

also regret the loss of another who had, as Assistant Home Secretary, been only a comparatively short time with us—I allude to Miss Shortreed, now Mrs. Horne—but who, we are assured, will in her new sphere, continue to forward in every practical way the best interests of the Society, as she did while with us.

We are all no doubt watching very closely the events occurring in connection with the war between Japan and China, and specially are we anxious as to what may be the result with regard to the missionaries and mission work, in both countries. May I draw your attention to a deeply interesting and encouraging account given by the Rev. H. Loomis, Yokohama, a well known missionary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, of the distribution of Gospels and Testaments among the Japanese soldiers and sailors, and to the Chinese in the prisons and hospitals in Japan, and which should stir up in each heart, deep felt gratitude and praise to our Heavenly Father for putting it into the hearts of missionaries and others to attempt the distribution at this time, and controlling the wills of those in power, who so graciously and heartily gave their influence and authority to assist the distribution. Mr. Loomis's first attempt was in Hiroshima, the capital of Japan, taking a basket full of Gospels and riding through the city offering them to all the soldiers he met. Many received them gladly and some professed to be Christians. This continued three days, and with the help of others, more than 4,000 were thus given. Fortunately the distribution began on Sabbath, for by Monday evening large numbers left for the seat of war. An assistant secretary of the cabinet, and an earnest Christian, expressed his hearty approval of the work and offered to send a supply to a Christian officer on board the Flagship, for distribution there, and through him 3,000 Gospels and 50 Testaments were sent. Next Mr. Loomis obtained permission to visit the hospital in Na-go-ya, Osaka and Hiroshima, where the sick and wounded Chinese were; and to those who could read copies in Chinese were given and received with evident pleasure. Next, Mr. Loomis went to the Red Cross Hospital in Tokijo, Dr. McCarter going with him, who, having spent 30 years in China, was able to converse with the soldiers in their own language explain the object of the visit and tell something about Christ. The men listened with deepest interest, and accepted the Gospel with thankfulness. Both these Gentlemen testified that all these prisoners received the same care and attention as the Japanese did, and that the Empress ordered artificial limbs to be supplied to both. Finding the commander of the Tokijo division friendly to his work, Mr. Loomis asked for liberty to distribute to the Japanese also. At once he said "I have the authority and willingly give you permission in this Division," and also proposed that as there were about 1,000 wounded and sick in the hospital with nothing to do, they should be supplied first. Then Mr. Loomis asked for the same privilege among the soldiers of the Imperial Guard, and not only was this given but the Commander-in-Chief, a cousin of the Emperor's, kindly expressed both his approval and thanks for the work the Bible Societies were doing. Finding so much favor, Mr. Loomis next went to the War Department, and asked Gen. Rodama permission to visit all the garrisons in Japan, and supply the men with copies of the Gospels. This, too, was granted, and letters were written to the commanders of each division to give Mr. Loomis such assistance as he might require, and list of locations with the number of soldiers in each. The latest reports from Hiroshima is that four chaplains have been chosen to send to the army in China to teach the soldiers Christianity. The result of investigations into the character and conduct of the Christian soldiers, being favorable it was decided that Christianity be encouraged. On the 23rd Feb., 12,000 soldiers were drawn up at Nagoya, and after an address on the Bible and Christianity, each received a Gospel. About 30,000 Gospels and Testaments have been distributed already. On the 1st Feb. 20,000 more were to be ready for the Imperial Guard and on the 10th, 40,000 additional. Mr. Loomis adds: "In the course of a month we hope to put a portion of Scripture in the hand of every soldier and sailor in Japan. You may have heard also of the successful distribution of Gospels and Religious Tracts, by missionaries of several societies and native Christians, to the thousands of students from the higher ranks in China who enter for the triennial examinations at Wu Chang and Nankin. The distribution began at 4 p.m., and lasted all night and all next day till 45,700 copies—all they had—were accepted by the students, knowing they were Christian books. The same was done at Nankin, all the packets were wrapped up in attractive Chinese covering, with congratulations and complimentary greeting. Each contained St. Matthew's Gospel, The

Acts of the Apostles, with Religious Tracts, and were carried to all parts of the Empire to do their silent work.

Our annual special day of prayer was held in January last, and, although the day was unusually stormy, there was a very considerable number present, and it was found to be a very delightful and blessed one. We have also, since the announcement was made in December by Dr. Reid and the Rev. R. P. McKay as to the funds for the several schemes of our church being so far behind, set apart a portion of every weekly Board meeting for special prayer that all members of our congregations throughout our land might be stirred up to a sense of their individual responsibility in this matter, and we may hope that prayers arising from devout hearts all over our country will have entered into the ears of our Lord, and that the answer will be in largely increased funds before the end of this month.

The members of our church are realizing more and more the deep significance of communion with our Lord in persevering prayer.

The following extract is encouraging to anyone who is mourning over her inability to do all she would in missionary work. "Jesus is waiting to bless us in our darkest hours if we but lift up our eyes to see Him. We think of Him as willing to help us bear trial, or to overcome sin in spiritual duties, but forget He will help us in our trials of business or work of all kinds. Language is often inadequate to express what is the desire of our souls. Deep, pure love is never able to put into words its most sacred feelings. It is specially true of prayer that we cannot utter its deepest and holiest desires. But we know that God can hear thoughts. Do not trouble then. There is not the feeblest, faintest glimmering of a desire of our being but God sees it. There is not a heart hunger, nor a wish to be holier and better, to be more Christ-like, to live to God and be a blessing to others, or a desire to be rid of sin's power, but God knows it."

After the address followed praise and then came reports of Presbyterian societies, and of auxiliaries not in connection with Presbyterian societies. These were given in very brief form, and a feeling exists in some minds that since the society has become so large, it would be an advantage to have these printed and held as read. Others again hold, and with good reason, that there is much more of vividness and interest given to these reports by seeing the delegate and having the report given from the living voice. Greetings were also received at this session from sister societies, either of our own or other churches, by letter or from delegates appointed for the purpose. There were presented on this occasion from the Methodist Church, the Church of England, the Baptist and Congregational churches, from the McAll Mission, from sister societies of the Presbyterian churches in the United States whose headquarters are in New York and Chicago, and for the first time, and most interesting of all, from Queensland on the other side of the globe.

This session closed with prayer for Home work and workers led by Mrs. Campbell, of Cheltenham.

The second session was opened at 2 30 p.m. After devotional exercises, in which Mrs. Laughton, Bothwell, led in prayer for Foreign work and workers, abstracts from annual reports were presented in the following order, of which we give the substance, referring our readers to them in full as they will be issued by the society. They are all replete with interest and well deserve the most attentive reading from all interested in the society and its work:

FOREIGN SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Mrs. Harvie, Foreign Secretary, presented her report. It referred to the few who, nineteen years ago, met in Knox Church to form the Society, reviewed gratefully the work done, and asserted that they were still standing on the threshold of the "open door." The report went on to review in detail the work done, the assistance given, the mission stations, missionaries employed and the manifold and interesting features of the work in the fields among the Indians in our own country, among the heathen in other parts of the Empire, under the power of idolatry in one or other of its many forms.

It began with Trinidad, where the mis-

sion, although under the care of the Foreign Committee of the Eastern Division of the Church, receives assistance in its educational work from this society. In this island are four principal stations in charge of five ordained missionaries, assisted by four Canadian ladies who have charge of the schools at the stations and adjoining districts.

The New Hebrides were next touched upon where fifty years ago the Synod of Nova Scotia, first of any Presbyterian branch of the Church in Canada, entered upon foreign mission work, and where three out of eighteen or more ordained missionaries are supported by our Church.

FORMOSA, CHINA.

Of the work here Mrs. Harvie says:

"Our estimates for this mission cover an amount sufficient to meet the salaries of twenty-five Bible women, and the expenses of the Girls' School, including Coolies, repairs, food and clothing, in all not quite \$1,200. In this school about 40 women and girls receive training from year to year, and the work of the Bible women, who visit the homes of the women, is characterized by devotion, earnestness and success."

In the same country Hunan is next referred to. The sickness of some missionaries, necessitating their return home in search of health: the death of others whereby not only the families concerned, but the mission and the whole church have been bereaved, are dwelt upon. On account of the weakening of the staff in this way, and the uncertainty of new or old missionaries returning reaching the interior at present safely, the report continues:

"Not much aggressive work can be done at present, but our Missionaries are fully and successfully occupied in giving instruction in station-classes to enquirers, of whom several have been baptized. The number of baptized native Christians now at the two stations is fourteen."

THE INDIANS.

The work amongst them is next taken up, and first at Alberni, on Vancouver Island, B.C. Here there is a boarding school of from twenty to thirty, for Indian children, under the charge of Miss Johnson and Miss Minnes, also as missionary, Rev. M. Swartout, who, in September last, opened a new station at Uclulhat where there are forty-five children on the roll. Mr. J. W. Russell has taken charge of this school. Three other points, the report continues, should be occupied at each of which there are about two hundred and fifty Indians, all pagans. The society is providing \$3,000 for a school building at Alberni, according to plans agreed upon by the government, and on a site considered to be one of the most beautiful in that part of the country.

MANITOBA AND THE TERRITORIES

are then taken up, to whose missions and schools, as the society contributes annually many thousands of dollars, the Foreign Secretary and Mrs. Jeffr y, secretary of Supplies, last year paid an extended visit which has been already, it is believed, fraught with benefit to the work. The Presbyterian Indian schools are comprised under the three heads of Day, Boarding and Industrial.

"The day schools are at Okanase, Man., Prince Albert and Mistawasis, Sask.; the boarding schools at Portage la Prairie, Birtle, Man., Crowstand, Round Lake and File Hills, Assa; while our only industrial school is at Regina, the capital of the territories. The instruction given in the day schools resembles that of our Ontario public schools, the difference being that time is given to manual training, and religious teaching occupies a large share of attention. In the boarding schools, in addition, we have the simpler forms of industrial work, such as farming, domestic science, house keeping, etc., added to which there is the spiritual influences of the Christian home life. At the industrial school, the children and youth have all the above mentioned advantages, with technical teaching from competent instructors in the trades, etc."

Recent legislation has made the attendance of Indian children at these schools compulsory, except in cases of sickness, or when they may be needed at home. Full details are given of the work in the schools at all the points above mentioned, setting

forth both the encouragements and discouragements. Of them all it may be said generally:

"That in all these mission schools, Bible study and daily instruction in doctrinal and practical Christianity, occupy a prominent place—that industrial training is given daily, and practised by the children, as facilitates and appliances afford opportunity—that the English education is of a high order, and that each school is a Christian home in the fullest sense of the word, having all the elements of a pure and loving family life."

The report passes from Manitoba and the Northwest Territories to

INDIA.

Of India as of other countries and fields, the record is one of very varied but constant work, with much to cheer and not a little, a great deal indeed, to sadden the Christian heart. There have been weariness and sickness, compelling a return home of several missionaries, bereavement to one of the missionary families, and glad return on the part of the restored to much loved work. The chief features of it are now well known to all our readers. "Zenana visiting," teaching, medical and dispensary work, are dealt with in detail at all the points which the letters of our missionaries in India have made familiar to all who desire to know of it. During the year the work has had some features of special interest, as, for example, the great awakening of interest among the Munga, and others noticed in the most interesting letter from Mr. Russell, published in another column. Respecting it all the report says:

"The one object is to help the sinner to the Saviour, who alone can heal the sick soul, and to teach the child or the woman, in school or Zenana, the blessed truths of our glorious Gospel."

HOME SECRETARY'S REPORT.

This was given by Mrs. Shortreed, the Home Secretary. It is arranged under the heads of "Presbyterian Gleanings," "Auxiliaries," "Mission Bands" and "Membership." It refers, in opening, to what probably all such reports will this year have to note, namely, the trying character of the year financially:

"Retrenchment has been called for in almost every department of work. But, although strictest economy has been demanded of and exercised by many members of our Society, the Master's work was not allowed to suffer, and to day it is our privilege to report advance over previous years—advance in devotion and zeal as well as in liberty. The standard has not been moved forward without struggle."

The efficiency of the Presbyterian organization is referred to in very high terms, the devotion and ability of the officers, the value of the annual meetings, and of the visits and addresses of Presbyterian presidents and returned missionaries. Among many things of great interest regarding Auxiliaries which the report mentions, we can give only the following:

"One feature in the reports that has excited our admiration, is the way in which little bands of women persevered in the work, though confronted by many difficulties. Three Auxiliaries report only four members; in one, the average attendance was four, and contributions over forty dollars; one, with six members says, 'We would not for a moment think of giving up the work'; another, 'We cannot give up our meetings, coming together for prayer has been such a blessing to us'; still another, 'It was urged that we give up the work for a year, as our church required so much help, but it was decided unanimously that we could not afford to do that.'"

"The Mission Bands," the report says, "have, on the whole, reported more fully than in former years, and, in some respects, show marked advance. In several of the Presbyterian societies not one Mission Band is missing, and earnest faithful work has been done by many of them."

Very wisely Mrs. Shortreed says in her report:

"We would earnestly urge upon the auxiliaries to take a deeper interest in the Mission bands; they require and should receive fostering care from the mothers in the work, and not be allowed to dwindle and die of

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