

# World of Missions

(For Dominion Presbyterian.)

## Klondike Nurses.

Following extracts are from a letter received this week from Miss Mitchell, one of the nurses at Atlin: "You will perhaps wonder why I have not written lately. The reason is we are so busy just now, one of us on night and the other on day duty, and having our meals to get and what little housekeeping we have to do, occupies all our spare time. We have at present seven patients, one of them a woman, who is very ill and has been so for a long time. Two of our patients have typhoid fever, one—G. D., from Peterborough, a fine fellow—getting on towards recovery as rapidly as the disease allows, and the other—H. J.—comes from Woodstock. We hope that our lady patient may yet recover.

Dr. Lambert, who is one of our visiting physicians, formerly lived near Renfrew. He is very kind to us. He is a hunter and shares the spoils with the nurses. We received three wild ducks from him lately.

I have a picture of our modest home and church, which I will try to send you soon. We had service last Sabbath for the first time in the Artie Brothers Hall, but neither we nor Mr. Pringle felt at home there. We prefer the tent, although it is getting too cold to hold services in it now. People here are getting their last Christmas gifts ready to send off now. We have recently had two distinct shocks of earthquake. Two weeks ago last Sabbath while at dinner, our little house shook, and another evening in the same week we had another shock. No snow yet, but alet one day. The mountain tops are covered, and it is creeping down the sides, nearer and nearer us, and some day we too will soon have on a winding sheet. It is expected to freeze up here in about five weeks, but we will have one weekly mail. Mr. Maxwell, our member, who was here last week, has promised a mail for papers etc., so that we will be able to keep in touch with the outside world."

The two nurses at Atlin have all their time occupied in ministering to sick patients, most of whom are in destitute circumstances, so that the expenditure in maintaining the work falls upon the committee of ladies in Toronto who kindly undertook this. The money which they raised has been entirely expended in providing the necessary outfit, and other expenses. Friends desiring to help in this work are invited to forward their contributions to the Rev. Dr. Warden, designated specially for the Klondike Nurse Fund.

We are not to think of "princely" giving as something wholly modern. A hundred years ago two Scotch Presbyterians of blessed memory, Robert and James Haldane, became so deeply interested in missions to India that they sold their estate at the Bridge of Allan, the most beautiful in Scotland, and offered the price, \$175,000, to found a mission in Benares. It is true that William Pitt defeated their purpose, and that their princely gift was of necessity turned to home missions, but the fact remains of their willing mind. And further, William Carey, and his associates, not only maintained themselves during more than a third of a century, but in addition contributed \$450,000 for the spread of the Gospel.

## A Model Sabbath.

John Williams, the missionary, tells about the interesting manner in which the people of Raratonga, in the Southern Pacific, spent their Sabbaths. At sunrise they held a prayer meeting to implore the divine blessing on the engagements of the day; this they conducted entirely themselves.

At nine o'clock the congregation assembled again, when the missionary performed divine service just as it is conducted in England, prayer being offered, the sacred Scriptures read, and hymns sung in their own beautiful language, after which a sermon is preached to them. Prior to the commencement of the service, however, they met in classes of ten or twelve families each, and distributed among themselves the respective portions of the sermon which each individual should bring away, one saying, "Mine shall be the text, and all that is said in immediate connection with it"; another, "I will take care of the first division"; and a third, "I will bring home the particulars under that head." Thus the sermon was apportioned out before it was delivered.

At a convenient time after the service the respective classes met, and after commencing their social service with singing and prayer, one of the most intelligent of their number began by inquiring, "With whom is the text?" and proposed a variety of question upon it. After this he asked for the divisions of the discourse, and when one had been given he would say, "To what portion of Scripture were we referred?"

This was found a most excellent and efficient method of proceeding, as it induced the people not only to pay great attention to the sermon, but to search the Scriptures with interest, and also to exercise their minds upon the meaning and application of what they read.

Lord of the harvest once again

We thank Thee for the ripened grain,

For crops safe carried, sent to cheer

Thy servants through another year;

For all sweet holy thoughts, supplied

By seed-time and by harvest-tide.

The Wesleyan Church has this to say of its missions:—"The statistical returns for the year are encouraging. The Transvaal and Swaziland district leads the way with an increase of 849 members in addition to 3,500 on trial. The Canton district comes next, with an increase of 359, the largest hitherto recorded. All the districts in the Asiatic field show an increase. But it is in respect to our Asiatic missions above all that we would repeat the oft expressed caution against a too literal and narrow interpretation of figures. There is much real progress that cannot be set forth in statistics. There is the diffusion of Christian thought and sentiment over widening areas; there is the moral impression made by the character of good men and women, and the affection cherished by thousands of young people for those who have thought and cared for them; there is the movement, under social and economic pressure, of whole classes, and even races, toward the religion that pities their sorrows and recognizes their aspirations."

India has a population of 280,000,000. Not one in fifty women can read, not to say write.

## Mission Cleanings.

In nine years Pundita Ramabai has received \$91,000 for her work.

In the Protestant boarding schools for boys in Japan there are 1,550 scholars, and for girls 2,527.

In Formosa there are 62 towns and villages, in each of which there are one or more Christian churches.

About a dozen converted "devil dancers" were among the hundreds that greeted General Booth at Colombo.

The Rev. John Small, of the Free Church of Scotland Mission in Poona, is dead. He had been a missionary since 1883.

It is estimated that 500,000 Chinese, of whom the greater part are women, annually attempt to commit suicide by opium.

In some of the Hindu religious services in South India the collections are taken by elephants, who go around with the baskets.

In India there are 6,016,759 married girls between five and nine years of age, and there are 25,000,000 widows and deserted wives.

World Wide Missions says:—There are 6,348 Sunday schools in India, with over 10,000 teachers and 2,500,000 scholars. Of these our Church leads all other denominations, having 2,406 Sunday schools, 3,387 teachers, and 86,068 scholars. The Presbyterians follow with 1,019 schools, 1,838 teachers, and 40,843 scholars. Then follow the Baptists, Congregationalists, Wesleyans and Anglicans.

The British and Foreign Bible Society reports, says the Missionary Review of the World, that the work of translation is in progress in not less than 120 languages, a number great beyond precedent. Its 725 colporters sold last year more than 1,500,000 copies of the Scriptures. Its 552 native Christian Bible women (an increase of forty-eight on 1897), labored mainly in India and Ceylon. These women read to their secluded sisters, shut off from all preachers and churches. They are supported chiefly in connection with some thirty missionary societies—British, Colonial, American, German and Danish—and cost last year above \$3,400. More than 31,600 women have been read to, on an average, each week; nearly 2,000 have been taught to read for themselves.

The Missionary Link remarks:—At a recent Calcutta missionary conference remarkable essays were presented by native Christians, one on "The Presentation of the Gospel of the Literate" creating a profound impression. Among the various methods proposed for the spread of the Gospel were these:—1. More open-air preaching in English to educated young men employed in offices, banks, etc., should be undertaken. 2. The several thousand of English-speaking postmasters or clerks in postoffices can be reached effectively by a monthly paper or tract. 3. One thought the students of the higher classes of schools remarkably ignorant of the beliefs and doctrines of their own non-Christian systems. The fact was emphasized that the trend of thought among educated Hindus has greatly changed in recent years. An experienced missionary said he would preach Christ crucified to the young men of India just as to the unconverted young men of England, without reference to their own beliefs or attacks upon their own religion. Whatever else is needed or not, love is indispensable.