

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.

The Hindu Dhoby.

Why go so fast? Let us rest our wheels against the railing of this bridge and have a look toward the south. How beautifully those soft, billowy clouds are shot through with the reflected light of the rising sun! See that cone-shaped hill all draped in a pale blue mist. How angrily the river rushes on past the elaborately built temple projected by massive stone embankments and solid steps where Bramin widows with shaven heads and coarse garments are cleaning the brass vessels by rubbing them with sand with foot or hand; while their more fortunate sisters arrayed in tassa silk garments perform their ablutions and with uplifted hands and swaying bodies worship the God of day.

A look at the other bank reveals quite a different picture



The fair-skinned, sweet-strunged, ash-marked Bramin is not in evidence. Here the rough-looking fishermen are hauling in the nets and near at hand the merry lads are scrubbing the mule-colored, tough-skinned buffaloes who delight to wallow in the muddy water. The sandy bank is alive with people.

THE DHOBIES ARE AT WORK

Near the river's edge large stones are placed in an oblique position and with all his might the dhoby beats the cloths on the tilted rock, ever and anon dipping them into the holes in the sand through which the water percolates. At a little distance are high poles of thorny branches, sticks and leaves among which the donkeys with their packs patiently stand. The shi nostrils and ears give them an added woe-begone appearance, but strange to say the Hindu who delights in the hideous tom-tom seeks by these incisions to soften the clangour of the donkeys' bray.

Ocular mud walls, earthen pots are placed and underneath the fire burns. The clothes after having been soaked and beaten and sprinkled with Fuller's earth or ashes are one by one put in these vessels and twisted round and round over the beam rising to a height exceeding the depth of the pots in which they are steamed. Now after having been rinsed and dipped in rice water, (starch) blued with indigo, they are spread on the sand to dry or drawn through two ropes which have been attached to poles. The common clothes are folded up then and there for despatch but the best ones are taken to the washermen's hut to be ironed on the floor with huge irons which hold the glowing coals.

"My clothes he knocks
Upon the rocks
That dreadful Dhoby-man!"

"Dhobie, this blouse had never been washed before and it came from my home, far, far away! See these holes in the back and the lace is in tatters! You promised to wash it so carefully, how is this?"

"I couldn't be p it Amma! The wind blew it away and then the *pouchies* ate it."

"See here, why did you not bring the clothes Saturday!"

"Oh," says the dhoby with bowed head and sorrowful countenance, "my grandmother died!"

"Now sir, tell the truth! Six months ago you told me your grandmother died. How can she die twice? I see you are trying to arrange it so as to bring the clothes only three times a month while you will expect me to pay you for four washings."

"Why, dhoby you have broken every one of those pearl buttons! I know it is necessary for you to mark the clothes but why put those ugly dots where every one can see them!"

"Oh, dhoby, look at that sheet! Yes, I allowed you to carry the clothes in it, but now see!"

"Amma, please forgive" says the washerman, "the rats ate it."

One day a new man brought the clothes and in explanation he said: "All the same, Amma, I'm your dhobie's sister's husband's brother; brothers uncles, all us dhobies wash on same ground, so all the same Amma!"

It is the cool season; the nature shivers, he comes to the dhoby and says; "Loan me that white man's flannel won't you? I'll give you four annas if you do!" The dhoby consents and when the garment is returned after a month or so it looks decidedly the worse for wear.

Two years ago things were going from bad to worse. Our dhoby refused to give satisfaction. We sent hither and thither for new hands but every new washerman brought additional grief. Finally Mrs. Archibald decided to introduce the "home way" of washing. Soap was ordered from Madras, large fire-places were built and after much trouble the necessary apparatus was procured. When all was ready from Koned a Christian dhoby came. In the

burning sun, with a heavy topee and a two ply parasol operations were watched and instructions given. How the perspiration rolled and my Aunt exclaimed, "I would rather do a large washing at home than superintend this business! We were hopeful as to the success of the experiment; when lo! one night the dhoby ran away, leaving word that it was too hard work to wash English fashion! So we were obliged to go back to the old way and engage the old dhoby.

During the six or eight years this man has worked for the missionary he has given untold trouble but as a result of his long training, temporary dismissal (and perhaps due to the fact that all his grandmother's have died) he is now a

MODEL HINDU DHOBY.

He has improved in all the points mentioned above and seems to want to do his work not only to please us, but also to please his Creator. His second wife is an energetic woman and his two children are learning the Gospel in one of our Evangelistic Schools. His son, four years of age is a disgusting sight, for his hair has never been cut, washed or combed. When we remonstrated the father said: "As soon as I get enough money I'm going to take my son to the big temple two hundred miles away, the priest will cut his hair and it will be left there as an offering to the god, then the demons will never harm my child." We have reasons to hope that the dhoby will give up this idea and see the protection and blessing of the true and living God.

The Hindu washermen belong to the Sunda caste and as a rule are a hard hearted, dissipated people; but we would hopefully proclaim unto them the glad tidings knowing that it is the mighty power whereby God brings salvation to every man that has faith therein,

MABEL EVANGELINE ARCHIBALD.

Chicacole, India.

HOMEVILLE, C. B.—It is sometime since you heard from our little Mission Band in Homeville. We have been working slowly and silently. I say slowly, for our meetings were held very irregularly through the winter and spr

months, owing to the distance many of the children had to walk to attend the meetings. However we have been doing a little.

When the Mission Band was organized, the pastor's wife, who is president distributed mite boxes among the children. These had not been opened since they were first given. A few weeks ago we held a very successful Missionary Concert. On that evening the mite boxes were opened, and to the great pleasure of the children we found that with the collection, and the contents of the mite boxes, we had thirteen dollars to send to Foreign Missions.

We feel much encouraged, and trust that we shall still do greater things for the Master.

K. M. HOLMES, Secy. and Treas.

ANNANDALE.—Wishing to report our little Aid Society of Annandale in our corner of your valuable paper, I would just say we are holding together though small in numbers. We can look back over the past, thankful for the progress made and mercies enjoyed. We look forward to the future with hope, trust and prayer that God will guide us in all our ways and help us to take a greater interest in the work that should be dear to every Christian's heart. Our Mission Band has revived and is doing good work.

MRS. R. R. HOWLETT.

Crusade Day at Berwick.

The three societies of the Berwick church met on Saturday, Oct. 15th, to observe "Crusade day" and to meet our county secretary, Miss Cogswell as well. Although the day was very stormy about thirty sisters met in the vestry of the Berwick church. The meeting was presided over by our Pres. Mrs. Raymond. The exercises were opened by singing "All hail the power of Jesus name." Then followed scripture reading and prayer by Mrs. Alfred Chapman. After a solo by Miss Steadman, Mrs. Raymond made appropriate remarks, and introduced Miss Cogswell to the sisters. She gave us a very helpful talk on the importance of women's work, and of different ways of making our meetings interesting. Mrs. V. R. Porter also addressed the meeting. She spoke of the contrast between the hopes of heathen women as compared with those in Christian lands as they look forward to the life beyond. Closed with singing and prayer by Miss Cogswell. We had the pleasure of three new members. At the close of the meeting we had a social hour. Refreshments were served and old acquaintances renewed and new ones formed. We had a very enjoyable time. Our societies in the three sections of the church are in a healthy condition and the monthly meetings well attended.

On Sabbath evening following we had a public missionary meeting led by our pastor. The programme consisted of music by choir, readings by Miss Read and Mrs. Wiley. Miss Best read a very interesting paper on "Motives to Missionary work," and also gave a sketch of the founding of our Aid Societies by Mrs. Armstrong (Miss Norris). Miss Cogswell also addressed the meeting. Miss Steadman sang two solos with a great deal of expression and earnestness. The audience was large and the meeting was a grand success. Collection \$117.00 (Mrs.) J. H. FOSHA, Sec.

DIGBY, N. S.

A meeting under the auspices of the W. M. A. S. was held in the church, Sunday evening Sept. 11th. The president, Mrs. A. J. Archibald presided and after the opening exercises, introduced Mrs. Buchanan of Washington, who gave an interesting address on India, having recently visited that country in order to become more familiar with the work. At the close of a service an offering of \$9.75 was received.

Foreign Mission Board.

The brethren and sisters of the churches and all who are specially interested in our Foreign Mission work will regret to hear that our brother Rev. W. L. Archibald has been compelled to postpone his departure for India this autumn. He does this because the health of his wife is not sufficiently strong to warrant a long sea voyage at this time. Mrs. A. will, no doubt, be all that is required, after a few weeks or possibly months of rest. This has been a great trial to both Mr. and Mrs. Archibald, as well as to the Board. It is a great disappointment to us all. The hope was fondly cherished that when Miss Parker failed and Bro. Archibald applied for service, that we were going to have another mission family in India, at once. The work certainly needs as far as we can see, one or more families and two or more single ladies. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest."

RECEIPTS, FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Donations.—Mrs. A. D. Hartley, \$20; Kentville S. S., \$5; Pulpit Supply, \$57; Guysboro Quarterly meeting collection \$4.56; Ida A. Parker, (Berwick), \$5; A Friend of Missions, \$5; N. Sydney Willing Workers, \$4; Geo. Higgins (W. Onslow), \$59; Wm. Swim (Doaktown), \$50; to Nov. 1st \$200.56. Legacies, Est. John G. Nowlan, Havelock, \$50; Bequest Nathan McDonald, Blackville, \$200; Est. Mrs. Susan Davidson, Parrsboro, \$96.64. \$346.64.
Support of Rev. R. E. Gullison, Evelyn Cox, \$5; A. J. Vincent, \$5; Greenwood Miss. Band, \$2.82; Zion Church, Yarmouth 1st, \$43.87. \$56.69.
Support Rev. S. C. Freeman, Main St. B. Y. P. U., \$15; Woodstock B. Y. P. U., \$25. \$40. Total to Nov. 1st \$643.89.
J. W. MANNING, Secy. Treas.
St. John, Nov. 1 1904.