

Foreign Missions.

W. B. M. U.

"We are laborers together with God."

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PRAYER TOPIC FOR JANUARY.

For Bimlipatani, its missionaries and mission helpers, that the seed patiently sown may bring forth an abundant harvest. For the schools and their teachers. For our Mission Bands and their leaders.

Miss Mable Archibald, our missionary at Chicacole sends New Year's greetings to all the sisters of the W. M. A. S. and Mission Bands. She says I know you all have a special interest in me, because you have sent me to India as your representative. Before you and God I now renew my covenant to endeavor to be faithful to the trust. I feel more and more as the months go by that I did not mistake the voice that called me to this land. I believe it was the still small voice of Jehovah. I am exceedingly grateful to my sisters for their prayers. May the Lord—the great "I am," abundantly bless the sisterhood of the Maritime Provinces.

Reasons Why We Should be Interested in Missions.

1. Because Jesus was. It was his life work; and as he was, so are we in the world. "As thou hast sent me into the world; even so have I also sent them into the world."
2. Because his last great, positive, universal command demands it. We cannot carry it out unless we are interested in missions.
3. Because those who will be affected by our interest, are lost, and the knowledge of Jesus which we have will save them; and they can get it only through us.
4. Because this world belongs to Jesus and yet he is not in possession of it. The greater part of it is under the immediate control of his enemy. Our love for Jesus should be so great that we should have the deepest interest in everything that will bring the world to his feet, that he may see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied.
5. Because, if we are not interested in missions, we will not pray for the extension of Christ's kingdom; and prayer is the potent power which man has with God to bring a world to Christ.
6. Because, not to be interested in missions, is to be supremely selfish. To illustrate: Could you be in India as I have been, or in the slums of some of our large cities with the workers there, and see what we have seen, you would know why we should be interested in missions. Look at life here in this Christian land in all its phases and then look at life in either of the places. I have mentioned, in all its phases, and you could not help being interested in missions. Take just one phase—home life here and there. What a beautiful, blessed thing the Christian home is! The home in which husband and wife, father and mother take Jesus into every department of the home life and if there, into all social life such an home is a foretaste of heaven. Go to India, for instance, and there is no word in their language to express the thought of "home." The country is peopled with families—husbands and wives, fathers and mothers and children—but the beautiful home life of which we know, is unknown to them. What has made this difference? The knowledge of Jesus. This being so, have we the moral right to go on enjoying this great blessing, and a multitude of other blessings, unmindful of the infinitely less favored condition of others? We have not. God knows it and we know it.
- Now I will put this sixth reason in a definite form. To bring about in the lives of others what has already been brought about in our own lives, is a strong reason why we should be interested in missions. Or put it in another way: the desire to do unto others as we would have them do to us, and to share with less favored ones the blessings we enjoy, will produce an interest in missions.
7. One more reason I will give: The wonderful reflex influence upon our own heart and life and happiness. It broadens our outlook and widens our sympathies; it softens the heart and gives us a deeper hold on God; it is elevating in its influence, and through it we are trained in self-denial and self-sacrifice, and therefore in Christ-likeness.
- In closing I would say that none of these reasons can produce that amount of interest which every one of us should have, unless, over and above our love for Jesus, He puts within us his own love for a lost world. This He will do in answer to prayer.

EDITH C. HIGGINS.

"Who Will Go For Us?"

BY A YOUNG BRAHMIN LADY.

(Written in English by herself.)

Listen, listen, English sisters,
Hear an Indian sister's plea,
Grievous wails, dark ill-revealing,
Depths of human woe unsealing,
Borne across the deep blue sea.
"We are dying day by day,
With no bright, no cheering ray,
Naught to lighten up our gloom,
Cruel, cruel, is our doom.

Listen, listen, Christian sisters,
Show ye have a Christ-like heart;
Hear us sadly, sadly moaning,
'Neath our load of sorrow groaning,
Writhing 'neath its bitter smart;
With no hope of rest above,
Knowing not a Father's love;
Your true sympathy we crave,
You can help us, you can save.

Listen, listen, Christian sisters,
Hark! they call, and call again;
Can ye pass them by unheeding
All their eager, earnest pleading?
Hear ye not their plaintive strain?
Let your tender hearts be moved,
Let your love for Christ be proved,
Not by idle tears alone,
But by noble actions shown.

This is no romantic story,
Not an idle, empty tale;
Not a vain, far-fetched ideal,
No, your sister's woes are real,
Let their pleading tones prevail!
As ye prize a Father's love,
As ye hope for rest above,
As your sins are all forgiven,
As ye have a home in heaven,

Rise, and take the gospel message,
Bear its tidings far away;
Far away to India's daughters,
Tell them of the living waters,
Flowing, flowing, day by day,
That they too may drink and live,
Freely have ye, freely give;
Go, disperse the shades of night
With the Glorious gospel light.

Many jewels, rare and precious,
If ye sought them, ye should find,
Deep in heathen darkness hidden,
Ye are by the Master bidden,
If ye know that Master's mind;
Bidden, did I say? Ah no!
Without bidding ye will go
Forth to seek the lone and lost;
Rise and go, whate'er the cost.
Would ye miss His welcome greeting
When he comes in glory down?
Rather would ye hear Him say,
As before Him ye are laying
Your bright trophies for His crown—
"I accept your gathered spoil,
I have seen your earnest toil;
Faithful ones, well done! well done!
Ye shall shine forth as the sun."

Foreign Mission Board.

NOTES BY THE SECRETARY.

Rev. Dr. John H. Barrow, during his recent tour through India, saw much of the practical results of Hinduism, and in reply to questions as to his impressions concerning it he said:

"It is a dismal swamp in which flourish grossest idolatries, hideous superstitions, fearful diabolisms. It has degraded, and it holds in degradation, a great people capable of infinitely better things."

There are said to be 20,000,000 of widows in India, a result of its sad system of child marriages. Hindus deem these widows as accursed of the gods, and yet multitudes of them became widows so young that they do not remember when they were not so regarded.

Notwithstanding the condition of things prevailing in this great country, the gospel of Jesus Christ is making great progress. In 1851 there were 91,000 native Christians within the empire, while now there are over three quarters of a million. The present foreign missionary force in India numbers about 1,000 preachers and 1,000 women, besides the wives of preachers, while the native preachers number not less than 5,000, and the native teachers are double this number. All intelligent observers recognize the fact that a silent revolution is going on within the empire. The people are everywhere accessible. Bishop Thoburn predicts that we shall before long "see a million converts a year gathered into the Christian church in this empire." May the Lord hasten the day.

Mr. Higgins writes: During the two weeks of September the Morse's and Miss Newcomb were with us. You see we are getting together much oftener than we used to. While they were here we held a good many meetings among the heathen of all classes. Miss Newcomb accompanied our Bible women to various places in the town and rendered

valuable help to our Christian women. She and Mrs. Morse found abundance of work on every hand. May Tekkali soon have missionary women of its own laboring there.

The little church here is very weak, but we are trying to lead it out in the line of self-support. They have about decided to call a native pastor and will pay him two thirds of his salary, while I give them a mission grant for the balance. In addition to this the church will support (partially) two Bible women and keep them at work. All of this will relieve the Board to that extent. However, I fear that I have not made out a sufficiently large estimate for '99. My Colporteur is clamoring for new books. He has given me a list which will amount to about \$75 or \$100, and he thinks that he can push the business very much better if he is supplied with new powder.

Then I have come across another exigency. We are all finding that Reading Rooms are getting popular. Such a room centrally located can be used for public meetings where you can preach or lecture. It is also a book and tract depot where literature is always for sale. I have a building here in town that belongs to us that would easily be made a very suitable place for the above object. It will take about \$100 or so to put it into shape.

Here is a good opportunity for some lover of our mission work to invest a small sum which will be of untold benefit to the work. Indeed we can afford many such opportunities. The Secretary-Treasurer will always be glad to afford information on these and all other points connected with our work. A post card will do. Remember brethren that he is only too glad to be used in this direction.

Miss Clark writes: The people of Chicacole always listen very well, but lately there has been some cases of special interest. I do pray that very soon they may have strength to come out.

The last three months have been very full of work, but every day has been enjoyed and we trust that the result may appear in due time. The promise is, "my word shall not return unto me void," on that we take comfort and press on. Thirty-three days were spent on tour with Gara and Calingapatam as centres, and wherever we went found those who were ready to listen to the gospel.

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Geo. A. McDonald, Sec'y-Treas.