

The Canadian Missionary Link

CANADA.

In the interests of the Baptist Foreign Mission Societies of Canada.

INDIA.

Vol. 11, No. 6] "The Gentiles shall come to Thy light, and kings to the brightness of Thy rising."—Is. lx. 3.

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Mrs A. C. DRYDEN, Greenbank, Ont., will act as Director of Whitby and Lindsay Association.

THOSE who heard Mrs. Barker recite the beautiful poem, at the Annual Meeting, "Bear the Message Onward," will be pleased to have another from the same pen.

Mrs CORA EWING, of Cobourg, will act as Director of the Peterboro' and Belleville Association, until the end of the Associational Year, in place of Miss Alma Bradley, who has removed to Big Rapids, Mich.

We would call the attention of such of our readers as have access to the *Canadian Baptist*, to the excellent series of articles on "Missionary Methods," by Rev. John McLaurin, now in course of publication. He writes from long experience and his opinions are worthy of consideration by all who are interested in this matter.

Shall We Pay as We Go, or Go in Debt? Which?

By a close observation, having discovered that sometimes Missionary Societies came out at the end of the year in debt, the prudent women who were called to serve on the Board, when the Society was first started in Ontario, concluded to go on a strictly cash basis, not only to have no debts, but with a careful forelooking to be always ready to meet obligations. If sometimes in avoiding Scylla, they have sailed too far over towards Charybdis, why, it was but too far on the right side, instead of too far on the wrong. As a sad consequence they have incurred the charge of a "rich corporation," of "hoarding money when souls were perishing." Now we beg leave to reiterate what our competent, wise Treasurer said at the last Annual Meeting, that, however it may seem to others, the money sent in from the Circles and donated by individuals is sent on its errand of mercy with a constant forelooking promptness. Last year when the three missionaries were appointed, careful estimates were made of costs, of probable receipts and of obligations, to the end of the year. Finding that \$800 could be spared it was promptly appropriated to the Samulcoota Seminary, and when the young ladies were ready to go, the money was ready. Then at the Annual Meeting there was reported a large sum of

money in the treasury, which was simply a wise reserve for heavy payments of the next two months. The Annual Meeting came too soon. If held on the first of January there could have been reported the most satisfactory "empty treasury." Now what is the result of this careful management, or rather of the misjudgment concerning the management? Just this, that for the last three months the income of the Society has fallen off *one half*; \$639.20 less than in the same time last year. Truly, this is a very poor outlook for our increased expenses, and hopeless for increased work. Now, here is what confronts us over against this startlingly decreasing income, i. e., decreasing interest. Besides previous obligations, there are three more missionaries to be cared for. The needs of Samulcoota Seminary increasing, (and what more important work than educating native teachers and preachers?) The call of Mr. Laffamme for a young man to help him, whom our Board would gladly send; with Miss Frith longing to go back, if health will permit, and if not, then surely some one else, man or woman, is needed. With the appealing cry of abject, heathen womanhood to "Send the Gospel faster, faster," coming louder and louder every day! What shall be done? Shall we go backward or forward in this year of 1889? If forward, shall it be on a cash or debt basis? Which?

M. A. CASTLE.

Toronto, Jan 20th, 1889.

Opportunity.

BY THE REV. J. CLARK, NIAGARA, N. S.

Right beside you work is waiting,
Claiming instant aid from you;
While you idly stand debating,
Glory-scenes recede from view.
Duty calls for prompt decision;
Need admits of no delay;
Pay no heed to man's derision,
Bravely bear your part to-day.

Rest not on a past endeavor;
Fresh demands come hour by hour;
Let your cry be, "Onward ever!"
Faith in God will give you power.
Hardest hearts are reached by kindness;
Truth goes forth with conquering might;
Lingering shades of mental blindness
Flee before approaching light.