

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE BRANCH.

In looking back over the past year, we would acknowledge our gratitude to God for the measure of success He has granted us. Although our growth has not been rapid, yet we rejoice that the cause so dear to us is making forward steps in our Province; and we have the glad assurance that, with the blessing of our Father, we have been enabled to help "bind up the broken-hearted; to proclaim liberty to the captive; and the opening of the prison to them that are bound."

The Nova Scotia Conference Branch was organized in April, 1884, at a united meeting of the Halifax Auxiliaries, held in Grafton street church.

Officers elected were: President, Mrs. George H. Starr; Recording Secretary, Miss L. Silver; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. S. E. Whiston; Treasurer, Mrs. Charles Wright.

The first official meeting was held in the afternoon of June 22. Immediately after this meeting a large and enthusiastic public meeting was held, to which the Nova Scotia Conference, convened in Halifax at that time, was invited. The claims of the society were ably presented by Mrs. S. F. Huestis and Mrs. D. Allison. Although we have not yet heard of any practical results, we trust that the seed sown on that occasion may yet spring up and bear abundant fruit. In the meantime we will patiently and hopefully

"Toil while others sleep
And sow with loving care
What other hands may reap."

In connection with the auxiliaries in Halifax, we are glad to report the organization of three Mission Bands: the "Reapers," of Brunswick street church; the "Willing Gleaners," of Charles street church; and the "Coralline Band," of Grafton street church. It is cause for sincere thankfulness that the young ladies of the church have thus evinced an interest in missionary work, and as they learn more and more of the progress of the Redeemer's kingdom, and the great needs of the heathen world, we may confidently hope that the future prosperity of our society is insured.

The letters we have received from time to time from the different mission fields have done much to arouse missionary interest, and to stimulate us to greater diligence. We feel that the rapid development of Miss Cartmell's work in Japan demands increased earnestness on the part of each member of the Woman's Missionary Society. Notwithstanding the signs of progress, we must not forget that the work in Japan is only just beginning, and that a large proportion of the inhabitants are still sunk in childish and degrading superstition. May this spiritual darkness speedily be dispelled by the blessed rays of light which emanate from the cross of Christ.

We have not lost interest in the Crosby Girls' Home and McDougall Orphanage, and the vivid pictures we have had of the degradation and oppression of poor Indian girls have enlisted the heartfelt sympathy of our members. We will ever pray that through the instrumentality of these institutions, many of these oppressed sisters may be among the Saviour's jewels, and from degradation and oppression may go to shine forever in His kingdom.

Total membership of Nova Scotia Conference Branch, 1884, 154; membership of Mission Bands, 86.

MAUD WHISTON,

Corresponding Secretary.