

Foreign Missions.

W. B. M. U.

"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 APRIL.

For our Grande Ligne Mission, also that the French work in these provinces may be greatly blessed in the salvation of souls.

Extracts from the Early Life of Madame Feller.

BY THE LATE DR. CRAMP PREPARED BY MISS DUVAL OF ST. JOHN.

Madame Feller whose maiden name was Henrietta Odin was born in Switzerland April 22nd, 1800 of Protestant parents. Her father an officer of the French army afterwards removed to Lausanne, Switzerland. His talents and his administrative qualifications being recognized by the government he was appointed Cantonal Director of the Lausanne hospital. Henrietta at the age of fourteen visited regularly the sick and suffering and in her quiet gentle manner soothed their sorrows. So skillful did she become in her work that the physicians entrusted to her the needful dressing after most difficult operations. She actually entertained a project for the foundation of a hospital in which she might devote her life to the work. The experience she gained was most valuable in her future mission work at Grande Ligne and many families had reason to rejoice that in her early life God had prepared her to become their physician, nurse, and comforter ministering alike to soul and body. When sixteen she joined the National church. Previous to her first Communion she passed the time in religious duties, studying theology and reading her Bible; the day of Communion she spent in fasting and prayer, in which she experienced a powerful sense of God's presence. Her Pastor was a semi-rationalist teaching virtue was the way to eternal life, that Satan was only an imaginary being, and that Christ's atonement was for great sinners but more especially for the heathen. Henrietta afterwards exclaimed "If the love of God in Christ Jesus had been told me, I should have embraced him in transport of joy." She was not satisfied with her pastor's instruction and could not reconcile them with statements found in her religious books. The brilliant and intellectual society of professors and students by which Miss Odin was surrounded, served to cultivate her conversational powers, there was such life and sweetness in her conversation and such harmony between her mind and countenance that she was known as "Mlle. Odin the transparent." Though surrounded with so much love and happiness in her family circle, and such a favorite in society, still there remained an aching void which the gay world could not fill, she was seeking for the "peace which passeth all understanding."

Unhappily the piety which comes from faith was at that time scarcely known. Evangelical truth was first brought to Mlle. Odin by her marriage in 1822 with M. Feller whose parents had kept the old evangelical faith of the refugees, and their children were among the first to receive the Saviour, when the Holy Spirit began to shed light upon the spiritual darkness of that country.

Monsieur Feller found in his wife an enlightened associate, a wise counsellor and a loving step-mother to his son and two daughters who greatly loved her. When Madame Feller was called upon to part with her only child three years of age it was a severe trial, but she says "I consecrated my dear child to the God who had given her, but he hath taken her away from evil and spared her from passing through the conflicts and sorrows of an earthly pilgrimage." When her little dying girl saw her mother's tears she made a great effort to caress her, and said, "Why do you weep, mamma? I am going to Jesus. He is taking me in his arms."

The revival of religion that some years before began in Geneva now reached Lausanne, converts proclaimed the gospel with such power that many were attracted to hear them. Ignorance, prejudice, formalism and unbelief took the alarm. In a short time fierce opposition was shown among the "mommiers" (hypocrites) they were treated with contempt and insult. The community was disturbed with this revival, Monsieur and Madame Feller could not be indifferent to it and their sympathies were with the persecuted. The government passed a law condemning to imprisonment, fine or exile those who presided at the meetings and conducted services, or those who attended them. Monsieur Feller then chief magistrate, had when informed that the dissidents place of meeting was known, to send officers to disperse them. His wife feeling sorry for them, sent word secretly to the pastor that their movements were known, and that they must change their place of meeting. M. Feller although not to blame was brought to task by a councillor of State, that no hypocrites were brought to justice; therefore he was neglecting his duty. He took his wife into his confidence and telling her of his worries, said he must resign; she however advised him to be patient and use these opportunities of protecting the persecuted Christians. She wrote to the dissident pastor suggesting the propriety of abstaining as far as possible from holding meetings in the mornings.

Madame Feller both before and after the death of her child, had been passing through great mental struggles while seeking the light. The holiness of God was so great, she dared not look upward. "I know God hates sin," "My sins, my sins!" She was looking to self and not on Christ. It was by hard struggles, by prayer and suffering that in adoration and thanksgiving she was enabled to look to Jesus, again she would be cast down and fear she was deceived and say "I do not feel in my soul the testimony of the Spirit." This state of suffering continued for sometime, her nervous system was so weakened that her husband was alarmed and sent for her

physician. What is the matter with you, Madame? I am not sick she replied my soul is destitute for the peace of God. "I see," said he, "your sickness arises from religious anxiety. You have too much to do with religion, Madame, you must put this matter aside, and for the next three weeks you must neither pray nor think of God, nor read the Bible, nor engage in any religious work." "Dr." said Madame Feller, "how can you ask me to follow your directions, when God tells me to pray without ceasing, to love him with all my heart and soul, and to seek nourishment from his word as my necessary food?" "Well if you do not do what I have prescribed, I question whether you will recover. I will send you some medicine which you will be careful to take regularly." "I do not think in my case I require your help at all, but I will take it to please my husband." She sought a place of retirement during these days of anxiety to bow before her God and utter her complaints aloud in his presence. She read the penitential Psalms, examined her conscience and whole life. She read a work, "The Evangelical Doctrine." In this book Christ's work was explained in a clear, practical manner encouraging the sinner to throw himself with all his sins into the arms of the Saviour. She understood as never before, the work of redemption and embraced it with joyful ardour. So powerfully was she moved that she exclaimed, "Is this all, is this all? Thy blood blot out, oh Lamb of God" and fell on her knees before the Lord and wept. Jesus ever after became the object of her faith, love and adoration. She had now peace instead of former unrest. After several hours she reappeared in her family, her children and servants observing her radiant face, exclaimed! "What has happened to mamma?" The servants said to each other what has happened to Madame? What a change! When her husband returned she told him with profound humility and gratitude how the Lord had granted her that peace for which she had long been looking. M. Feller was impressed by her conversation and said pray for me that I also may be a holy child of God. She did and her prayers were answered for her husband and many of her relatives opened their hearts to receive the Saviour. From the moment of her conversion Madame Feller gave herself unreservedly to Christ. She confessed him boldly in spite of the persecution which raged with great fierceness, urged on by agents of government who hunted the Christians with great cruelty. "What a shame," said the mob on one occasion when they saw Madame Feller coming out when the meeting was broken up, "that she should have joined these Christians." Her worldly friends, who continued in the national church, were distressed at her union with the despised Independents. God was then preparing and leading her on to a great work for him.

The annual meeting of the W. M. A. Societies of Halifax and Dartmouth was held Tuesday afternoon, March 28th, in the vestry of the North Baptist church. Mrs. Z. L. Fash presided opening by reading Psalm 84. We united in prayer for a blessing on our gathering and for the work in which we are engaged Sister Amy Johnston leading. All the Societies were well represented and brief reports were given by the several presidents—Mrs. Hunt for Dartmouth; Mrs. Bates for the Tabernacle; Miss Robinson for the First Church and Mrs. McPherson for the North. After a solo by Miss Armstrong, Mrs. Churchill, to whom warm greetings had been extended by the previous speakers, told us of the work in India. Her labor among the children is very interesting and the results most encouraging. In the school at Bobbili of 115 girls are pupils decked in jewels from wealthy homes seated by those poor and needy, for caste is not considered where the missionaries teach that in God's sight all are equal. The head master is a Brahmin and has not yet been led to Christ; many prayers are being offered for him. The influence of this school for the future is important; when a member is married the missionaries present her with a Bible and hymn book so the Christian teachings accompany her to her new home. When touring through the towns and villages Mrs. Churchill is made welcome in many houses of former scholars, then is seen the power of early teaching, they have remembered the lessons and imparted their knowledge to the other women of the house of whom there are usually five or more. Mrs. Churchill spoke highly of her Bible woman, Slamma, who since 1831 has labored unceasingly. She is especially valuable in explaining Scripture and in Zenana work. After a solo by Miss Gates, tea was served when all became acquainted with Mrs. Churchill talking with her and one another.

At 8 o'clock a public meeting was held in the church presided over by Pastor Fash. Scripture reading by Rev. A. C. Clute was Romans 10. A trio by Mrs. Witter, Mrs. Colwell and Miss McPherson was much enjoyed. Prayer by Rev. W. E. Bates was followed by an anthem by the choir. A cordial welcome was extended to Rev. and Mrs. Churchill by Dr. Kenpton who recalled early days of the missionary movement. Mrs. Churchill responding reminded us, among other facts, of the goodness of God in sparing the thirty-two missionaries sent out from these Maritime Provinces during the past 28 years. All are alive today. This is unique and wonderful, for life in India is a stern reality and there is much to break them down. There are many other encouragements. Among the 103 baptisms last year are two famine boys who are being educated by the Bridgetown and New Glasgow Mission Bands. These are doing well and give promise of being the instruments through God for winning souls. Five girls who were trained in the school at Bobbili are now teachers. One of our converts was taken ill, her patient suffering and happy death so deeply affected her husband and friends that they accepted the Saviour. After the collection, \$11.55, Mr. N. McDonald favored the audience with a solo. Brother Churchill then addressed us holding our attention to the close. Among other topics, he spoke of the Book room at Chiswick

making an earnest appeal for donations of literature from our homes. He referred to Brother Sanford and his brave and lonely work at Vizianagram. He described the great and showy Hindoo Temple with its swarms of worshippers. He adverted to Brothers Higgins and Hardy joyously building up the new mission at Tekkall. He pictured Peda David, educated and supported by the North Baptist Mission Band, now earnestly giving his strength and spiritual experience to the Telugus at Arkulatumpara. This very successful meeting closed with the benediction by Dr. Saunders.

Our own W. M. A. Society is flourishing. The interest in our meetings is more general and the attendance has increased. By Mite Boxes, Mrs. W. A. Freeman, our faithful treasurer since 1892, was made a life member for Home Missions. We have 96 members with Mrs. James McPherson president.

Our Mission Band comprises the Sunday School, and one Sunday in the quarter is devoted to a missionary exercise. The last concert, March 28, was especially enjoyable by the presence and words of Brother and Sister Churchill. They gave brief addresses and sang several of our familiar hymns in the Telugu language. Last Christmas this Band made a life member of Marion Morse, daughter of Rev. I. D. Morse of Bimlipatam.

MABEL H. PARSONS.

Halifax April 18.

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