

who is in charge of a mission school at Ongole, is an old acquaintance of the editor's. We hope to have occasional contributions from her pen. Mrs. Baker's little poem needs no introduction; her poetical gifts are of a high order, and are thoroughly consecrated to Christ and to missions. We wish she could find it convenient to write oftener for the LINK. We have in hand another poem from Rev. J. Clarke, of Nictaux, N. S., which will appear in the next number. Mr. Clarke's fine poem published in the LINK some months ago was copied in full by the London *Illustrated Missionary News, The Gospel in All Lands*, and we know not how many other papers, without credit to the LINK, or even mentioning the author's residence. "Sister Belle" is always welcome, and she hopes to favor our young readers oftener than she has done for some months past. The interesting article on China will be followed by others on the same subject. Mrs. Upham's paper made a fine impression when she read it in Montréal, and will give her an excellent introduction to the Baptist women of the Dominion. We shall hope to be favored by her often. Our readers have learned to expect good things, and to expect them often, from Mr. McLaurin—they will not be disappointed this month. Mrs. George writes interestingly of the work in troubled Burma.

THE LINK:—It is due to the many friends who have labored so diligently on behalf of the paper and the cause that it represents, that the editor should state with some definiteness the results of the year's efforts. When she took charge of the paper about a year ago, she felt that it could not fully meet the needs of the Circles without enlargement; she was also sure that enlargement was impracticable unless the number of subscribers could be greatly increased. Encouraged by the rate at which subscriptions were coming in, she took the responsibility of adding four pages, beginning with the September number. This advance has been fully justified. The edition of the paper has increased from 2,800 to 4,700, and there is every reason to hope that within the next twelve months 5000 will be reached. When the editor took charge a year ago the Ontario Women's Board voted \$50.00 to assist in paying the expenses of the paper for one year. This assistance was found unnecessary and has been refunded. When the editor was pressed by the Board to undertake the work she had serious misgivings as to her ability to render the services required, and it has certainly been very imperfectly rendered; yet it is gratifying to know that the paper is meeting the needs of the Circles. Almost every mail brings words of warmest appreciation from all parts of the Dominion, and from the United States where the circulation is already considerable. There has been almost no fault-finding—a thing which we suppose to be almost unheard of in editorial experience. It has been necessary to postpone indefinitely the publication of some

poems, but no threats of withdrawal from the subscription list have come to hand. The editor is convinced that the little paper has a work to do, and that it has been very helpful to the cause of missions, and may be made more and more so. It belongs to our mission workers to see to it that a Circle is organized in every church throughout the Dominion, and that a copy of the LINK is in every family. It belongs to the editor to make the LINK worthy of a place in every family.

Bethlehem.

(The present inhabitants of Bethlehem are Christians.)

There is a village on Judea's hill
Whose ancient memories are sacred still;
So high upon the craggy rock it lies,
Its towers seem to almost reach the skies.
And there is sweetness in the winds that blow
Across the mountain to the vale below.
The distant traveller in the moonless night,
Still finds a beacon in the village light;
O birthplace of our Saviour! Not the least
Among the princes of the distant East,
Art thou, Judea's city, far from thee
Hath come a King to set the people free.
And now a thousand children of the King
Unite their voices, and in gladness sing
Within the ancient walls, each Christmas morn,
Where Christ, the Saviour of the world, was born.
And to the darkened world they sing again,
"Peace! peace be to the earth, good will to men."
So like the star of long ago, their light
Illumines the surrounding gloom of night.

Ida Baker.

Women and Missions.

In the past woman's sphere was said to be in the home. But times have changed, spheres have enlarged, woman is stepping out of the old beaten track and forming new lines of action. Not that the home has ceased to be her sphere, but other paths are open to her in connection with it. More service in the home has given her more leisure to look out upon the world, and in this broader field of action she has seen how much a woman's sympathy and influence are needed; she has seen the dreadful carnage that sin has made; the lost without hope and without God in the world; the sinful, the degraded, the debauchee, and her heart has yearned to be helpful to them; to raise them from the depths of sin and guilt, to bring life and peace to them through Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God. Pity and love have led her to cry: "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" And as He has opened the way, shown the duty, she has followed on, doing with her might what her hands found to do, perhaps not always wisely, but always heartily. Woman's mission in the world is to be helpful. This is as old as the creation of Mother Eve. While fulfilling this mission in the home, she has extended it to the needy close at hand as did the Good Samaritan, and to those who sit in darkness in lands beyond the sea, as did Paul. Foreign missions have not opened a new sphere so much as extended the old one. Here is a work which calls for her to act in all her womanly dignity—to