

Foreign Missions.

Maritime C. W. B. M.

*Expect great things from God.
Attempt great things for God.*

DEAR SISTERS—We have reports from a few auxiliaries this month and hope to hear from others soon. We need each other's encouragement.

Halifax Auxiliary held an interesting meeting December 4th. Although a number of the sisters have moved away and the President, Sister Smith, has been ill for some time, the meetings are being kept up. We hope to hear soon of Sister S's full recovery.

Lord's Cove expected to hold a public meeting Decembr 12th. Sister Ryan is missed very much and the sisters there were very much disappointed in not meeting Sister Rioch.

Pictou auxiliary is without a leader at present but hopes to have one soon.

Southville sends very encouraging news. The leader says: "We have not missed one meeting since we started. We are going to try our best to keep up the meetings this winter. She adds, "We have faithful workers here."

The New Year is upon us and the question comes, "How shall we enlarge our work." Let us strive to have more consecrated hearts more willing hands and more knowledge of the foreign work and workers. Let us urge the reading of more missionary literature, try to secure more subscriptions to *The Tidings*, and thus become acquainted with our noble missionaries who are going as our representatives to heathen lands.

Will any Secretary of Auxiliary who will canvass for *The Tidings* in her Society please communicate with me, as I have a number of sample copies which will be sent on application.

Please send reports of interesting meetings, etc., to me for publication in this column, and let us make the year of 1899 one of great advancement in the service of our King.

Yours in His name,
L. N. JACKSON,

Port Williams, N. S., Dec. 27, 1898.

RECEIPTS.

Previously reported,	\$88 80
Cornwallis—	
Ladies' Auxiliary,	1 15
St. John—	
Coburg Street, Ladies' Auxiliary,	1 25
" S. S. (Nov.),	2 09
" S. S. (Dec.)	3 01
" Miss N. Johnston's class,	1 33
	\$97 63

SUSIE FORD STEVENS, *Treasurer.*

CHILDREN'S WORK.

Previously reported,	\$5 14
Summerside—	
Sunbeam Band,	1 00
West Gore—	
Golden Rule Band,	2 00
Cornwallis—	
Florence Rand,	50
Myrtle Rand,	50
	\$0 14

SUSIE FORD STEVENS, *Treasurer,*
Willow Park,
Halifax, N. S.

A DAY OF PRAYER.

"A Jubilee shall that fiftieth year be unto you."—Lev. xxv, 11.

"Without me ye can do nothing." Jesus—John xv, 5.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."—Paul, Phil. iv, 13.

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."—1 Cor. iii, 6, 7.

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."—Malachi iii, 10.

"I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."—Matt. xviii, 19.

There is manifest intense activity of thought and feeling pervading the church; the hearts of all true lovers of God's cause are full of earnest hope and expectation for great things to be done for God's cause in this, the Jubilee year of the American Christian Missionary Society. The friends of Missions are stirred to intense interest in the hope that our missionary work is to be lifted to a higher plane than ever before.

Believing that all this is well-pleasing to God, and knowing that without His help all human plans must fail, we earnestly ask our churches and our brethren everywhere to observe Lord's day, January 15th, as a day of prayer to the Head of the Church that this jubilee year will be a blessing to the churches, and that souls may come into the kingdom as doves fly to their windows, and that our missionary work may be blessed of God.

We suggest that a sermon along these lines would be a help to the work of the churches.

BENJ. L. SMITH, Cor. Sec. A.C.M.S.
A. McLEAN, Cor. Sec. F.C.M.S.

Selected.

DOUBTFUL AMUSEMENTS.

The common designation of certain forms of dissipation, is their sure condemnation from the standpoint of the Christian with whom every form of activity must be a matter of faith. Even when they are classed as harmless amusements, they can not be justified, for the believer's life is not negative but positive. Nothing can be really harmless that leads one to waste such precious gifts as strength and time. Rest is just as moral as work, and true recreation is one form of rest. But the so-called doubtful or harmless amusements are not pursued for recreation; they are not meant to redeem, but to kill time. Their votaries are mostly the thoughtless and the idle; and their chief promoters are never the serious or spiritually minded. Even society is not proud of its dancing masters. The character of their friends creates a strong presumption against the current dissipations.

The absence of any positive moral quality in such amusements as the dance and the card-table justifies their unsparing condemnation by the church through its pulpit and

its officary. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin. If the body of Christ is to grow by that which every joint supplies, then great care should be exercised to save every member of the body, every disciple of our Lord, from the paralyzing influences of godless society's leading functions. The religion of the dancing and card-playing church member is neither respected by his pleasure-loving associates, who make no pretense to a holy life, nor valued as a spiritual force by his more consistent fellow church members.

But if negative in character, these diversions are positively evil in their effects. That they sap the moral earnestness of the participants is well known. Scarcely less in question are their generally hurtful influences upon the whole life of the church as an aggressive religious force in the community. Where these evils go unrebuked the evangelistic spirit has departed. The church becomes a respectable religious club, outwardly decorous, but inwardly empty and vain. Efforts for the salvation of the lost are constantly frustrated, and faithful preachers, who would rescue sinners, wear themselves out in fruitless endeavor to neutralize the hurtful and repelling impression made upon the unsaved by pleasure-seeking church members. In some churches this evil condition has gone so far that young and old society Christians persist in their reveling during the special services which are held for the conversion of their unsaved neighbors and companions.

Then these doubtful amusements are progressive—rather retrogressive—in their history. The select parlor dance leads to the vulgar public ball; the "social game of cards" to "progressive euchre," which is simply gambling, with a long, new name; while the ball and this society gambling have proven for thousands way-stations on the road that leads down to eternal perdition. That practices and amusements which are the intoxication of a selfish and shallow society, can be countenanced by the church of the living God, which is so fully committed to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present sinful world, is a matter of profound sorrow and should be made the deep concern of every loyal disciple of our risen and glorified Lord.

There is no heresy so deadly as the neglected attitude of many churches at this point. For if heresy is wrong thinking, that thinking must be a most deadly heresy which can be indifferent to fundamental elements of character and which concedes that men can live for pleasure and still be followers of Christ. As long as our Lord's statement, that "whosoever would be my disciple must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me" is authoritative, so long must the church testify against the godless diversion of unsanctified society. Church leaders could no more profitably employ their time for a serson than in showing the bearing of the truths which they exalt upon this battle ground between the church and the world. For what profit is there in the most carefully wrought out and Scripturally correct theory of Bible truths, if the people who accept it are not trained in obedience to the will of God. Sensible men will give little heed to any school of theology which does not justify itself in checking and destroying the tendency to worldliness in the churches. It is quite as important that the people shall think right about their conduct, as that theologians shall hold to right theories of inspiration. An orthodoxy which expends its