

Sister Belle's Corner.

(For the Little Folks who read this Paper.)

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS—Shall we finish our visit with the lady missionary we talked about last month? We left her with ten little Hindu girls, who were not sick, but had come to pay their respects to the "Doctor Sahiba," as they call her. It is a Hindu holiday, so these children are dressed in their best clothes, silk skirts and jackets, lace "chaddars," trimmed with gold or silver, and the usual amount of jewelry from head to foot. They are all under ten years of age, and all married! Little girls in India do not have the long, happy childhood that you do. I will tell you more about their early marriages another time.

The lady chais a few moments with them, and her heart is sad, for by the bright, fresh pigment marks on each little forehead, she sees that they have all worshipped the idols that morning. She tries to tell them about the Living God, but they soon run away from her.

The last patient waiting to see the missionary is an old woman with both hands badly burned. She is a widow and wears no jewelry, dresses in plain, coarse clothes, and her head is shaved. She looks sad and friendless, crying when the missionary speaks kindly to her, as if unused to anything but cruel words and blows.

The lady has not asked any of these women her age. Not one woman in a thousand knows how long she has lived. No happy birthdays to remember in childhood or girlhood, nothing to make one year different from another. Each patient has offered her pulse before speaking a word, but the lady does not touch it until she has asked the question she wishes answered, as these people think a doctor must know everything about them after feeling their pulses, and so would be astonished if questioned afterwards. They are surprised at the moderate doses of medicine, and like a small boy you may have heard of, "ask for more." Sometimes when medicine enough for three days is given, they will take it all at once, and come next day begging for more. Often the medicine is returned with paltry excuses like these—"I could not take it, for just as I was about to do so, a cloud appeared in the sky, or a cat ran across the yard, or a snake hissed, or an owl hooted." So many superstitions that we would laugh at are believed in by the natives of India. They do not like liquid medicines, supposing them to be made of unholy water. Sometimes, they carry the medicine to a "fakir," who murmurs a great many words over it to make it pure. Often he mixes it with some of his own medicine before restoring it to the patient, and often he throws it all away as not fit for use.

Are you not sorry for these poor women? Their souls are sick as well as their bodies. The Great Physician, who waits to heal the sin-sick souls, is neglected, and the Word of Life cast aside for heathen superstitions. Do my little friends in Canada ever turn away from Jesus our Great Physician, and seek healing and forgiveness from other sources? And we have heard of Jesus and His love all our lives. Are we not more to be blamed than the heathen who know Him not?

SISTER BELLE.

480 Lewis Street, Ottawa.

Mission Band Report.

PORT HOPE, Ont.—Shortly before Christmas some of the ladies thought it would be better if the children and young people attending the church would take more interest in Foreign Missions, and after due consideration a Mission Band was formed which was called the *Gleaners*. It is attended by both boys and girls of all ages, from those who attend the Bible class to the little ones in the infant class. The average attendance is forty-five. Our meetings are held monthly, and after singing a hymn and reading a portion of Scripture, the time is occupied with readings, recitations and music, all of a missionary character. At the close of the meeting, the money that the children have earned or saved is collected.

April 3rd.

ANNIE CHISHOLM, Sec.

The Apostolic Plan.

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come, 1 Cor. xvi. : 1, 2. Let this be literally done. On the Lord's Day morning let the Christian believer ask himself how far the Lord has prospered him, and how much he can afford for his Master's cause, a cent—a shilling—a dollar. Let him actually lay this aside in an appropriate place. It will in a year's time amount in almost every case to twice as much as the same person would have given.

THE EXCHANGE DRAWER.

The following manuscript papers have been kindly placed at our disposal for the use of the *Circles*. All who wish to avail themselves of these helps to *Circles* meetings can do so by sending a postal card to Mrs. M. Freeland, P. O. Box 8, Yorkville, naming the paper requested, which may be promptly returned.

"Reasons why we should make the monthly meetings interesting, with some hints as to the best means of doing so," Mrs. H. J. Ross.
"Why we work," Miss Ida Fitch; "A Day in Connada Mission House," Mrs. McLaurin; "Woman's work in Missions," Mrs. A. V. Timpany.
"Some facts and figures about our Society," Mrs. M. Freeland; "Sketch of the W. M. A. Societies of the Lower Provinces," Mrs. W. H. Porter;
"Our Sisters in India," Mrs. Armstrong; "Christian Activity," Miss J. M. Lloyd; "He shall have dominion from sea to sea," a Member of the *Friendship Circle*; "Dawn of Day in the South Seas," Mrs. C. Alloway;
"China and her missions," Mrs. F. K. Grafty; "Christian missions a century ago and to-day," Mrs. F. N. Clark.
For Mission Bands: "The Tolugas and their Country," Katie McLaurin;
"A Missionary Colloquy," Mrs. Fitch.

WOMEN'S BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ONTARIO.

Retained from March 27th, to April 25th, 1882.

St. George, \$15; St. Catharines, \$10; Cheltenham, \$4; Jarvis Street, \$15.54; Belleville, \$4.54; Brantford (for the support of Ellen, Bible woman), \$50; Yorkville, \$14.90; Port Hope, \$40; Port Hope (Mission Band), \$15.51; Aylmer, \$5.75; Mrs. T. H. Decew, Fletcher, \$2. Total receipts, \$177.24.

JESSIE M. LLOYD, Treasurer.

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"I would never argue, if I were a Missionary," said a Brahmin Graduate of Madras University; "I would simply give the Bible, and say, 'Read that!'"