

the children asked me to build them an extra room, in which, from time to time, they might gather for united or individual prayer. When I told them I had no money for that purpose, the children offered themselves to do the work under my direction. You ought to have seen them, the happy faces! The Lord has done great things for us."

In the earlier letters of the Rev. D. Guilford in 1891, he speaks of his earnest desire to procure a site for a Children's Home, even with temporary arrangements. He writes from Tarn Taran: "The children we have already with us are doing splendidly, and it is a real pleasure to see the change for the better which they have undergone since they came to us." A few months later he calls his friends to unite with him in praising God that the site is secured, and that ten children are ready for admittance.

Mrs. Main, writing from Nanchow to a friend in Edinburgh, about a former patient in the women's ward, and then in such an advanced stage of leprosy that she could not be kept beside the others, there being no separate building for women, and she being liable to be cast off at any time by her mother-in-law with whom she was living. Mrs. Main says in connection with the case: "She has three children, two boys and one girl, and the girl has to be got rid of soon, probably sold to a Buddhist nunnery at the age of seven—if we do not rescue her. I hope we shall get help from the Mission."

In answer to these touching appeals the committee at once sent out £50 to secure the hospital accommodation for the leper women, and a few kind friends in East Lothian, on hearing of the probable fate of the little girl, have undertaken her support.

From Kucheng-Foochow, the Rev. W. Bannister writes to Mrs. Bailey, regarding the untainted children of lepers in the leper colony: "There is one family, consisting of a man and his wife and four children. The parents are both lepers, but the children are not. They consist of three boys, the eldest about twelve, the youngest six years old. The little girl is but three years old, and is the baby-wife of the eldest boy. She is a foundling, saved from death by the leper father, who was out begging one day, and heard a baby cry. He found her on the edge of a small stream. He brought her home to the leper village, and they adopted her as a wife-daughter for their eldest boy. She is a very pretty Chinese baby girl, with an uncommonly fair skin for the Chinese, almost as white as a European child. The boys are also bright, intelligent children. I spoke to the parents about their removal and education, and told them of your work for the children in India. They expressed their willingness to have their children cared for and possibly saved from their becoming lepers. There is also another boy who was sent to the leper house by his uncle some years ago because he had a skin disease. He has been in ever since, and is still quite free from leprosy. He is now seventeen years old, and is a very sharp boy. These are the only children in the place. Perhaps some one will be willing to save them." Under heading, "Homes for Untainted Children" in the 1892 report we read:—"We have five homes for the untainted children of leprous parents, and we support children in three other places where as yet no home has been erected. Altogether we have got about seventy-six children of lepers under our charge; seventy-six little ones to save from the awful disease of leprosy; seventy-six immortal souls to be won for the Master's kingdom. To show what these children may and do become we especially direct the attention of our readers as to what is said of them at Almora and Purulia."

The following is an extract from the ninth edition of Mr. Bailey's first pamphlet, "Lepers in India," written about twenty years ago; but what was true then is true now: "There is a most interesting form of work connected with our poor lepers, with which we were only become acquainted. It is inducing the lepers in the asylum to give up their children, so that by entire segregation they may be saved from becoming victims of the disease. This, it is found

they will often willingly do. At Almora, in the Himalayas, an Orphanage has been started for such children, and so far is working admirably. In a letter just received by a member of our committee, the writer who has taken this work upon herself says: 'Altogether we have had sixteen girls and boys from the leper asylum. Some were born before the parents became lepers, and some after; anyhow it was considered the only safe plan to separate them from their parents, and by means of good food and clothing, and perfect cleanliness, to try and save them from the disease. The experience has been a perfect success. The children are fine, healthy, bright, and many of them quite pretty specimens, and by far the sharpest and most intelligent of those in the Orphanage. We feel very sad for these poor children sometimes, for their birth is a sort of disgrace to them—a stain on their name, which is no fault of theirs, and yet which they cannot get rid of: and they feel it too most keenly, and it makes them bitter and sensitive, and also very proud at times. It has also the effect of making all those children band together as if they were against the world and the world against them, until they are really converted; and I am thankful to say that I have hopes that all the elder ones are converted, and strive to follow their Lord and Master, though of course with many failings and much weakness. The children who have relations in the asylum still, are allowed to see them every Saturday, the lepers walking all the way up to see them, and bring their weekly present; and it is very touching to see the mothers seated on one side of the verandah and the children on the other, as they may not touch, neither are they allowed to bring them food, only rice. The parents approve of this themselves, and would not touch them if they might.'

Mr. Bailey goes on to say: "This work among the children of lepers is capable of great extension, and will, I trust, be greatly extended. . . . I constantly meet with people who say 'We would be very glad to help in many of these things, if we only knew the way to do so; but you see we are out of the way of them.' Now here is an opportunity if such people would enquire about this, and help a little. If two or three ladies would join together and form a working party they could easily get £6 a year. At all events, if they could not get so much, they could get some. Sabbath school teachers might interest their classes in this work, and get the children to bring their pennies, they will soon mount to pounds. Heads of families also may do a great deal by interesting their little ones in the poor leper. In short, we want individual, personal effort. If people, when they read this, will not throw it by with a sigh, saying, poor creatures, I should like to help them, and do nothing more; but if, on the contrary, they resolve to do something, and do it forthwith, asking God's blessing on it, the work will be sure to get on. Will friends kindly try to interest others in this work?"

The sum of the whole matter is just this, first let there be the willing heart, and the way will open up to help.

There is a great call to support and further this branch of the mission work, alike from humane and spiritual motives; the leper parents are, for the most part, willing to resign their children to the care of the Mission; experience and results show the prospects of this branch of the Mission's work to be most hopeful and encouraging; and all that is needed for its furtherance, are the necessary funds to carry it on efficiently; the funds are in the hands of an innumerable number of people, all that is wanted is the heart to give, a very little from each would be abundant. The prayers of God's people will do much; and we may have the faith to trust that God's blessing will not be withheld, that the "children may be saved from the awful disease" and their "immortal souls won for the Master's Kingdom." The question remains, who are going to hang back, and who are going to help in the Lord's work? "Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these, ye did it unto me."

Two hundred to five hundred dollars will build a home for the children; twenty dollars a year will support a child.

### A Page from the Diary of a French Missionary.

DURING the month of March, M. B. reports that he made 925 visits in Roman Catholic homes, besides calling on more than forty French Protestant families. This is an average of thirty-one families per day. Besides this, he sold three Bibles, eleven New Testaments, fourteen Gospels, and distributed 930 tracts. He adds, "I brought to Lacroix Church, (French Presbyterian), two Roman Catholics, who promised me they would come again. I spoke and read the Bible in 246 of the homes I visited, and prayed in thirty-five of them. I made six visits to the hospitals, to see sick patients. I held a few prayer-meetings in my house, and in the homes of our new converts. I had two meetings to study the Bible in the house of a Roman Catholic family. They are very hard to convince, but as they now have a Bible, and they seem very courageous to learn to read, so I hope and pray that their eyes may soon be opened. I went to a certain house, where I had loaned a Bible. They had it yet in their possession. I would have been glad if the priest had taken it, as it would have given me an occasion to go and speak to him before these people. The woman told me the priest had said that the book was not good. On that I asked her if she had found anything bad in it to show it to me, but she could not. I hope they will think again about having a copy, and reading it. We had a grand communion service in Lacroix church on Easter Sunday. Twenty-two new communicants were received on profession of their faith. Our work here is very much blessed. And I pray that it may be prospered more and more, as well as other fields in which I sowed the good seed."

Mr. B., it may be added, is a man afire with the missionary spirit, and the above is but a specimen of the work he does month after month in the City of Montreal.

### Salient Features in a Home Company's Report.

From a perusal of the annual reports of many of our leading financial institutions, it is gleaned that they are nearly all in a prosperous and flourishing condition.

It should be exceedingly gratifying to those interested in such companies, and to the public in general, to know that the results achieved have been so satisfactory, especially in view of the great financial depression which prevailed during the past year throughout the Dominion as well as the neighbouring republic.

Most of the life insurance companies operating in Canada were exceedingly fortunate in respect to the amount and character of the business done.

That ever progressive and substantial home company, the North American Life, according to its annual report for 1893, lately published, had the most successful year in its history.

In referring to the splendid record of the company at its annual meeting, the President, Mr. John L. Blaikie, said:—

"The year 1893 was the most successful one in the history of our company. Increases were made in cash income of \$36,039.68, in assets, \$281,471.59, in reserve fund, \$203,661.00, and in insurance in force, \$1,160,112.00. Two important decreases were shown, i.e., in expenditures of \$29,533.81, and in death claims, \$27,803.10.

He made a comparison of the standing of the company five years ago with that at the end of 1893. "The progress during that short period of time had been something remarkable, for instance, the assets have increased by 151 per cent., the insurance in force by 67 per cent., the cash income by 75 per cent., and the surplus, in which the policy-holders are most interested, has made the wonderful increase of 481 per cent."

Doubtless, much of the success attained is due to efficient management, and also to the admirable plans of insurance which the company offers to the insuring public.

For full information as to the plans and standing of the company, apply to the head office, North American Life Assurance Company, 22 to 28 King street west, Toronto, or to any of the company's agents.