so, for we can make ourselves believe almost anything or nothing.

We cannot convert people. That is true, and so there is a sense in which we are not responsible for the conversion of souls. Our mission is one of evangelization. "Go ye into all the world and evangelize—preach the gospel to every creature."

Our Lord Christ never said that it was our duty to convert everybody, nor did He promise such a result. We give the people in our own land free schools though not everybody that goes to school will turn out a scholar. We are to give the community a free gospel though not every hearer turns out a convert.

The gospel must first be preached as a witness in all the world. This means no hasty, superficial, formal proclamation of the good news of grace. It means thorough work, the implanting and erection of all the Christian institutions. Everywhere men

are to be confronted with the Christian church, the home, the school, and all that goes to make up a Christian civilization. They are to see demonstrated before their eyes, just what the gospel of Christ can do for the man, the woman and the child, what it can do to lift humanity, dignify labor, abolish cruelty, reveal the true brotherhood of man, and raise society to a higher level. The contrast will be made to appear between the religion of the Nazarene and all other faiths. The Mohammedan, heathen and pagan, will be compelled to confess the wonderful superiority of a gospel that rears a temple to God, in which unselfishness, benevolence, charity and purity are foundation stones.

That is preaching the gospel as a witness, and it gives to all men a fair chance for intelligent choice, such is the purpose of the gospel in the present age, and such is the commission of the church, during this dispensation, and just so far and so fast as this is done does the church succeed in her mission on earth. While it is not promised that everybody who hears the gospel shall be converted during this age of gospel witness, great results have accompanied and greater will follow the missionary efforts of the churches of Jesus Christ. Already results that rival Pentecost have been realized. McKay at Formosa gathered 1200 converts at the Lord's table on the 12th anniversary of his advent to that island. William Johnson saw Seirra Leone transformed into a Christian state within 7 years. Dr. Clough at Ongole baptized 10,000 converts in three months, in 1878. The south seas were Christianized in 40 years, from Tahiti to New Guinea. 1000 spires displaced cannibal ovens in the Fiji group in less than half a century. Brethren remember your mission and commission.

J. W. M.

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Sec'y-Treas.