

MISSION FIELD.

W.F.M.S.—Prayer Union.

This is thanksgiving month, and truly the W.F.M.S. have abundant cause for and prayer thankfulness. It is easily within memory of many of us when eighteen years ago this society was organized, and now there are 569 Auxiliaries, with a membership of 12,574, and 228 Mission Bands with a membership of 5,881, and a total revenue last year of \$41,822.31. These are only the bold facts, and we must allow our imagination to work in order to appreciate what it represents in prayer, distribution of literature and growth of general interest. It is a great educational organization, and is to be one of the chief factors in the evangelization of the nations. Well may the ladies give thanks for what they have been enabled to do amongst the women and children in India and China, and amongst the Indians of our own land.

Our thanksgivings will include the great Home Mission work of our Church, including about 1,400 preaching stations, scattered from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Members will also find in their own lives many things for which to offer silent, devout thanks to Him who in ministering to a world, forgets not the humblest of His children.

McAll Mission.

The monthly meetings, Toronto Auxiliary Canadian McAll Association were resumed after the "summer holidays" on Thursday, the 4th inst., in the library of the Y.M.C.A. Mrs. Howett presided, and opened the meeting with the usual religious exercises. \$200 were sent by the Association to Paris at mid-summer of these \$93 were raised by this Auxiliary, and \$7 are still in the treasury. The president in her address reviewed the work in France, the individual testimony from those who had received benefit from the Mother's Meetings—the good work done by the Mission Boat, "*Le Bon Messenger*." At Soissons the average attendance had been at the adult meetings 180, and at the childrens 185. Miss Scott read a paper on "Pot-bound missionaries." Plants get pot-bound when there is no more room to grow; so missionaries get pot-bound when they do not get the necessary help, and money to carry on their work. Miss Berthon read from the "American McAll Record" of the work among the children. So eager are they to attend the McAll meetings, that several thousand of them give up their one weekly half holiday, to be present and receive religious instruction. Mrs. Cowan reported that she had visited Guelph, Galt and Dundas, in the interests of the McAll Association, and though the many busy workers did not see their way in forming auxiliaries there, she hoped they would later on, and in the meantime appoint committees to collect or otherwise help us. Mrs. S. J. Duncan-Clark made a motion of condolence with M. Gilmour, Esq., in his bereavement, seconded by Mrs. Kerr, and carried. The secretary to write to Mr. Gilmour. Mrs. Clark then closed the meeting with prayer.

Mr. Goforth at Toronto.

Following is a report of an address by Rev. Jonathan Goforth to the Alumni of Knox College which is more than usually interesting:—Rev. J. Goforth delivered an address on Mission work in Honan, China. He recited the difficulty in establishing the work in the town of Chang-Te-Fu, but in spite of this opposition they had continued to endeavor to carry on the work. The people were urged to fall upon the "foreign devils" and destroy them. One day Mr. Goforth, while speaking to the people in the streets, was stopped by a Chinese soldier, who flung Mr. Goforth's chair and table, which he had with him, into a yard, and told the people to go away, asking what they were listening to this foreign devil for. Mr. Goforth interviewed the mandarin regarding the matter, and he said: "I hear you preach good doctrine." "Yes," replied the missionary, "I would not have come 10,000 miles if I had not good doctrine to give." To illustrate this, he read from the Scriptures verses tending to counselling the submission of the people to those in authority above them. That, the mandarin said, applied to the case of the Chinese. Mr. Goforth then took his place on the streets again, and the articles of furniture were restored to him. The gentry of the city were very troublesome and ordered the missionaries to leave, declaring that unless they did so they would come to harm, as the people were turbulent and uncontrollable, Mr. Goforth's reply was: "It is just because your people are troublesome and ungovernable I came here to preach the gospel." In consequence of an appeal to Mr. O'Connor, British minister at

Pekin, the Emperor issued very strong proclamations, warning the people against molesting the missionaries, who were acting within their rights.

The missionaries had been addressed by two Chinese scholars thus:

"What kind of a thing are you anyway? Get back to your own country and don't preach your Jesus doctrines here. Go back to your own country and don't send us any more opium."

"They always connect England with opium," said Mr. Goforth, "and another thing they throw up to us is the vileness of the foreigners in the settlements on the coast. Fully 5,000 women are licenses for immoral purposes in Shanghai, and there are 1,200 opium palaces, some of them four-storys high.

"I saw that evil was carried on there under the protection of foreigners. It is dragging into the whirlpool some of the best young men in the Chinese Empire. Look at what these showmen put on your walls. The Chinese who are here will see it, and they will go back and put an end to your missionary work there. They will talk about the girls in tights and other things they have seen. Where are our city fathers that they allow this? These things are hindering our work, but in spite of all, by the grace of God, we are going to overcome them."

Although the population of Honan is twice that of the Dominion there are only five preaching missionaries.

At the close of his address, Mr. Goforth was questioned as to whether the war between China and Japan would materially interfere with the mission work.

Mr. Goforth—Not if it is confined to a war between China and Japan; but if a war breaks out between contending parties in China, it means the destruction of the work to a very large extent, should the rebellion reach to the centre, where our mission is, because during the Taiping rebellion everything was broken up. It would be dangerous for missionaries to remain inland, in case of an internal rebellion. The reverses with which the Chinese are meeting are liable in the end to cause an internal rebellion. The opinion among the pure Chinese is that the time of the Tartar dynasty has come to an end, that the gods are offended with it. Anyone taking up that cry would get a large following. It just depends how many Chinese remain loyal to the Tartar dynasty. If many remained loyal, it would be a fearful rebellion, and would put a stop to the mission work wherever it was going on.

A Word to the Doctors.

This morning some women asked me if I would go to see a sick man who came down from Bata yesterday in a canoe, and who was unable to walk here. When I hesitated a little (it is not always easy to spare an hour or more with so many girls to look after), two poor old women volunteered to carry him over to me, but I thought they had quite enough trouble with their own broken-down bodies, and so I told them I would go as soon as the tide was good. I found the man very sick, and it was not an easy matter to handle such terrible sores as his; but some one must do it. He is not a Christian. He has been the head trader for one of the firms at Bata, and I hope we may be able to bring him into the right way. A woman whom I treated a year ago was here at the last communion, and it was a pleasure to see her bright, happy face. One of our Bible readers has been instructing her, and she at the same time is trying to lead her old mother to the foot of the cross. One of my other sick ones is a Christian, and very patient. Many suffering ones have to be sent away with these words: "We can do nothing for you." Where are the doctors, men and women, of the various medical colleges? Trying to get a few cases at home, where dozens are ready to take them up? Africa may not have a great name to offer their ambition, but they might receive many a grateful "thank you" from a radiant face.—*Woman's Work for Woman.*

The Door Open at Last.

For a long time the Christians of India have been waiting and hoping for entrance into Afghanistan, which has been fully as sharply closed as Thibet has been. The Church Missionary Society has held its station at Peshawur for many years, and has recently established a medical mission at Bunnun, and put it under the care of Dr. T. L. Pennel. The peculiar advantage of this mission is that the place is regularly visited by merchants and hill men of the border tribes, among whom the greater part of the work is carried on. The number of patients is very large, and there has also been gathered a promising school attended by two hundred and fifty boys. By the new treaty just concluded with the Ameer, the tribe most easily reached from Bunnun will be under British protection. The Scriptures and other Christian books have been translated, and it seems as if the time is approaching when an entrance into that country will be effected.