

## Foreign Missions.

### W. B. M. U.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR:

"We are laborers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please address MRS. J. W. MANNING, 178 Wentworth Street, St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR MARCH.

For Mr. and Mrs. Archibald, the school, native preachers and Bible women at Chicacole.

In the Bombay Gazette for November 20 is an interesting item from Miss Power, concerning the baptism, in the River Bhama, of 109 of the girl widows rescued from the famine by Pandita Ramabai and sustained at her farm at Khedgaon. On November 6 forty-three had been baptized and October 26 sixty-nine, all of them from the Pandita's Poona Home for child widows. This makes a total of 221 persons brought to Christ within a few weeks and shows that a wonderful work of grace is being carried on by the Holy Spirit. The Pandita was herself rescued from the famine of 1877-78. This famine was followed by a great ingathering among the Telugus. The Pandita's own choice of baptism by immersion for herself, in which she is now followed by these new converts, was based upon an independent examination of the Scriptures.

Amherst, N. B.

Some scenes in connection with these baptisms will be of interest to our readers:

"It was a rare sight when seventeen bullock carts, crowded with seven and eight women in each, started out for the Bheema River, five and a half miles distant from the farm. Songs of joy arose, one after another, as they slowly went along, methinks mingling with the joy around the throne when sinners are converted. A tent was pitched on the bank of the river, which served as a dressing room. A short service was held by Rev. W. W. Bruere, after which the baptisms took place. It was very interesting to hear each one repeat with the minister, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.' The happy faces and frequent expressions of praise showed that the Spirit teaches His children alike the world over, for these women had never come in contact with many Christians, revivals, or baptismal services. One hundred and eight women and girls and one boy of twelve years of age were baptized. When the Pandita was taking the names of those who were asking for baptism, a little girl of six years-tugged away at my dress and said, 'Bai, bai, write my name.' This dear little child, who prays much and gives evidence that she really loves Jesus, was carried out into the water. Mr. Bruere took her into his arms and put her under the water. Jesus took such in his arms and blessed them. Had I time to write more I would like to tell of how the Spirit led many to confess their sins of stealing, lying, quarreling and fighting, and many with tears confessed their idolatry. One woman arose to speak. She covered her eyes and began to pray in the Marathi language, but soon broke forth in her own language (Hindustani) with the confession of her sins, enumerating them one after another. Her whole frame was convulsed with weeping as she pleaded the merits of Christ's sufferings on her behalf. Then she broke forth into loud praises to Jesus, for salvation, the forgiveness of sin. It was a solemn yet a joyous time. When the Pandita was bringing widows from the Central Provinces, a deaf and dumb woman insisted on coming. The Pandita refused to bring her. She came and sat in the train. They made her understand that she could not learn in school, hence could not be taken. She told them by signs that she would grind, cook, wash clothes, scrub, etc. She literally refused to leave the train, and at the last minute the Pandita laughed and bought her a ticket. She has been true to her word and works cheerfully. She always preserves a reverent attitude during worship. When the women were asking the Pandita for baptism, she persisted in having her name written. Pandita tried to put her aside, but again she was persistent. One day she arose to testify. We all felt God's presence as she stood in silent eloquence before God. The girls said aloud, 'Mookkie knows God as well as we do.' On two occasions she tried to speak and made a low sound. The girls all think God will teach her to speak. She received baptism with the others. While the services were going on, one day she brought two children to the altar, closed their eyes and then closed her own in prayer. All who contributed toward this famine work will rejoice at this bountiful harvest of souls."

Pooma, India.

The W. M. A. Society of the Midgic Baptist church held a public meeting on Sunday evening, February 20. The president, Miss Clarke, presided. Meeting opened with music by the choir, followed by Scripture reading

by president. Our pastor, Rev. T. G. A. Belyea, then led in prayer. The choir furnished music. Then came a recitation by Delbert Fillmore; recitation by Mrs. Fillmore; singing, "What Little Folks Can Do"; dialogue by two little girls; recitation by Miss Belyea, and music by choir; after which Miss Clarke gave a map exercise and address, which was much appreciated. We felt her earnest words to be an inspiration to more active and zealous service in the cause of missions. Our pastor then gave an interesting and instructive address, which was listened to with much pleasure. Music by choir, "Why stand ye here idle?" Recitation by Bessie Fillmore. Collection \$2.90. Meeting closed by singing by choir and prayer by pastor.

MRS. ISAAC N. KAY, Sec'y.

Centre Village, February 28.

Amounts Received by the Treasurer of the W. B. M. U. from February 15 to March 1.

Paradise, H. M., \$8; Reports, 40c; Campbellton, Tidings, 30c; Windsor, Junior Union, F. M., \$5.50; Jacksonville, F. M., \$9.50; H. M., \$2; Reports, 25c; Halifax, North church, to constitute Miss Mabel Parsons a life member, H. M., \$25; Acadia Mines, F. H. Johnstone to constitute Eliza E. McDonald a life member, F. M., \$25; Cheboque Mission Band, support of Bahera Kroopch in Mrs. Churchill's school, \$8; Somerset, Tidings, 25c; Springfield, F. M., \$6.75; Tidings, 25c; Baltimore, F. M., \$7; St. John, Main Street, F. M., \$18.75; H. M., \$2.68; Reports, 50c; Collins, F. M., \$4; Chance Harbor, F. M., \$2.74; H. M., 26c; Margaree, F. M., \$5.91; St. Stephen, F. M., \$9.90; East Mountain, F. M., \$4; Long Creek, F. M., \$4; Midgie, F. M., \$6; Summerville, F. M., \$6.65; H. M., \$2.25; Reports, 20c; Tidings, 25c; Hantsport, Tidings, 87c; Mt. D. Mason, Tidings, 25c; Upper Stewiacke, F. M., \$6; Woodstock, F. M., \$6.50; H. M., \$2; Reports, 35c; Amherst Shore, F. M., \$3.75; H. M., \$1.03; Gabarus, F. M., \$3.68; Fredericton, F. M., \$14.02; H. M., \$13.36; Tidings, 25c; Reports, 70c.

Amherst, P. O. Box 513.

### Foreign Mission Board.

NOTES BY THE SECRETARY.

#### A Forward Movement.

At the regular meeting of the Foreign Mission Board, held March 1, there were some matters of importance discussed, among which was the question of completing the bungalow at Tekkali, so as to make this a regular mission station. The work has already been begun. The land has been purchased, the wall around the compound built and the foundation for the bungalow laid. About \$750.00 have been expended already, and to complete the building there will be needed about \$2,000 more. The missionaries are unanimous in the opinion that the work ought to be done—in which opinion the Board heartily concur—and there would be no trouble if there were funds in hand or any indication that the money would be forthcoming as needed.

It is known that for several years past the last Sunday in March is held as "Foreign Mission Sunday," on which day pastors have been requested to preach missionary sermons and take offerings for the work when practicable. Sunday School Superintendents, Mission Bands and Young People's Societies have also been requested to make the day a Foreign Mission day. To this end a missionary exercise has been prepared and sent to pastors, superintendents and others for use on that day. The results, as far as can be learned, have been quite satisfactory. This year there will be no such exercise prepared. The Board felt that the last Sunday of this month might be used in such a way as to help the work of building a mission house in Tekkali during the year 1898, and the Secretary was requested to appeal to all the Sunday Schools, Young Peoples' Societies and the friends generally for an offering to be taken on Sunday, March 27, for "the Tekkali Mission House." The idea is that the offering shall be a special one. It is not proposed to interfere in any way with the regular offerings of the churches. It is a "Forward Movement" in our Foreign Mission work. The need is so great, the demand so urgent, and the work so easy of accomplishment that it seems to the Board as if the need had only to be mentioned when the \$2,000 would roll into the treasury as quickly as the more than \$2500 came for the Famine Fund. If pastors and Sunday School superintendents and leaders in our Young Peoples' Societies would take hold in earnest it would be done in a day. Any contributions from any source for the Tekkali Building Fund will be gratefully received. Let us all lend a hand.

Mr. Sanford writes under date January 26:

"The Telugu Association had in it a good degree of interest. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday were devoted to the meetings. It was found that the church letters reported baptisms at all the stations as follows: Bobbili, 25; Bimilipatnam, 10; Aukulatanpar, 36; Parla Kimerdi, 5; Chicacole, 10; Tekkali, 10; Vizianagram, 10."

It will thus be seen that the total number of baptisms for the year were 103, making the entire membership of the churches at the close of 1897, 263. Mr. Sanford further says: "We rendered thanksgiving to God for His mercy manifested during the year." And well they might, for the increase of the past year was about twice as many as for any previous year.

Mr. Morse writes:

"We are disappointed because Miss Gray could not come with them (the new missionaries). She is one of the most earnest and faithful workers with whom it has been my privilege to labor. . . . She is a good herald of the Glad Tidings. She knows Telugu well and can speak it both correctly and fluently. Her whole heart and soul are in the work. . . . With our 200,000 pagan Telugus on the Bilmi field alone I wish we had 800 more like her."

Think of that, brethren, you who talk about too much being done for Foreign Missions. It looks as if we were only touching the fringe of this great work. If 800 could find plenty to do on the Bilmi field, what about other fields of twice the size.

Mr. Morse says: "The new missionaries have passed their first exams. (written) and are to have their oral exams, when we all meet at Bobbili. If all the other papers are as good as the ones I have already examined they will be good indeed. All the good things you told us about the new missionaries last year were true. Miss Newcomb is a young lady of a lovely spirit. Bro. Gullison and his wife are treasures. I have not seen so much of Miss Harrison, but I have seen enough to be impressed with her brightness and ability and her sterling worth. She is quick at everything and takes naturally to the people and the vernacular."

The friends of Missions will be glad to hear this testimony from one who can appreciate worth wherever it is found.

He continues: "We never had more reason to be encouraged than now. The past year has been bright, the future looks bright, and the Lord is with us. Bro. Hardy is in the same room with me just now, hard at the Telugu. We feel that you made no mistake in sending him. There is so much of blessing in the old year to look back upon, so much in the present to be thankful for, and the outlook for the new year seems so bright, that my heart sings for joy as I write."

#### The Grave or the Powers of Darkness.

Does Matt. 12: 40 represent the grave, or does it not represent the "hour and power of darkness," see Luke 22: 53. The three days and three nights include the whole time from his betrayal, until his resurrection, see Matt. 20: 17-20. "The heart of the earth," literally the darkest place of all God's creation, the sun has never shone there, and I do not believe there ever was a grave dug that deep. It is a very apt illustration of the ignorance of the earthly powers about divine revelation so plain in the Old Testament, the light of inspiration was as far from their hearts as the sun from the heart of the earth.

I. S. WYNN.

Last Friday night the dwelling house of Belonie King, a farmer of Richibucto village, was totally destroyed by fire. Mr. King was absent from home and his wife and eight children were asleep in the house. The falling of the ceiling awakened Mrs. King and she with the utmost difficulty succeeded in getting her children out of the house in their clothes. Everything in the house was destroyed. The neighbors kindly provided the destitute woman and children with clothing and food, and a subscription list has been opened for their benefit.

## A Good Appetite

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