

belonging to both whites and natives being destroyed.

In the awful darkness of that night when huge trees were being torn up by the roots by the violence of the wind, and the rain falling in torrents. Dr. and Mrs. Lamb, with their twin baby boys, had to leave their home and grope their way to a hole of a hut surrounded by a wall of stones where the heathen chief and some twenty natives had found a refuge. This was literally a case of the savage wolf and the meek lamb dwelling together.

The missionary had just escaped in time, as the corrugated iron roof was torn in pieces and blown about in all directions, while the dwelling house was beaten down by the force of the gale, their personal property being all more or less destroyed.

A Queensland labour vessel, which had been cruising about, had her three masts snapped off like matchwood, a French schooner named the "Ikabuka," was fairly whisked through the water at Malekula and lifted on to a coral reef, where she fell with such force that she broke in two. A competent judge in Sydney estimates that the actual loss of property to the English and French settlers and others will amount to no less than £160,000.

In the south end of the New Hebrides group a calamity of another kind has befallen the other medical mission.

On Futuna, where Dr. and Mrs. Gunn have been labouring for the past ten years, a Christian community had been formed, and the mission work was latterly of the most encouraging kind; but in the end of February last a labour vessel from Queensland called at the island, and in some way or other an epidemic of dysentery had been introduced. Within a fortnight the disease became so fatal 35 of the natives died, and many more, especially of the young, were dying when the mail left. Two of Dr. Gunn's own children, fine girls of seven and nine years, died. The third, aged five years, was not expected to recover, and Dr. and Mrs. Gunn had been themselves seized with the same trouble. We know not what news the next mail may bring.

The New South Wales and the Victorian Governments used to grant subsidies for the upholding of a monthly steamer service. This has been withdrawn, and a sailing schooner has been chartered by the Presbyterian Mission Board to convey supplies of food and other necessaries at intervals of about three months.

The first apostle and foreign missionary to the Gentiles served the Lord amid many tears and trials in his evangelistic efforts; those who follow in the same footsteps have the same experience still.—New York Independent.

Mexican Missions.

DEAR REVIEW,—Having recently intimated in one of your personals that you expected to hear from us when our new home in Mexico, we will try not to disappoint your readers, among whom we have many personal friends. We shall at present only attempt giving a few of our first impressions and experiences. Our journey was a pleasant one, but for excessive heat in Missouri, Kansas and New Mexico, being from 90 to 110 in the shade. The following tourist bill of fare may suggest how our interest was kept alive: Rich farming country; large fields of corn; beautiful gardens and orchards; interesting towns and cities; great tracts of grazing land, with droves of cattle, ponies, mules, goats, donkeys and sheep; desert wastes, with almost no vegetation save the lonely looking cactus; mountains, sometimes projecting above the clouds; beautiful irrigated valleys; winding rivers; bright sunshine; rains; floods; washouts; heat; refreshing mountain air; houses composed of timber, stone, brick and mud; good-looking people and hard-looking cases, sharp curves and heavy grades. Though trees, plants and gardens looked the same; though the same breezes blew and "old Sol" shone forth with the same brilliance and heat, it was not difficult to believe that we were in a different country after crossing the Rio Grande from El Paso, Texas. Some of your readers, by recalling past experiences, may appreciate our position. Imagine your correspondent and his wife (both Canadians) in

the midst of a people with strange, dark faces, peculiar dress and manners, odd-looking houses and shops, and a language, which though freely used, had neither a familiar word nor an intelligible sound. Think of them being informed that the duties on their household goods and furniture would be from 15 to 25 cents per pound (Mexican money), to say nothing of freight on necessary furniture having equalled the retail price. Consider, also, the fact that additional duties will be required in bringing goods into the State of Zacatecas, and that, besides having our trunks examined twice, we had over \$10 excess baggage to pay on 70 pounds less than our tickets would allow in Canada. Having the above considerations in mind, your readers will hardly be surprised at even missionaries having a touch of homesickness together with an occasional stray tear. How naturally and persistently their thoughts flow back to Barrie, Owen Sound, Toronto, Manitoba, Michigan and Chicago—places once called *home*—where loved ones still reside. Seeing soldiers board our train for purposes of protection, and observing that almost every man carried his revolver, we did not imagine ourselves travelling in Canada. As we looked upon the hungry and almost naked natives in the different towns, and distributed the remains of a bountiful luncheon provided by Chicago friends (praying that we might be the means of bringing spiritual food to these poor Mexicans). We recognized the footprints of the famine, caused by several years of drought. The refreshing rains of the present month are bringing new life and hope and restoring health, and doubtless our faithful missionaries are the means of bringing corresponding spiritual blessing. We have spent our first Sabbath in the Foreign Mission field and worshipped with our Mexican brethren, and although unable to understand a word, were cheered with the thought that God reads the language of the heart and understands all his children.

JAS. A. DODDS,
Zacatecas, Mexico.

Aug. 18, 1893.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Board of the W.F.M.S. will be held in Halifax, N.S., on Friday afternoon, Sept. 8th.

A NEW and revised edition (the fifth) of the "Book of Order," containing the "rules and forms of the Presbyterian Church of England, together with the Model Trust Deed," is about to be issued by the Synod's Publication Committee.

AN old peasant in north-west India learned by heart the first chapter of St. John's Gospel. After his harvest was over he would go out year by year into the villages around and repeat what he had learned. In eight years he had brought some 400 of his countrymen to embrace Christianity and receive baptism.

A MISSION BAND was organized at Moose River, Middle Musquodoboit, 8th inst., by Miss Mary Grant and Miss Abbie Reid. Name: "Hopeful Workers." Officers: Pres., Maggie McDowell; Vice-Pres., Effie Meisac; Secy., Janie McIsaac; Treas., Laura Redden.

DR. JOHN CROSS, a medical graduate of Glasgow, has been appointed medical missionary in the Chin-Chow district of Amoy. Dr. Cross leaves England in October for his new sphere of labour, as do also the Rev. C. Campbell Brown, of Holybourne, and the Rev. A. A. Cooper.

THE Church Missionary Society Lay Workers' Union, for London, which has been in existence about ten years, now consists of about 800 members. The purposes of the Union are to band male Sunday-school teachers together for prayer and mutual interest in the work of foreign missions, and to afford them opportunities of attending meetings which are systematically held at Salisbury square, and acquiring knowledge of the C. M. S. work by means of a good library, intercourse with returned missionaries, lectures, etc., in order that they may impart information and stimulate interest amongst their Sunday-school scholars in the work, and, also, may in their turn give Sunday-school addresses and lantern lectures, and by other means help to spread the Gospel in distant lands. It is also hoped and expected that not a few of the members of the Union may be led themselves to go as

missionaries; already some have gone and have sent home encouraging reports of their work. On a recent Saturday Lord Kinaird entertained the members in his grounds at Plaistow, Kent.

THE annual meeting of the W.F.M.S. will be held in North Sydney on Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 13th and 14th. Delegates when buying tickets will be careful to secure certificates from secretaries, and treasurers who have not yet reported are requested to do so as soon as possible, sending reports to Miss Fairbanks, and money to Mrs. Waddell, Treasurer.

REV. A. A. COOPER, M.A., a probationer of the Free Church, and lately assistant to the Rev. David Henderson, of Rockferry, Cheshire, has been appointed as the first ordained missionary to the English Presbyterian Church's Indian Mission at Rampore. Up till now the mission has been served by a medical missionary and by agents of the Women's Missionary Association.

THE Mission to Seamen, owing to a munificent gift from Lord Brassy, is to begin at once the erection of one portion of the block of buildings for the free use of sailors of all nations, which is to be built opposite the shipping offices in Poplar, London. The institute part of the block, which is that now begun, will cost in all about £5,400, the remaining divisions, which include church, gymnasium, coffee-bar, etc., having to stand over until the exchequer of the society has been reimbursed.

THE thirty-fourth annual report of the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Presbyterian Church of the United States is at hand. It contains in detail the matter upon which the report to the General Assembly is based. The religious and educational works in both Egypt and India are minutely and graphically pictured. There are full statistics as to membership, gifts, Sabbath schools, day schools and pupils, lists of missionaries, native and foreign, etc. The contributions of the Church at home are also acknowledged here. The pamphlet is a substantial one of 100 closely printed pages. This is an era of "educational campaigns," and here is a good document to put into the hands of the membership of the Church with a view to broadening their information and deepening their interest in and sympathy for the work of saving souls.

ON Sunday, the 12th ult., at Gilcomston Free church, Aberdeen, Rev. R. A. Mitchell made reference to the death of Dr. George Henry. Only six years had elapsed, he said, since Dr. Henry was set apart in this church to the missionary work in Central Africa, to which he had devoted his life, and the unexpected tidings of his early death must have come with a shock of painful surprise to many members of the congregation in which he was brought up, and of which, during the later years of his student-life he, was an active and useful member. He had a rare aptitude for linguistic studies, and the acquisition of a new language, which would have severely taxed the powers of most men, was to him a recreation and a delight. He was probably one of the most expert linguists who had ever engaged in missionary work; and those who know something of his special gifts in this department fully expected that in course of time he would render some contribution of permanent value to our knowledge of the languages and dialects of the African Continent. And though he has been spared to accomplish only a small part of what we hoped for, he has left materials which will be of lasting value to the people among whom he has been labouring, and to those who will continue and follow up his labours in the field on which he had entered. The work which he was carrying on in the Silezi valley, among a teachable and friendly people, to whom his medical skill, as well as his gifts as a teacher of religion, gave him access, was an eminently hopeful work, and they might rest assured that though the first labourers in that interesting field have been taken away, the fruits of their labour will remain, and by-and-by sowers and reapers shall rejoice together.