

THE WORK AT HOME.

Dear LINK.—News comes in but slowly for your columns from our societies. Perhaps we ought not to expect much with the thermometer ten below zero. We hope that the silence does not mean idleness, for we have already entered on the third quarter of the year. The quarterly meetings of the Halifax and Dartmouth societies was held on the 8th of February with the Granville St. Church. This meeting was made more than usually interesting from the fact that we had news of the safe arrival of our missionaries in India, and therefore fresh cause for praise. Verily ours is a God that answereth prayer. Then we had a letter from Miss Gray, and one from a sister who has been four weary months laid aside from active service. She is one whom we thought we could ill spare, one whose clear, active brain and heart, we thought necessary to the furtherance of the mission work, but the Master had need of her in the stillness of her own room. That in her case the promise has been made good we are sure. "I will bring her into the wilderness and will speak comfortably unto her." We did intend only giving you an extract from this letter, but feeling sure that it has a message to other hearts than those for whom it was at first intended, we send the whole, trusting that it may also be the means of leading some other "shut in" one to use the pen in the Master's service. An extract from Miss Wright's letter dated December 8th, says:—"On Sunday 5th, we welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Sanford. To say we were 'glad' is but a poor expression, but it must answer. They are all well, and had a good and quick voyage with all the journeying mercies that were prayed and looked for."

Miss Gray writes, December 20th:—"The Churchills arrived last evening, and with the Sanfords, our house and new bungalow are full. We are well and merry. We are preparing for our annual conference which will be held in January. This is Monday. On Saturday, Christmas, we hope to witness the baptism of the two young men of whom I wrote (vide her letter in another column.) They are standing firm thus far. Both are well educated, and we hope the Lord will bless them in bringing many into the fold. Oh! that the blessing may soon come, we long to see a change in this town."

Will every reader of the LINK remember this wish at the throne of grace?

The Treasurer's financial statement for the second quarter, ending January 31st, 1887, showed monies received from:

Nova Scotia	3455 47
New Brunswick	201 11
P. E. Island	55 10
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\$711 08

For Home Missions. 3445 19

Total received for second quarter. 836 87

Paid to the Treasurer of the F. M. Board, \$50.00, second quarterly instalment of W. B. M. U.

Paid A. Cohoon, Treasurer of Home Mission Board, \$149.19, a Christmas offering from W. B. M. U.

This statement looks as though the money should be coming somewhat faster into the Treasury. Remember, we have pledged ourselves to the Lord to give Him this year, three thousand dollars, and at the close of the year, our funds should show a balance on hand of—, fill up the blank, aid societies, until our Treasurer has to say to you as Moses did of old:—"The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the

Lord commanded to make." With this ever be said: Perhaps not in these days when we have fresh fields opening on every hand, but surely it ought to be said that the Treasury is always full.

Dartmouth, N. S.

A. E. J.

In a letter from one of our "shut in" sisters to the quarterly meeting of the aid societies of Halifax and Dartmouth, she says:

If our dear silent sisters would make the sacrifice and open their lips, if only to say, "Lord, increase our faith," what a help and encouragement it would be in our meetings. There is no doubt it would be a sacrifice to most, but the Lord will bless the effort, and strengthen for future service. Miss Haverall, in her little book entitled "Kept for the Master's use" says, "The days are past forever when we said, 'our lips are our own' now we know that they are not our own." I was very much struck with the solemnity of this remark as I read it yesterday in connection with her beautiful consecration hymn which you all know where she says:

"Keep my lips, that they may be
Filled with messages from Thee"

Each one can take these words to heart, but the Master alone can give us grace to live them

ST JOHN, N. B.—At our January meeting, we had with us Mrs. Lyall, who for some eight or nine years has been a missionary in Swatow China. After the opening exercises of the meeting, Mrs. Lyall addressed the ladies present, describing the life and customs of the Chinese. Of course we all take a deep interest in India, as that is where our own missionaries are labouring, and we have come to know from reading and from our returned missionaries, a good deal about the Telugu land, but to some of us present that afternoon but little was known of the missionary work among the Chinese, therefore, Mrs. Lyall's address was not only interesting, but instructive. On the evening of January 11th, we held a public meeting in the vestry, our pastor, Dr. Hopper, presiding. After singing and prayer, Mrs. Lyall was introduced and read an interesting paper, descriptive of her work; Dr. Lyall also spoke briefly of the work done by the missionary ladies. Two of our little girls dressed in Chinese costume, which was explained by Mrs. Lyall, added to the interest of the meeting. Mrs. Lyall's work has lain in what is known as the Swatow region and among the women, who unlike their sisters of India are not shut up in Zenanas, but allowed to go about quite freely; and yet, she says, that sometimes she has almost envied the lady missionaries in India, who have access to the Zenanas, as there they come directly in contact with their hearers, while in China they frequently have to talk to large crowds where only those nearest them can hear. Much of the work has to be done by native Bible women, for whom there is a school, where, when they are converted and can leave their homes, they are instructed, staying sometimes three months and then going out to the surrounding villages and teaching others what they have been taught, then coming back to the school again and receiving more instructions, and it is wonderful the amount of fatigue they can endure and their intense sympathy for one who is "persecuted for righteousness sake," although it may be some one entirely unknown to them, and their liberality in helping them, furnishes an example, we think, to some of our Christians at home. The Chinese easily believe what they are told, and a simple illustration serves to make the plan of salvation very plain to them. They can readily understand when you speak of Jesus as the