

the Association of churches to which they belong, and were organized for the purpose of forming new Circles, of strengthening weak ones, and promoting the cause of Foreign Missions, by disseminating missionary literature, and by any other methods that may be thought best. We have one in Brant, one in Middlesex and Lambton, and one in Elgin, formed since our last Annual Meeting. The number of Circles included in these is 33. Each of them has a Secretary, on whom devolves the work of keeping an oversight of the Circles in her Association, and reporting to the Central Board from time to time through the Corresponding Secretary.

A subject for the consideration of the Central Board will be the advisability of setting aside a sum each year to defray the travelling expenses both of ladies in these Associations, and of others who might be capable of doing good service in this direction, but who have been hitherto deterred on the ground of expense.

Publications.—The first of these was Mrs. Gates' paper, "God's Purpose and our Privilege," which was published by command of the Board, and has had a wide circulation; also a number of copies of Mrs. Freeland's tract, called "Our Foreign Mission Work," which, as its name implies, sets forth in a concise manner just what our Society is doing in India. These have been all that were printed during the year, but we have availed ourselves of four excellent tracts published in Boston, and through the kindness of the Rev. John Craig placed at our disposal in the Standard Publishing Company, Toronto. These are, "Mrs. Pickett's Mission Box," "The Story of Lukshmi," "Aunt Mehitabel's Account of the Annual Meeting," and "Telugu Women." We mention, also, the papers in the Exchange Drawer, which may be had on application to the Secretary; also a valuable list of books on missions, procured for the use of the Circles through our missionary, Mr. Craig. The names of these books, with the address where they can be obtained, will be published from time to time, both in the LINK and *Baptist*. But we regard our own little monthly, the LINK, as our principal reliance both for what we may regard as pioneer work in the formation of Circles, and in keeping up the interest where these are already formed. We obtain information there about our work on the Foreign field which we can get nowhere else. It would be well if committees were formed in each Circle, to extend the circulation of this useful little paper. We note also two other changes in the Home department of our work, the resignation of our honored president, Mrs. Freeland, in the month of April, and a change in the editorship of the LINK, consequent on her removal from the city.

On the whole, the progress made has been encouraging and satisfactory, but much still remains to be done. We pray that each one of us may realize more than ever before, the responsibility laid upon her in this work for the Master. Let us take for our motto during the year on which we have just entered, "Go Forward"; if we do so in the name of the Lord, our efforts must be crowned with success.

C. E. ROSE,
Cor. Secretary.

TORONTO, Sept., 1885.

Annual Meeting of the Woman's Foreign and Home Missionary Societies of Ontario.

The officers and delegates of this Society met on the morning of the 8th instant with the Baptist church of St. Catharines; as usual, a large number of representatives of the Mission Circles of Ontario were present.

After a short prayer meeting, the public exercises of the day were opened with singing and prayer, followed by an earnest and suggestive address of welcome by Mrs. Bone, of St. Catharines, which was responded to by Mrs. Castle, President of the Board. We should be glad to give a synopsis of this address, containing, as it did, much that we should like to have our sisters—who are not interested or engaged in mission work—read and ponder for themselves. It will, however, we trust, be given to the readers of the LINK, and will, we are sure, be read with interest and profit.

At the close of her address, Mrs. Castle introduced Mrs. A. R. McMaster, President of the Woman's Home Missionary Board, who took the chair for the remainder of the morning session, and, in doing so, offered some excellent and appropriate remarks.

Reports from the Mission Circles were now called for, most of which gave evidence of progress, not only in increase of both numbers and money, but in a deepening interest in Mission Bands,—a feature of our work whose importance cannot be over-estimated. Indeed the amount of money realized from this source, during the past year, is really surprising; and this is far from being the most important thing in connection with this department of our work. The training and educating of these Bands to understand and feel the world's spiritual needs; teaching them to plan for and put forth effort in the way of raising and giving money; the directing of their thoughts to Christ as their own personal Saviour; and thus, through the divine blessing, preparing an army of living workers for Christ, and future missionaries to the heathen, are matters, the importance of which we have hardly begun to realize.

After the singing of the beautiful and suggestive hymn, "Bringing in the Sheaves," Mrs. Newman, of Toronto, gave an encouraging report of the work of the more recently formed Home Missionary Society. The results of this new departure in missionary work are most encouraging from every point of view, and are such as to fire the zeal and stimulate to earnest co-operation many who hoped little and attempted less in the beginning of the effort.

After the report of the Treasurer of the Home Mission Board, Miss Hatch, of Woodstock, read an excellent paper, the key-note of which was "Our Country, our whole Country for Christ,"—a paper which we hope soon to see in the *Canadian Baptist*.

The Nominating Committees were now appointed, and, after listening to kind addresses of welcome and congratulations upon the success of our work, with warm wishes for increased prosperity in the future, from Mrs. St. John, of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterians, and Miss Biggar, of the Methodist Church, the delegates and friends adjourned to the dining-room, where an ample and excellent repast, prepared by the kind ladies of St. Catharines, awaited them.

The afternoon session was opened with singing and prayer, followed by an encouraging report by the Recording Secretary, Miss V. Elliot, who also, in the absence of Mrs. W. Elliott, Treasurer, gave a summary of her report, which will appear elsewhere. Mrs. Rose, Corresponding Secretary, followed with a full and comprehensive report, in the course of which she read an interesting letter from Mrs. McLaurin. This report was full of interest and encouragement.

After the reports of the Nominating Committees of the Foreign and Home Missionary Societies, Mrs. Osborne, of Niagara Falls (a returned missionary of the Methodist body, who, in consequence of failing health, has been