

### MISS DR. MCKAY LEAVES FOR INDIA.

On Friday, Oct. 12th, Sharon Church, at Stellarton, Pictou Co., was filled with a deeply interested gathering. The congregation had come to say farewell to Miss Dr. McKay, one of their number who goes forth in the service of our church as a medical missionary to India.

The pastor, Mr. Turnbull, presided. Addresses were given by Rev. Messrs. Cumming, Robertson, and by Dr. Kennedy. Miss McKay was presented with a purse by the congregation, and with a Bible by the ladies of the Sharon Church W. F. M. S. The exercises were varied by appropriate hymns some of which were in the circumstances very touching.

Miss McKay is a daughter of Mr. James McKay, of that place. After her early school days in her native place she attended for a time the high school at New Glasgow, and then the College at Sackville, N. B. She then took a regular Medical course in Toronto, graduated in her chosen profession and now goes forth to give her life to God in India.

Although the Maritime Provinces began their foreign mission work more than forty years ago, being the first British Colony to send out a missionary to the heathen, and have since that time sent forth many faithful men and women to the foreign field, Miss McKay is the first female medical missionary, in fact the first medical missionary that has gone from among us, and this makes a new departure in mission work.

It is estimated that there are at least a hundred millions of women in India, living lives of practical imprisonment in their *Zonana* homes. Few of them have yet heard the gospel, and regarding them two things may be noted, (1) That no man can get access to them to teach them, and hence the necessity of female missionaries if they are to hear the gospel, and, (2) No male physician is allowed to visit them. If suffering they must suffer, if dying they must die, hence the necessity for medical women. The female medical missionary is thus indeed a herald of mercy to the women of India. She brings with her healing for body and for soul.

While thus doing so grand a work, these young women that go forth have a special claim upon the sympathy and prayers of the church, for most missionaries go as did the disciples, two and two, and when cut off from friends and home they have a home of their own and can help, cheer and sympathize with each other, but the young women who go far from friends and home as teachers and missionaries go in a great measure alone, so far as human sympathy and help is

concerned. In their weariness and discouragement have often none to whom they can open their minds or with whom they can share their troubles and difficulties and thus lighten and lessen them, if there be such a thing as true heroism, some of the grandest instances of it are to be found in some of the young women who have thus given their lives to missions. Perhaps a better name than heroism would be strong faith and fervent love for Christ and for the perishing.

A missionary is wanted for Couva, Trinidad, and a lady teacher to go when the missionary goes. The planters there pay two hundred pounds of the salary in that field, so much do they appreciate the work that our church is doing, and it is absolutely necessary to have a missionary there if we are to continue to receive that support from them. Couva is the centre of a large Coolie population from which by the aid of native agency the thousands of Hindus in that district may be evangelized.

If change of work is rest, then Miss Blackadder has had a grand summer's rest to recruit her for another term of her loved work among the Coolie children of Trinidad. She has travelled and addressed meetings with great diligence and acceptance in Nova Scotia, P. E. Island and Cape Breton. Everywhere her clear, statements which are a model of terse, simple, Saxon English, are listened to with the deepest interest, and will help to stir up a deeper interest in our mission in that field.

The New Hebrides is being brought more within the pale of the world's action, and is beginning to feel the pulse beat of its busy life. The regular steam communication now opened up will be helpful to our missionaries, will help to develop civilized life among the natives, and will give in some measure a market for their produce and the benefits of trade and commerce.

One great obstacle hitherto has been that when the natives were led from their habits of idleness and sin they had nothing to do. There was no trade. They could do little to better their modes of living. They could sell nothing by which to purchase the comforts and improvements of civilized life. A better outlook is now opening up in this regard. When trade begins it will wear its own channels deeper and wider, and these fair islands of the sea that have cost our church money, prayers, and precious lives will be filled with christian civilization that will in its highest sense fulfil the prophecy.

"The isles sound His praise."