

Presented
by Miss Forsyth
May 1, 1907

Miss Forsyth
Dorchester con Ag Medford



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"Put ye in the sickle; for the Harvest is ripe."

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EVANGELISTIC DEPARTMENT, MONTREAL W.C.T.U.

BY E. G. B.

There comes to me a strange feeling of solemnity, in the thought that we gather to-day to bring to one another the record of work done in the year that has closed another decade of the world's history: work for which we handed in our account to God, as the last breath of the '80's died away from earth, and all its thoughts and words and deeds became part of the record laid up above until, in the light of eternity, we go over it by item with our Saviour Judge.

To me, and to my dear fellow-laborers in the Evangelistic Department, it has been a year full of trials and difficulties, but also full of victories, achieved not by us, but by our All-sufficient Leader, who never loses a battle, who is bound to triumph, though all earth and hell combine to hinder.

In His Name, not our own, we set up our banners, for the new decade on which we have now entered, and lift—amid all our surroundings—the shield of faith, as we hear the battle cry—"Forward, still;" and whether we stand or fall in the deadly strife, God and His work will live forever.

"The years! God's blessed, swift-winged years,
His love can make them free from fears,
Spring, summer, autumn, winter days,
All are too short to chant His praise:
No storm can hush salvation's song,
Faith's victories the strains prolong.
Jehovah ever liveth,
And to the years he giveth
Tokens that prove
His wondrous love."

"The years! let each more swiftly glide,—
Let pleasure come, or grief betide,
God's smiles—our bliss, our life, our light—
Years leave His covenant rainbow bright;
Jesus His people leadeth,
And for them intercedeth;
Earth's years may die,
He lives on high."

I have been asked, to-day, to explain the difference between the rescue and preventive work, more definitely than ever before, as in many minds there seems to be some confusion between them. They are really quite distinct, although, both belonging to the Evangelistic Department, they are under the same Superintendent.

The rescue work comprises the Sheltering Home—opened especially for discharged prisoners, inebriates and

girls who have gone astray—the mid-night mission, and part of the Bible women's work, such as visiting houses of ill-repute and homes darkened by intemperance.

The preventive, or general evangelistic work takes in a far wider range,—the distribution of large quantities of gospel and temperance literature, and books and leaflets on the higher christian life; the publication of the paper, "A VOICE FROM THE FIELD"; the White Shield Society, with the dissemination of its own literature; the Girls' Evangelistic Hall and Reading Room, with a library, from which 1,000 volumes have been taken out, by girls, during the year; evangelistic, prayer and consecration meetings; educational classes, held in the Hall; the Woman's Industrial Exchange, which is helping many to support themselves; and a large correspondence,—over 1,000 letters and postal cards having been written, by the Secretary, during 1889.

I have also been asked to explain how funds are raised for these different branches. I do this reluctantly, and only because I have been especially requested to remove a misunderstanding, which I am told has arisen.

The Montreal Union, as an incorporated body, has rendered itself responsible for the current expenses of the Sheltering Home—apart from the rent, the money for which is raised, principally, by special collectors. The salaries of the Bible Women are paid from the general funds of the Union—membership fees, etc. For all the preventive and general evangelistic work of the department, and a portion of the rescue work, I am, as Superintendent, personally responsible; having opened branch after branch, believing that the great Head of the Church called me to do so. For these branches there are no collectors, nor is there any machinery for raising money. The VOICE FROM THE FIELD has paid its own way; the Industrial Exchange has been nearly self-supporting, this year; and money for the rest of the work has come in voluntary contributions, and collections taken at public meetings, at which the work has been explained.

I rejoice that my dear Treasurer's report shows her books closed without debt in any branch of the department, and with \$688.73 on hand for the Sheltering Home, and with 31cts. for the general work, exclusive of the paper.

There is no part of the work more important than that done by our devoted Bible Women. There has been an unusual amount of sickness this year, and it has, of course, pressed most heavily upon the poor. In the autumn, the typhoid fever, at Point St. Charles, was of such a character that almost everyone shrank from contact with it, but Mrs. Ohling was indefatigable in her labor of love, visiting