

Foreign Missions.

Contributions.

Canada.
 Ch. Rauey River.....\$ 1 00
 " Stayner..... 2 15
 " Portage La Prairie .. 62 60
 David Stewart, Mt. Forest 2 00

The Needs of the Foreign Society.

The months following the October Convention and preceding the March collection are the dullest in the year. The receipts are the smallest. It should be borne in mind by the friends of the work that the expenditure is always increasing, never decreasing, whatever the receipts may be. The monthly outlay last year was not less than \$8,000. This year it will exceed that sum. We closed the year with \$4,000 in the treasury. The receipts since have been very light. With the great crops of the year and the present good times there ought to be a corresponding increase in the contributions to the Foreign work. Nothing is so costly as success. The growth of the several missions calls for an over-increasing outlay.

A. McLAN, Cor. Sec.

Mahomet and Christ in Africa.

Islam and Christianity, or Arab and European rule, and their attendant evils, namely the slave trade and the traffic in drink respectively, have resulted in the adoption of very much the same methods of propagandism and conquest. But, in their effect upon the pagan populations, Islam and Arab rule have succeeded in places where Christianity and European rule have failed. The main reasons of such relative success and failure appear to be (1) because Islam, now so long established as to be virtually an indigenuous force, has been able to rapidly assimilate the conquered peoples and raise them up to its standard, while Christianity, an alien force, with insufficient material power behind it, demands of the natives an impossible standard; and (2) because Arab rule is suited to the conditions of life in tropical Africa, while European rule, which has been inconsistent with the teaching of its pioneer missionaries, has introduced social revolutions, followed by moral degradation of the most far-reaching character. At the same time it is evident that even in the comparatively short time of effective missionary enterprise among the impressionable Bantu a certain measure of success has been attained. This degree of success would have had permanent and important results but for (1) European international rivalries in, and the ineffective administration of, the territories in Africa; (2) the immoral practices of traders; and (3) above all, the debasing and destructive traffic in cheap spirits. Thus, the efforts of the missionaries at ameliorating the lot of the natives, or at inculcating a higher life, have been either discounted or entirely thwarted. It is too obvious that, wherever the European domination has obtained some degree of permanence, the natives have deteriorated or died out, the relatively few exceptions only emphasizing this phenomenon. In the interests not only of humanity, but of national honor, if for no higher or even material reason, the European powers in Africa should immediately stop the indiscriminate trade in intoxicating liquors, by which their "customers" are slowly but surely being driven either into sordid barbarism, which can have no desires for other European manufactures, or into untimely graves, which will be imperishable monuments of European hypocrisy and disgrace.—Arthur Silea White, F.R.S.E., in Harper's Magazine.

Children's Work.

Mrs. Jas. Lediard, Supt., Owen Sound, Ont., to whom communications for this department should be addressed.

Report.

DEAR MRS. LEDIARD,—The Kilsyth Cheerful Givers reorganized July 28, 1891, and have been meeting twice a month. Our band is very small, our membership is fourteen, with an average attendance of seven. Our collection now is \$2.40. We each earn our own money, and occasionally we tell how we earn it, which is sometimes an amusing part of our programme, and is useful for giving each other plans for earning more. We are now sending a Christmas box to the children in the Minnedosa Sunday school; the girls have made dolls, the boys scrap books and all have picked beechnuts. One of our boys made a sacrifice of which I think I must tell you, just to show you that we are trying to live worthy of our name. His mother (who is now dead) had given him a good book, which he prized very highly, and when books were asked for he brought his, and with tears in his eyes he said: "This is the best I've got, put it in the box," which we did, feeling assured that it was more blessed to give than to receive; we are also knitting little mittens and are buying a number of small Testaments to send. We were much pleased with our Superintendent's letter, and especially about our boy; we are all going to pray for him every day, and at our next meeting are going to write him a letter and send him a Christmas card.

Yours sincerely,

MINERVA C. FLEMING.

The above is a very encouraging report, and shows that the Kilsyth "Cheerful Givers" have gone to work with a will. I hope the children of the Minnedosa Sunday school will enjoy the beechnuts as much as the Mission Band did gathering them. One item can be added to the report which is gratifying, and that is that the boy "who gave his best" has since given his very best, for he has confessed the Saviour's name and been baptized and so given himself to Jesus. I hope that a great many of my large family of over 300 children may follow this dear boy's example very soon and give their very best—their hearts and lives to the Son of God.

Once upon a time, a party of children were travelling from the place of their birth to the palace of a rich nobleman who had adopted them. As they were to share his home and all its privileges, he wished to test their characters by seeing how they would stand the journey. The first part of the road was very pleasant and safe, for it was not possible for them to wander from it. It is true that they could get into places where there was danger of falling, and hurting themselves, and brambles and poisonous plants were to be found which would harm them if they went near them. There was, however, one pathway along the middle of the road which was perfectly safe, and their father had provided attendants all through that part of the journey whose duty it was to keep these children walking in it. The only son of this nobleman had travelled this road before, and his footsteps were still to be found, if they were carefully looked for, and any child who got into the habit of looking for these footprints could easily find them, if they had any doubt as to whether they were in the right track. It was not always smooth travelling, for sometimes there would be a steep little hill to climb, or some rough

stones to walk over, but it was never too rough if the child asked for help, which was always at hand. Sometimes the children would think they could see an easier way than climbing or going over the stones and so shirk the difficulties, but those who kept the path marked by the footsteps were always the happiest and strongest and were always safe. It was not always rough; often beautiful flowers grow so close that they could gather them without wandering, while pleasant fruits hung over the way which they might eat. The nobleman knew that children need rest and amusement, and means for all these needs were provided. Strange that all these children did not stay where they were so safe and happy; but some of them would wander away in spite of all their attendants could do or say, and, as I said before, there were dangers to be found. This nobleman had a great enemy who was always trying to do some mischief, and laid traps and pitfalls, and sowed poisonous flowers along the sides of the road, to injure all whom he could tempt out of the track; but then he had no power to hurt them. Even the best of them would sometimes break away and very seldom get back without some injury or loss. But after awhile this part of the journey came to an end, for the road was closed by two gates, and each child had to pass through one or the other.

J. E. L.

(To be continued.)

One of the best habits that a young girl can form is that of keeping an accurate account of her own personal expenses; and the smaller, the more important to keep account of them. Few people realize how large a proportion of their money runs away in little expenditures of half dimes, dimes, and quarters. Even the insignificant penny has a way of counting up that surprises one. Car fares, soda water, ice cream, candy—and the money is gone! If girls were taught to keep account of every penny they spend, they would be better prepared to expend money judiciously when they become wives, housekeepers, and providers of families.—Christian at Work.

Married.

OSTRANDER—LAWSON.—On the 8th of September, 1891, by T. B. Knowles, John E. Ostrander, of Yarmouth Township, Elgin County, and Miss Mary E. (Minnie) Lawson, of St. Thomas, Ont.

ROSSER—SINCLAIR.—At the Church of Christ parsonage, St. Thomas, Ont., by T. B. Knowles, Thomas Rosser, of Eckfrid, Middlesex County, and Miss Maggie Sinclair, of Brooke, Lambton County, on Oct. 7th, 1891.

SURRU—FOX.—At St. Thomas, Ont., on Nov. 25th, 1891, by T. B. Knowles, pastor of the Church of Christ, Edward Smith and Ada Irons Fox, both of St. Joseph, Missouri.

Obituaries.

PRESTON.—Died at her home in East Garraha, on Nov. 28th, 1891, Sister Isabella Preston, after a long and painful illness; she was forty-nine years and four months old. She leaves a husband, one son and two daughters to mourn her loss. Sister Preston was called to pass through considerable sorrow in her short life. She buried six children, as well as her first husband. One of the daughters, a young woman of about eighteen years, is now far gone with consumption. S. W. Marsville, Dec. 1, 1891.

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