

forty years, the figures are instructive and encouraging. The advance has been from 91,092 in the former case to 559,601, and from 14,061 in the latter to 152,722. In this case, too, the showing in reference to the full membership is good. The number of mission pupils, male and female, has increased 92,064 in this decade. The latest reports mention a total of 279,710; viz: 175,000 boys and 105,000 girls in round numbers. The Sunday schools have an attendance of 135,665, or an increase of 61,688—Christian at Work

### Women's Foreign Missionary Society.

THE seventh annual meeting of the Barrie Presbyterian W.F.M.S., was held in the Presbyterian church, Barrie, on October 21 and 26, 1893. The first session opened at 2 p.m., on Tuesday, October 24th, the president, Mrs. R. N. Grant, of Orillia, in the chair. Opening devotions were conducted by the president, assisted by Mrs. F. Smith, of Bradford.

The report of the Committee on Credentials was presented by Miss A. McConkey, of Barrie. The report showed the number of delegates in attendance to be seventy-three, twenty-seven auxiliaries and mission bands being represented. A very cordial welcome was extended to the delegates on behalf of the ladies of the Barrie Presbyterian church, by Mrs. Ault, of Barrie. Mrs. Cadenhead, of Midland, in a few well chosen words, responded on behalf of the delegates. The reading and adoption of the minutes of the last annual meeting was followed by the president's address. Mrs. Grant gave a most interesting account of her labours during the nine months she has held the office of president. She has visited almost all of the auxiliaries and bands under her charge, and had organized three of the five new branches of the Society. Her loving, earnest words of encouragement to the Society will long be remembered by all those present.

The next item on the programme was the reading of the report of auxiliaries and mission bands by the secretaries or their substitutes. Almost all the reports showed an increase in both membership and funds, in spite of the fact that all had only nine months' work to report, owing to the change in time of holding annual meeting from January to October.

Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Henderson, of Barrie, then kindly favoured the society with a duet.

The report of the Presbyterian Society, read by the secretary, Mrs. Needham, of Orillia, touched on the following points. After a short introduction Mrs. Needham expressed the feelings of the entire society in the following tribute to the late president:—

"Who of us this day does not yearn for the companionship of one whose guiding hand for so long a time directed the affairs of our society. To the consecrated efforts and self-denying labours of our late president, Mrs. Robertson, the Barrie Presbyterian owes much of its present status. May the earnestness and zeal of this 'mother in Israel' inspire us to emulate her noble example, and whose life in so many ways reflected the life of the Master."

There are now in all thirty-five branches in this Presbyterian, an increase of five over last year. Nineteen auxiliaries with a membership of 332, and fifteen mission bands with a membership of 435. Total membership 767, an increase of 157 over last year. About three-fourths of the auxiliaries and all the young ladies' bands held thank-offering meetings. These meetings are all spoken of as being delightful, and the offerings liberal. Three hundred and eighty-three "Letter-Leaflets" are being distributed monthly throughout the Presbytery, and two branches report having "Scattered Helpers."

The treasurer, Mrs. Stevenson, of Barrie, then presented her report. Total contributions sent to general treasurer, \$1,026.00. Sent by auxiliaries for Presbyterian Fund, \$89.22.

Mrs. Clark, of Bracebridge, offered up dedicatory prayer.

The secretary of supplies, Mrs. Harvey, of Orillia, then read the report of the supply committee. Value of clothing sent to the North-West \$437.24. Total weight, 970. Sixteen auxiliaries and four mission bands contributing. For quantity, quality and specified needs the call for North-West supplies met with a response beyond the most sanguine expectation of the supply committee.

The following standing committee of nominations was appointed. Convener, Mrs. Cameron, Barrie; Mrs. Clark, Bracebridge; Mrs. McCraney, Collingwood; Mrs. Grant, Gravenhurst; Mrs. Duncan, Tottenham; Mrs. Smith, Bradford.

The secretary read a kindly message of sympathy and encouragement from the Barrie Presbytery.

Mrs. F. Smith, of the Methodist Woman's Missionary Society, and Mrs. Borrowman, of the Baptist Woman's Society, extended hearty greetings from their respective societies to the Barrie Presbyterial.

Mrs. Cameron then extended an invitation to all those present to take tea in the basement of the church.

The session closed at 5.05 p.m., by singing hymn 270, and prayer by Mrs. Anderson, of Rugby.

A public meeting was held on Tuesday evening, at 8 p.m., the Rev. D. D. McLeod in the chair. Short addresses were delivered by the chairman, Col. Major, of Barrie, and Rev. W. R. McIntosh, of Allandale. Solos by Mr. Edwards, of the Barrie Methodist church, and Miss Laura Harper, of Barrie, were very much enjoyed by the audience. Mrs. and Miss Cooper gave a duet which was much appreciated. The collection for the Presbyterian Fund amounted to \$28.00.

The first session on Wednesday opened at 9.30 a.m. with devotional exercises, conducted by Mrs. D. D. McLeod, of Barrie, and Mrs. McFaul, of Stayner. The following officers were then elected: President, Mrs. R. N. Grant, Orillia; Vice Presidents, Mrs. Moodie, Stayner; Mrs. Clark, Bracebridge; Mrs. Grant, Gravenhurst; Mrs. McCrac, Collingwood; Secretary, Mrs. Needham, Orillia; Assistant Secretary, Miss K. Robertson, Collingwood; Secretary of Supplies, Mrs. Tillson, Gravenhurst; Treasurer, Mrs. Stevenson, Barrie.

An excellent address on "Duties of Members," by Miss McCrac, of Collingwood, and a paper on "Juvenile Work," by Miss K. Robertson, of Collingwood, were listened to with great attention.

The session was closed by Mrs. Carswell, of Bondhead, leading in prayer.

The ladies of Barrie again entertained the delegates at lunch in the basement of the church.

The closing session opened at 1.30 p.m. Devotions were conducted by Mrs. J. Richardson, of Orillia, and Mrs. McAllister, of Gravenhurst. Invitations to the Barrie Presbyterial for the next annual meeting were extended by both the ladies of Orillia and Collingwood. On motion it was decided to hold the next meeting in Orillia.

The question drawer was ably conducted by Mrs. Bethune, of Beaverton, who also led the closing devotions.

Great regret was expressed by the society for the unavoidable absence of one of the most valuable members of the Presbyterial, Mrs. Moodie, of Stayner. Mrs. Moodie is one of the most able as well as devoted workers for the cause.

Votes of thanks were passed to the ladies of the Barrie church for their hospitality; to the officers of the church for their kind attention; to the Grand Trunk Railway for their kindness in granting reduced rates; to Miss Forsyth who acted as organist throughout the meetings and to all who helped to make the meeting a success.

A table of literature was presided over by Miss McClain, of Barrie. Over \$3.00 worth of literature was sold.

THE anniversary services of the Wallace Y. P. S. C. E., Gowanstown, were held on Tuesday of last week. The subject discussed was that of missionary work. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Morrison, B. A., of Listowel, and Rev. Mr. Williams, pastor of Wallace Circuit. Several letters recently received by

Miss Quinn from workers in distant missionary fields were read. Those with the addresses intermingled with recitation and song made a pleasant and profitable evening to the large and attentive audience.

### Foreign Mission Committee.

A MEETING of the Executive Committee of the Foreign Mission Committee was held in Toronto on Tuesday last. There were present Mr. Hamilton Cassels (Convener), Rev. Dr. MacLaren, Rev. Messrs. Bursan, Milligan, Jeffrey and Mackay. A report was read from the medical staff in the mission in Honan. It stated that the mission is situated between 36 degrees and 37 degrees north latitude in a great plain which comprises nearly all of Chih-li Province, lying south of the great wall—the western part of Shantung Province and Northern Honan, for some distance south of the Yellow River. It is 300 miles from the sea on the east and separated by a mountainous district. The climate is dry for the greater part of the year, the principal rainfall being in July and August. The temperature ranges from a maximum in summer of 100 degrees F., rarely 105 degrees F., to a minimum in winter of at times to zero F., but the average summer and winter temperature would fall considerably short of these extremes. The snowfall in winter is light and does not usually lie for more than a few days, the weather for the most part being clear and bracing. About the end of February or the beginning of March the spring sets in, but the continuous hot weather does not set in until the beginning of June. About the middle of August the weather begins to get cool again, so that there are about two and a half months of disagreeably hot weather. Well water is usually alkaline, but sweet water can be got from the river for cooking or drinking purposes, which, after boiling or filtering is quite wholesome. Vegetables and fruit are plentiful, and chickens and eggs can be had all the year. Fresh beef or mutton in winter. This great plain, being low and imperfectly drained, is always malarious. Foreign adults are not dangerously affected by it, but children often succumb as has been the case so often in our own mission. These evil effects could be avoided if the mission residences could be built on a higher level, say on the side of some mountain, but for political and other reasons this is impracticable at present. Smallpox is nearly always present everywhere in China, but foreigners, being usually protected by vaccination, have less to fear than the natives. Diarrhoea and dysentery are very common owing to the unsanitary condition of the towns, and as foreigners have no control beyond the limits of their own courtyards they are necessarily exposed to contagion. Typhoid and typhus fevers and diphtheria are also met with. Besides these diseases, isolation, absence of mental and spiritual stimulants enjoyed in the home land, daily contact with all forms of moral degradation, indifference and open hostility of those for whom we labour, depress and has an injurious effect on the health. Yet, on the whole, this may be regarded as one of the healthiest missions in China. A letter was read from Dr. G. L. Mackay stating that he had to pay poll-tax for his student taken home with him, although he had a statement from the British Consul in Formosa to the effect that he is a student and only on a visit to this country. Applications for Alberni were considered but no appointment yet made. Rev. Mr. McLennan is on the way to Honan by the eastern route. Miss McWilliam's health is reported better, and she hopes soon to be able to engage in active work. The Executive adjourned to meet again on Thursday, 9th November, at 2 p.m.

EACH successive number of The Book of The Fair, by Hubert Howe Bancroft, let us more and more into the plan of the work, which is such, while avoiding too lengthy description, as to cover the entire ground with sufficient detail, and present in permanent form all the characteristics of the great Exposition.