

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 NOVEMBER.

For North West, Grande Ligne and Maritime Missions. That struggling Aid Societies may be encouraged and blessed. Thanks giving for the blessings of the past year.

Notice.

Executive meeting of the W. B. M. U. will take place Tuesday, the 8th of November, in the Mission Rooms on Germain St., at 3 o'clock.

We would call special attention to the article by Mrs. Churchill in last issue of this paper. It is the first time we have had the history of this remarkable work and it should be read by every Baptist with gratitude to God for the display of his marvelous grace to persons who had not been visited by our missionaries previous to the time these men came for baptism. Let us more earnestly ask that God who has begun this work will carry it on mightily, and help us to send a missionary to this needy field.

A History of the Work at Ryagadda, India.

BY MRS. G. CHURCHILL.

(Concluded.)

On Monday we gathered the women into a prayer meeting and began to teach them to pray.

The next time I went to Chekkagooda I was astonished at the growth manifested by the Christians. The preacher, Prabha Dass, had come to Bobbili and asked for one of our boarding girls for a wife. Mr. Churchill married them and they went back to Chekkagooda. She taught a little school among them, and often called the women together, read the Bible to them and taught them to pray. The first Christian marriage was celebrated there during the second visit of mine on Saturday, so the Conference meeting was held on Sunday morning, and to see those Christians, men, women and children, most of them not a year out of Hinduism, rise, one after another, and tell of their joy in having found such a Saviour and of his keeping power through all their trials and persecutions, was to me a remarkable sight, and I could only keep repeating to myself, "What hath God wrought?" It was just a year and a day after the first six came to Bobbili and were baptized, and by this time there were twenty-six baptized believers there.

During this year, the other Konda Do alu of this village, after trying all their persecutions and doing everything they could to persuade the Christians to return to heathenism, and, when they would not, doing their worst to get the land taken from them, at last said they would not live among them any longer. They called the village in derision "Christa Cetta" (Christ village,) tore down their houses and moved a mile away and built another village. We were afraid after they left the Christians that they would burn down their village, but no such trouble has come to them, and their land has not been taken from them yet. Two years ago the grass hoppers destroyed most of the crops in that part of the country, but it was very noticeable, when they had destroyed all the crops of the heathen who had moved to the new village, they touched only the corner of the Christians' land adjoining. Even the heathen called attention to it.

Two of the six who were baptized in Bobbili, boys of fourteen and sixteen years of age, were, at the beginning of the persecution, taken away to other villages, and have never since been allowed to associate with the Christians. One of them who lives in the new village, they see sometimes in the fields, and he says he is still believing in Christ and will never worship idols again.

Mr. Churchill and his helpers have visited and preached in all the villages around, and so have Siamma and I. And we have often asked the Lord to give us the Ryagadda valley for Christ. When we first went to the new village the women would not come out to see us or listen to us at all. They said there was no need for us to come to their village, and shut the door in our faces. They would have nothing to do with the Christians unless it was to abuse them, but now they are quite friendly and will come to the Christian village and sit on the verandah with the Christians and talk to them. The last time but one that I was out there, we saw the head man of the new village and told him we were coming to his village and would bring Scripture pictures with us at a certain time the next day. What was our surprise when we went to find this head man of the village, who had been the bitterest opposer of the Christians sitting there, and all the young men of the village ready to look at our pictures as we showed them, and listen to the gospel story that we taught in connection with them. Thus the Lord is turning the hearts of their

enemies to be at peace with the Christians, and we hope to see many of them Christians ere long.

In all forty-seven of these Konda Do alu have been baptized—forty in the Ryagadda river at that one place, the baptistery the Lord provided for us, and seven at Bobbili. The daughter of Tammandora, while in the school here last year was baptized. Four of their children have passed their primary examination in our school at Bobbili. Two of these were married last year and the other two are continuing their studies up to the Lower Secondary examination. We ask the Lord that he may call these to be helpers in the Mission at Ryagadda when he shall influence the heart of some young man to offer himself for the work out there.

Two years ago our Conference voted that Ryagadda be considered an outstation of the Bobbili field but some of us who have the work there resting more heavily on our hearts, felt that it should be one of our principal stations and a Missionary placed there. The Bobbili field needs more work done on it than we can do if we give it all our time. And so we have been earnestly praying that if it were the Lord's will, that He would influence all the hearts of our Missionaries and those of our Board at home to occupy this as a head station with a Missionary and staff of native helpers. Last year at our Conference at Parla Kimeddy, December, 1903, a resolution to occupy Ryagadda as one of our principal stations was passed unanimously and Rs. 1200 of the Rs. 3000 we Missionaries are raising for the Twentieth Century Fund, was voted to commence buildings there. Mr. Churchill went out in February, 1904, and put up three go-downs, purposing to use them as living-room, cook-house and store-room for his tools, etc., while building the Mission-house proper. We were three years in getting a grant of land at Ryagadda for a Mission compound but we have it now and these buildings are up and we trust the Mission house will soon be erected.

When at Ryagadda in April this year, while Mr. Churchill was hard at work putting on the roof of the go-downs, with the thermometer in the daytime standing at 100 degrees in the shade, I decided to take the preacher Prabha Dass and my Bible-man Siamma and go out in two directions to see where our stations might be located. One night we travelled in carts thirty miles out to Singapore. Here we had a grand time the next afternoon. Some five hundred people assembled, men, women and children, and stood two hours in the blazing sun, and looked at the pictures of Christ's life and listened attentively to the preaching. That night we returned to Ryagadda and three days later went thirty miles in a more northerly direction to Bissemko'ak. Here, too, we had a good day. The Sub-Magistrate sent around and invited the principal men of the town into his front yard. In all about three hundred intelligent men came and listened without any interruption to the story of Jesus and His love, as it was portrayed in the pictures and told to them in Telugu and Orga. Afterwards Siamma and I went into the Sub-Magistrate's house to visit his wife and sister. The former was only a girl in her teens—had been educated in a Mission school in Vizagapatam and was delighted to see the pictures of the stories she had read in the Bible. We hope these two towns will be out-stations on our Ryagadda field. It will be a much easier field on which to tour than the Bobbili field, for on all the roads there are good Government bungalows every ten miles which a Missionary may occupy free as long as he likes; so that when he tours on these roads, he will not need to take a tent. We are now earnestly praying for a Missionary for this Ryagadda field. May the Lord incline the heart of some consecrated young man to say to the Board, "Here am I, send me."

The W. M. A. S. of the Baptist church at Havelock observed Crusade day on Thursday, Oct. 20, by giving an "At Home" in vestry of the Baptist church from four till six p. m. A large number were present, and seven new members joined our society. In the evening a public missionary meeting was held.

MRS. H. A. THORNE.

On Sunday evening, Oct. 16th, the Women's Missionary Aid Society of Clementsvalle, held a public meeting in the Baptist church. The service was opened with singing by the choir. Then followed scripture reading and prayer by our pastor Rev. J. H. Balcom. Mrs. George Pearson, our County Secretary was introduced to the audience. The sympathy of the church was greatly aroused by the visit of our sister, who is a devoted woman zealously labouring for the cause of missions. Her subject touched principally on the great influence of women, her belief in them, and the work which she is representing. Her address was impressive and cannot have failed to have had much weight with the audience. Our pastor evinced a full sympathy with our sister and made an urgent appeal to all the women of our congregation to become members of the Society.

A recitation by Miss Maud Millett was pleasingly rendered

and well received. Special music of a missionary character was prepared by the choir. This meeting was well attended and much interest shown. The collection was \$7.60. The community has largely developed the grace of giving to the good works of the church within the past two years. The church does not as yet come up to her full duty, it is true. But she is beginning to see that blessing on her home work is best to be secured by attention to the mission fields which are white already to harvest.

SECRETARY.

The W. M. A. Societies of Colchester and Pictou Counties held their Quarterly Meeting at Lower Economy on the afternoon of Oct. 11.

Mrs. Gunn, County Secretary of Colchester, opened the meeting by Scripture reading and prayer, after which Mrs. G. A. Lawson was appointed Rec.-Sec'y. Reports were given from the different societies, which, were, in the main, encouraging. Some of the pastors present spoke in the highest terms of the work being done by these societies. Following these reports, Miss Edwards of Truro gave a splendid address on the "Importance of Mission Band Work," after which she answered a number of questions concerning the organization and methods of conducting a Mission Band. An offering was then taken after which the meeting was closed by prayer.

M. ISABEL LAWSON Rec.-Sec'y.

MONEYS RECEIVED BY THE W. B. M. U. TREAS

FROM OCT. 8 TO OCT. 27TH.

Hantsport, F. M., \$3.25, H. M., \$1.00. Bridgewater, F. M., \$4; Pleasant River, leaflets, 30c; Point de Bute, leaflets, 60c; Berwick, F. M., \$17, balance to constitute Mrs. W. A. Reed a life member, F. M., \$5, Reports, 60c, Tidings 25c; Wittenberg, Smiths Cove, Mahone, South Rawdon, Greywood, New Castle bridge, Clementsvalle, Gavelton, Woodville, Deep Brook, each Tidings, 25c; Antigonish, leaflets, 30c; West Yarmouth, F. M., \$5.50, H. M., \$2; Goldboro, F. M., \$15; Glace Bay, F. M., \$8, H. M., \$2; Kentville, F. M., \$9; Bridgeton, F. M., \$9.13, H. M., \$3.62; East Apple River, leaflets, 30c; Collina, F. M., \$2; Osborne, F. M., \$3.90, H. M., \$1.10; Murray River, F. M., \$11.25, H. M., \$6, part of this amount being proceeds of concert; Gabarus, F. M., \$6; Forbes Point, F. M., \$5.80, H. M., \$5.80, Tidings, 25c, Reports, 15c; Waterville, F. M., \$9.40; Homeville, F. M., \$8.60, H. M., 40c; Linden, Reports, 10c, Tidings, 25c; Clementsvalle, F. M., \$13.25; Greenville, F. M., \$4.50; Cambridge narrows, F. M., \$4.50, H. M., 50c; Lawrencetown, F. M., \$10; H. M., \$1, to constitute Mrs. I. Newcombe, a life member, and toward Rev. W. L. Archibald's travelling expenses, \$25; Gavelton, F. M., \$2.50; Oakfield, "a friend," toward Rev. W. L. Archibald's travelling expenses, \$1; St. Stephen, F. M., \$16; Truro, Immanuel church, F. M., \$5.75; Cavendish, F. M., \$7.61, H. M., \$2.39; North Sydney, F. M., \$7.00, H. M., \$6.50; one of the little, who has gone "home" per Mrs. Whidden, Chichester Hospital, \$5; Halifax, Tabernacle church, F. M., \$3, H. M., \$3; Kingston, F. M., \$7.50, St. Martins, F. M., \$5; New Germany, F. M., \$10.75, Tidings, 25c.

P. O. B. 63.

MARY SMITH, Treas. W. B. M. U.

Foreign Mission Board.

NOTES BY THE SECRETARY.

Interest in Missions a Test.

Our zeal in spreading the gospel is a mark of our appreciation of its worth. We make known what we value. We have faith in the truth only when that truth has gripped our hearts. We do so little for Jesus simply because we do not know what he requires.

To give the gospel to those who have it not, is not an optional thing with a Christian, it is not a response to some exceptional claim; it is not a special form of personal devotion. To do just that, is simply a sign of a living faith. It shows that we have found the pearl of great price, to all, and for all, and we feel that we must make it known, that we regard this knowledge as a trust to be used in the glory of God, that we believe he is waiting to fulfil his will through us. The work of sending the gospel to the benighted, is not the self-chosen work of a few apostolic enthusiasts, it is the work of the church, as a church and it is especially clear that the work of Foreign Missions is not one of a number of objects of equal claim upon our thought and effort. They have a first claim upon our energy and devotion. The great commission proves this beyond a doubt. How often is the order thus enjoined transposed to our serious loss.

Following Christ is a giving up, a taking up a raising up, and a lifting up.

"The gift without the giver is bare.
Who gives himself with his alms, feeds thee,—
Himself his hungering neighbor, and Me."

—Lowell.

Eighty years ago the inhabitants of Sandwich Islands were savages and cannibals. Today, they are sending native missionaries to other islands in the South Sea.

The first mission in the Sandwich Islands was not established until forty-two years after Captain Cook had discovered their existence. During these years the explorer, the trader and the trafficker in slave labor alone furnished to the natives all the knowledge of the white man. With the advent of the first missionaries in 1819 the conditions of savagery, vice and superstition, then rampant on these islands, speedily changed. Today Hawaii is a United States territory, animated by Christian ideals and helping to send the gospel to the heathen world.

Until Jesus is Lord over our purses he cannot be Lord over our lives. When bound to our treasurers we are still in bondage to sin.

The law of the world is self-interest; the law of the kingdom is self-abnegation. The old man looks out first for himself; the new man looks out first for his brother.