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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, *Editor and Proprietor.*

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TORONTO, FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1879.

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSION-
ARY ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meetings of this Association were held in the St. James' Square Presbyterian Church. There was a large and enthusiastic attendance of members and their friends. There was considerable business transacted, while the papers which were read evinced both ability and the deepest interest in the cause of Foreign Missions.

An important feature of the gathering was the lunch, to which the ladies invited the members of the Presbytery of Toronto. The meeting of Presbytery on the same day was a fortunate occurrence, as it enabled the ministers and elders to enjoy a brief hour of friendly intercourse with the ladies of a large section of the country who had Foreign Missions at heart, and who were giving both of their time and substance to this cause. The ladies and the Presbytery highly appreciated the opportunity which was thus afforded of becoming well acquainted and of conversing upon the momentous interests which they shared in common.

The day's proceedings were the prelude to the splendid public meeting which was held in the above mentioned church. This beautiful building was well filled. The audience was both appreciative and sympathetic. Professor McLaren ably occupied the chair. In a short address, he referred to the importance of such an association, to its increase in membership, to the additional branches which had been formed during the year, and to the prosperous condition of its finances. All this was more carefully detailed in the well expressed report which was read by Mr. Macmurchy, and in the statement of moneys submitted by the Rev. Mr. King. The Rev. Mr. Lyle, pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, followed with a suggestive speech in which he congratulated the Association upon its prosperity and the work it had accomplished during the year, and defined the place of woman in the service of the Church.

The presence of two missionaries from

Japan lent much interest to the proceedings. These were Rev. Messrs. Ballagh and Cochran. The former is an agent of the Reformed (Dutch) Church of the United States, and the latter of the Methodist Church in Canada. Mr. Ballagh made a characteristic address, full of valuable information upon Foreign Missions, and specially illustrative of the important aid given to the cause by female missionaries. The Japanese, like other people, were apt to think of the minister, not in the light of denying himself for the sake of Christ, but as paid so much money for doing certain work. But when they see women coming to them evidently for no other purpose than doing good, they begin to enquire into the nature of the religion which sent them forth on such an errand. Then, in countries where women were jealously excluded from even the sight of men, it was of great consequence that they should have the benefit of female missionaries. These were allowed the necessary access to their sisters in order to carry the message of salvation to them in innumerable ways; by their gentle manners, their winning words, their tender ministrations, they were enabled to commend themselves, and this was all important to obtaining the ears of the native women in regard to the truths of the gospel, and whenever the women were touched it was a great gain in dealing with the men. The account he gave of the mission of the "elect lady" of Albany, who from the conviction that she was called by God to go to Japan, had left her children, and comfortable home, and a sphere of great usefulness, was full of thrilling pathos. The institution she had raised for the education of females was now like a light-house shining in the midst of heathen darkness. It was known throughout the length and breadth of Japan, and was doing good not only in the moral and religious training of young women, but by its reflex influence upon the people.

The Rev. Mr. Cochran, well known in Toronto and throughout the Dominion, followed with a very able and effective address. A deep interest was created by his presence, as this minister had left his country in which there was no position in his own profession to which he not have aspired in order to become a missionary to the heathen. There was the feeling manifested that he had gone from us, and now had returned fresh from the missionary field with tidings of the Lord's work. Mr. Cochran was quite equal to the occasion. He is still a young man, and has not suffered from climate or the severe labour to which one in his position has to submit in the acquirement of a foreign tongue and in carrying on at the same time the arduous work of preaching and teaching. His address was, perhaps, more rousing than that of his fellow missionary on the platform, though wanting in the individuality and grandness shown by the latter. The one was an admirable counterpart of the other. Mr. Cochran had lost none of his eloquence by his residence amongst the Japanese, which may in part be accounted for by the fact that he preaches every Sabbath in English. But Mr. Ballagh preaches almost entirely in Japanese, and

while in consequence he may have lost fluency in the use of his mother tongue, he has gained a superior knowledge of the peculiarities of the people amongst whom he labours. Between the two a very deep impression was made upon the audience.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Association may well take courage and go forward. It is encouraging to them to think that during an unprecedented crisis, their income is year by year steadily rising. But above all they will feel the powerful incentive arising from the consciousness of having the favour of the Lord resting upon their undertaking. It is only the beginning of a mighty organization that will yet cover the globe with its influence and benediction. The work of women will even develop into newer and higher forms. And wishing them, therefore, God-speed, we feel we are uttering a prayer that cannot be without the Divine answer, and one in which all who have the cause of Christ at heart will cordially join.

FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

IN last week's issue there appeared an urgent appeal from the Board of French Evangelization to carry on the work. To prevent misunderstanding, it may be well to remind our readers that this is the only scheme connected with our Church which seeks to advance the interests of our French speaking fellow citizens. For a number of years the General Assembly of the late Canada Presbyterian Church recommended its congregations to contribute to the French Canadian Missionary Society, a Society non-denominational in character and then largely under Presbyterian control.

Some eight or ten years ago it was felt desirable to carry on French Mission work more directly under the care of the Church, and the Assembly appointed a committee for this purpose enjoining congregations to transfer their contributions from the French Canadian Society to the Church scheme. Upon the union of the Churches in 1875 the several Presbyterian French Missions were combined in one, under the General Assembly's Board of French Evangelization, since which time the work has made rapid progress. The Assembly has no connection with the French Canadian Society which still continues to exist though under changed circumstances, its agents both in Britain and Canada being Congregational ministers. From a recently published report of that Society we were somewhat surprised to notice that its revenue is still largely derived from Presbyterian sources; indeed, so far as congregational and Sabbath school contributions are concerned, these are, with one or two exceptions, from Presbyterian churches and schools.

We failed to notice a single contribution from an Episcopal or Baptist or Methodist congregation or Sabbath school. These denominations have French missions of their own, and their contributions flow into the denominational channel. Whether they act more wisely in this than do those Presbyterian schools and churches that contribute to the French Canadian Missionary Society,