

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Madam President and Ladies,—To give a brief account of the work of this society for the past year is not an easy task. It has been a period of interruption and change; and many problems have presented themselves, which have caused the Board anxious consideration and much earnest prayer.

But we have been conscious of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst, especially at the monthly prayer meetings, which have proved, perhaps, one of the most important features of the year. These meetings though not always so well attended as we wish, have been marked by a beautiful spirit of unity and communion, which has, no doubt, proved a great power in the development and welfare of the Society. All our hopes, plans and difficulties have been brought before the Throne of Grace at these meetings, and we feel that we have had a Divine Guidance in what we have undertaken.

The quarterly and special business meetings of the Board, have been unusually well attended this year, evidencing increased and more general interest in the details of the work.

Might we ask just here, that each Circle make a point this coming year, of remembering in prayer at the monthly meetings, the officers and Executive Board upon whom lies the responsibility of dealing with the business matters of the Society? There are questions, sometimes, that we would prefer to place before the Society as a whole, to decide, but "the King's business requires haste," so we ask your prayers that we be granted a full measure of the Spirit, that we may very clearly discern the Father's will in all things.

By thus remembering and praying for one another, both Board and Circle will come into closer harmony, one with the other, and feel more united in the work.

Your Society has been ably represented this year at the various missionary conventions held in our city, and in common with all Baptist women in Canada, we were asked to send greetings to the women's meeting at the Baptist World Congress in Philadelphia last June. We were more than fortunate to find that Mrs. John Firstbrook, of Toronto, was willing to act as delegate, and in a very happy and graceful speech, voiced the loving sympathy

and the co-operation of Canadian Baptist women, with the various societies there represented in the work of raising oppressed womanhood the world over into the light and liberty of the Gospel of Christ.

We were invited to send delegates to various other Christian gatherings, but for different reasons were obliged to decline.

We would like to make special mention of the gift of one hundred dollars from a member of a Montreal Circle towards the deficit, and we also wish to announce a small bequest from the late Mrs. Whitfield, of Cowansville, who, though not a Baptist, has been a good friend to the Society for a number of years. Her gift is to be applied to the support of a girl in one of the boarding schools.

Your Board has not been unmindful of their share in the special effort required this past year, to cover our appropriations, and considerable attention was paid to ways and means of raising money. Two very good lectures were arranged that proved quite successful, nearly \$125.00 being handed to our treasurer as a result, and still a third lecture was promised for this fall.

The semi-annual days of prayer in April and November are mentioned every year, and notices of the dates published in the "Link," "Baptist," and "Visitor"—it would be gratifying to know how many Circles observe these occasions.

Would we not be stronger as a body of missionary workers, and as individual Christians, were we conscious, that on these special days, a stream of united supplication was being poured before the Throne, that our voices were blending in one common request, for blessing on one common interest—our Home and Foreign Mission work? Thursday, November 2nd will be our next appointed day,—will you not make preparations for it at once, and may it be a season of uplifting and strengthening to all.

We would like to urge upon the Circles the desirability of forming mission study classes, for the purpose of creating among our members an intelligent interest in what is fast becoming one of the greatest movements of the age.

Missionary work is no longer confined to the women in the Circles, and to those churches characterized as owning a missionary pastor, but it is becoming