

The first monthly meeting was held on the 4th of April, 1876, at which fifty women enrolled themselves as members. At the General Assembly in June the constitution was approved and the Society commended to the Church.

The organizing of Auxiliaries and Mission Bands was the first step taken by the Board. Copies of the constitution were sent to pastors in the cities and towns, and in many cases Auxiliaries were formed by ministers in their own congregations. The first Auxiliary outside Toronto was organized in this way at Lancaster by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Ross, who did much to promote interest in the movement in that district of country. Rev. Dr. MacLaren organized many of the first branches taking opportunity to do so as his duty called him to preach in various places. Eighteen Auxiliaries and thirteen Mission Bands were formed the first year.

Much pioneer work was done in early years by Mrs. Harvie and in later years much visiting was done by Mrs. Shortreed and Mrs. Jeffrey. The visit- ing of branches en- self - sacrifice, but the results of their efforts felt amply re- warded. The Soci- cial organizer, but tional effort was en- ce in extending the work, and no better means of in- teresting the indif- ferent has yet been terested. The work was carried on very quietly. There was no undue pres- sure brought to bear and Auxiliaries were



Mrs. MacLaren

nearly always formed with the hearty co-operation of pastors.

Many devoted women at different centres did noble service in organizing and in encouraging weak branches. Among the pioneers the names of Mrs. Gordon, Harrington ; Mrs. Blair, Prescott ; Miss Cameron, Sarnia ; Mrs. Ball, Vanneck ; Mrs. Smellie, Fergus ; Mrs. Roger, London ; Mrs. Fraser, Glengarry ; Mrs. McCrae, Guelph ; and Mrs. Watt, Winnipeg, are well-known to us all ; but in truth from one end of the Society to the other the women who have done their part faithfully are so great a host that even to mention their names would occupy all our space.