

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

WOMAN AND WOMAN'S WORK AT THE LONDON CONFERENCE.

The first missionary conference with representatives from various mission fields convened in the city of New York, May, 1854. That notable missionary, Dr. Duff, of Calcutta, was visiting America, and the churches had been stirred by his eloquent words. His presence was the inspiration of this conference, which had an attendance of one hundred and fifty members and was in session only two days.

This meeting was the beginning of a new era in missionary work. Other conferences then followed in England and in the various mission fields of the world.

In the year 1878 a conference was held at Mildmay Park, London, at which thirty-five societies were represented, and this meeting was notable from the fact that for the first time missionary women took part in the proceedings. Mrs. Weitbrecht read a paper on "Christian Work Among the Women of India," and Miss E. J. Whately one on "Female Missions in the East," and "English Mission Schools in Cairo" was read by Miss M. L. Whately. Several missionary ladies took part in the discussions which followed the reading of these papers.

Woman had gone to the isolation, the dreariness and monotony of heathen life; for years she had braved dangers and made all sacrifices, had established schools and been a transforming power in darkened homes, had aided in the translation of God's Word and Christian hymns, had given to heathen mothers a loftier idea of motherhood, had been imprisoned for the gospel's sake, in loneliness and weariness had she patiently and lovingly toiled, yet only ten years have elapsed since she had a voice in the deliberations of a missionary conference. When she appeared she appeared to stay.

The General Conference of Missions, held in Exeter Hall, London, in June last, with more than twelve hundred delegates, has been universally conceded to be one of the most remarkable gatherings ever held in the history of foreign missionary work. It was notable for the presence of so many missionary women, and for the great prominence given to woman's work. Women were present from nearly all mission fields, and when one day the announcement was made that Mrs. Hannington, wife of the martyred Bishop of Africa, was in the audience, the applause was loud and prolonged.

Of the eighty-four American and continental societies represented, twenty-two were "Woman's Boards," each of them sending their own accredited delegates, more than fifty in number. On Saturday evening, June 9, the meeting was opened by a service of prayer and praise, and tables were set capable of accommodating hundreds of persons. At this opening session the Earl of Aberdeen presided, with his wife Lady Aberdeen on the platform at his side. Ecclesiasticism and doctrinal differences had no place, for the very introductory speech by Dr. Thompson, of Boston, sounded the key-note. "What have we come here for?" said he, "Not to see the old country, nor its cathedrals, nor the British Museum, nor the Tower of London, nor palaces, nor objects of art, nor to listen to the eloquence of Parliament, but to hear what the Pauls and Silases of the day are doing in the name of Him who made of one blood all the nations of the earth." "All one in Christ Jesus" was the prevailing spirit from the beginning to the close.

In the prepared programme Woman's Work was the assigned topic for two of the regular sessions for delegates, and for one of the large public evening gatherings. Then there were meetings held exclusively for ladies, and women were made prominent as speakers at a number of public meetings, and some were even called upon for responses at lunches and breakfasts. From many lands the missionary woman was present, and told her sweet and thrilling story, that reached all hearts.

Arrangements were made to hold the morning sessions for women in the "Annex," a hall holding about two hundred and fifty; but the "Annex" was too small, and it was necessary to adjourn to the large hall to accommodate the large crowd. Some one writing of these meetings said: "The women excelled the brethren in the directness and clearness of their statements, and the practical presentation of their work." Almost every phase of missionwork was discussed at these sessions. As China was represented, it was claimed that in no country is woman's work so valuable as in the Celestial Empire; others claimed that Japan most needs woman's help; others maintained that of all countries India needed her, and the statement was made that one married missionary, with the feminine influences of home, is worth more than twenty single men, and that often the missionary's home had been the first object lesson of love in heathen countries, and the wife has been the great helpmeet, carrying on work which her husband could not do.

Sir Robert Phayre presided at one meeting. "His thirty years' experience in India," he said, "convinced him that it is impossible to attempt to convert a world of men, leaving out the women, as that is clearly contrary to God's manifested will." He referred to the great amount of misery behind Zenana walls, as having come to his knowledge in connection with his official duties, but said, "There is no amount of oppression and evil-doing that cannot be removed by prayer."

Miss Rainy, of the Free Church of Scotland, spoke on "The Place of Female Agency in Mission Work." She said: "Women should take up this work because it is evident on many grounds that the Lord will have it so. The scheme is of Him, and the way to carry it out has been made clear by Him. Missionary women give their attention to teaching in Sunday, week-day, industrial and boarding schools, taking charge of orphanages and seminaries, Zenana Mission Work, or house to house visitation, evangelistic work in villages and country districts, holding Bible classes and mothers' meetings for converts, training and superintending native agents, preparing a vernacular literature for women, and last, but not least, labouring as medical missionaries among women and children."

Miss Marston, M.D., read a paper on "Woman's Medical Work." She said the work was most hopeful, that "the hospital is an institution of increasing value, and both there and in the dispensary the people are pleased rather than otherwise to listen to the message of the gospel. The difficulties of Zenana medical work were enlarged upon and, in conclusion, several suggestions were given. Specialists being, as a rule, inaccessible, and consultations being out of the question, medical women in India must either be able to undertake all and sundry cases, or have the pain of occasionally rejecting them. Experience led to the recommendation that, in addition to the usual curriculum, there should be a year's study of special subjects."—*Missionary Review*.

North American Life Assurance Comp'y.

Annual Meeting of Policy-Holders and Guarantors.

The annual meeting of the North American Life Assurance Company was held in the Company's Head Office on Tuesday, the 29th, ult., the President, Hon. Alex. Mackenzie, M.P., in the chair, when the following report was read:

The Directors submit to the meeting the accompanying Financial Statements, which exhibit the transactions of the Company in a clear and comprehensive manner. During the year 1,636 applications for Insurances for \$2,626,000 were received, upon which were issued 1,549 policies, securing \$2,464,500. This large addition to the Company's business is most gratifying, in view of the competition which existed during the year, and which, in some instances, in the opinion of your directors, has been of a character most injurious to the best interests of Life Insurance. The Directors have carried the balance of the year's income, after paying losses and expenses and providing for all liabilities, into the Reserve Fund. The large amount of the Company's premiums invested in solid interest-bearing securities held in reserve, added to the Guarantee Fund (of \$300,000), makes the Company's resources over \$900,000, and furnishes a security to policy-holders unsurpassed on this Continent. The Assets of the Company have been increased by a sum amounting to over 53 per cent. of the premiums, all of which has been invested in first mortgages and debentures. The Company's semi-tontine investment plan continues to be most acceptable to insurers, combining, as it does, the privileges of the paid-up and surrender cash values given to the holders of ordinary policies with the various options given under tontine policies at the end of the investment period. The North American was the pioneer Home Company in giving Canadian insurers the many advantages of this form of policy, which, after being denounced for years by most of its competitors, has now been adopted, under one name or another, by all the principal home companies. The reports of the Superintendent of Insurance show that from 1869 to 1887, inclusive, Foreign Life Companies received in premiums from Canadian policy-holders nearly thirty-eight millions of dollars, a great part of which was withdrawn from the available capital of this country, and went abroad, thereby aiding the advancement of commercial competitors. By dealing with our Home Companies, such money would have been utilized in building up and extending Canadian interests. The reserve and the resources of this Company are invested in Canada. Dr. Jas. Thorburn, the Company's able and experienced Medical Director, has prepared his usual report of the Company's mortality experience. Reports of the Company's business for the year were mailed to the Government within a few hours after the close of business on the last day of the year, and the examination of the Company's books and returns by the Government Insurance Department was completed on Jan. 10th at the Head Office. The same minute and complete audit of the sources of income and expenditure, and of the property of the Company, has been continued by the Auditors appointed by the Annual Meeting. Their certificates are annexed to the Balance Sheet. Every documentary security held by the Company has been examined and verified independently by the Auditors and the Auditing Committee of the Board. The Directors have declared a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly to the Guarantors, as interest on the paid-up portion of the Guarantee Fund. The services of the Company's staff of Officers, Inspectors and Agents again deserve recognition. The Directors all retire, but are eligible for re-election.

ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, *President*.

Toronto, January 29, 1889.

ABSTRACT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31ST, 1888.

Cash Income for the year 1888	\$275,161 25
Expenditure (including payment to Policy-holders of \$58,759.20)	154,577 83
Assets (including uncalled Guarantee Fund)	917,074 19
Reserve Fund (including claims under policies awaiting proofs, \$11,000)	553,694 32
Surplus for Security of Policy-holders	363,379 87

WILLIAM McCABE, *Managing Director*.

We have examined the Books, Documents and Vouchers representing the foregoing Revenue Account, and also each of the Securities for the Property in the above Balance Sheet, and certify to their correctness.

JAMES CARLYLE, M.D., }
W. G. CASSELS, } *Auditors*.

Toronto, January, 3, 1889.

We concur in the foregoing Certificate, and have personally made an independent examination of the said Books quarterly, and also of each of the Securities representing said Property.

E. A. MEREDITH, LL.D., }
B. B. HUGHES, } *Auditing Committee of Board*.

HON. A. MACKENZIE, President, in moving the adoption of the report, said: I have great pleasure in being again with you at this, our annual meeting, and in making the usual formal motion to adopt the Report, printed copies of which you have in your hands. The financial statement before you exhibits very clearly the solid position attained by this Company. Following my usual custom, I propose to make some reference to the progress and position of our Company: In the first place, I draw your attention to our assets; our investments are all in excellent interest-bearing securities, and so carefully have these been selected by our Finance Committee that at the close of the year there was only due thereon the small sum of \$603.36 for interest. Since the close of the year this sum, I understand, has been reduced to about \$100. In the matter of security to policy-holders, we may justly say that we stand unexcelled by any of our competitors. My co-directors have always been in unison with myself in determining that this Company should be built on a solid foundation; and the statement before you is strong evidence of how well we have succeeded. It must be remembered that the majority of our policies, being on our investment plans of insurance, will probably not mature until many of those present will not be here when they are presented for payment; it is therefore our duty to see that full provision for such policies be made. This, I can assure you, has been done. This should be gratifying to our policy-holders, and also to our agents; particularly to you,

gentlemen, the agents of the Company who are present with us to-day, and who, by your active, persistent, and energetic efforts, have done so much towards bringing this Company to the very strong position I am proud to say it occupies as one of the leading financial corporations of the Dominion. It seems but a short time since we held our second annual meeting, and yet six years have slipped away since then. It was interesting to me, as no doubt it will be to you, to notice the very substantial progress that we have made in that time. I will give you the figures: At the close of the year 1882 we had Premium Income, \$82,680; Interest Income, \$3,947; New Insurance, \$1,413,171; Reserve Fund, \$73,692; Assets, \$155,522; Surplus, \$8,430; and now, at the close of the year 1888 we have: Premium Income, \$244,038; Interest Income, \$31,123; New Insurance, \$2,464,500; Reserve Fund, \$542,694; Assets, \$677,074; Surplus, \$55,575. When you take into account the number of companies competing for business in this country, you will agree with me that our progress has not only been satisfactory, but exceedingly gratifying to all interested in this Company. Now a word about competition: It has undoubtedly been keener and of a more reckless kind during the past year than was probably ever experienced before in this country. In common with other well-managed Canadian Companies, we hope never to see it so again. Some of the inexperienced appear to think that the only object is to secure insurance, irrespective of the premium rate or its payment. This is an erroneous and unprofessional view in which to regard the business. Our Managing Director, who, as you all know, is well qualified to express an opinion on the subject, says the well-being of all companies depends upon their receiving a proper premium rate, combined, of course, with sound, conservative management. In this I entirely agree. From the inception of this company we have worked on the principle of selling our insurance as a legitimate article, and obtaining therefor a fair price. This is of as much importance to the insured as it is to the Company; insurance is not solely for to-day, but for a long period of time. And it is a duty devolving upon the Directors and Managers of a company to see that safe and satisfactory provision be made for the future. I have already explained to you what we have done in this respect, and we know to-day that we are not only able to meet all calls on the Company, but we have in addition a handsome surplus above all liabilities. Those contemplating insurance are very often led to form erroneous notions of the relative merits of companies, especially in the case of the older companies having large assets, which are almost wholly *debts* due by the company to its present policy-holders. New insurers, having contributed nothing to the amount by which such assets exceed the company's liabilities, can derive no benefit from such surplus. A younger and smaller company may, from better plans and management, limiting its operations to our healthy climate, be a much better company in which to insure. I am pleased to see from the Government reports that the majority of our Canadian Companies are making such good progress. This is as it should be, for are they not quite able to meet the wants of all intending insurers? It appears to me that the people of this country should in matters like Life Insurance give the preference to our Home Companies. In doing so, they are not only helping to build up our own institutions, but also aiding in the development of our country. All the funds of the Canadian Companies are retained here and loaned to our own people; whereas, in foreign companies, they are almost wholly invested in their securities, and the available capital of the country is diminished to that extent. I cannot press this important point upon your attention too strongly. I trust my remarks will be an impetus to our workers in the field, to aid them in securing for us more insurance this year than in any past year in the history of the Company. As regards the Dominion, I am proud of my country and of what, under great difficulties, it has accomplished so far. No man can foretell the future, but of this I feel certain, that if Canadians will go hand-in-hand pushing forward their respective interests, many of you will live to see this Dominion one of the most prosperous, peaceful and God-fearing countries in the world, far surpassing the most sanguine expectations of any of us. I will now take my seat, wishing you and yours a very happy and prosperous year.

HON. MR. MORRIS said: Seconding the motion is a very light task after the able manner in which our esteemed President has placed before you the strong position of this Company, and the important bearing of Life Insurance upon our national prosperity. I am glad to see here such a large and representative body of men engaged in presenting to our people the claims of this Company, and who are establishing it in a position of prominence and usefulness on the solid foundation that was from the outset the basis of its organization. The great advantages of Life Insurance are not as generally understood as they should be; its benefits are of the highest value to the community. I was much impressed with this fact by an examination of the last Insurance Report. At the end of 1867 the policies in force amounted to the large sum of \$191,694,000. To the hard-working mechanic, to the struggling clerk, to the merchant, and to the farmer, the boon of this great protection is in every sense a wise provision for their families, and meets their wants and necessities at a time when help is most needed, and in the majority of cases affords their only protection. I am very glad to know that our Company has been so successful in obtaining the confidence of the public. The large amount of business secured is the best evidence that the community have confidence in the Company. I think that the conservative methods upon which our business is conducted have contributed largely to this result. I most heartily concur with the President in the importance of Canadians giving their support to Canadian Companies. That our people are doing this is shown conclusively by the following figures: In 1867 the official reports show that United States Companies effected eight times as much insurance in Canada as the Canadian Companies; while in 1887 Canadian Companies effected more than double that of the United States Companies. In 1867 the premium income of the United States Companies was nearly three and a half times that of the Canadian Companies; while in 1887 the premium income of the Canadian Companies was considerably in excess of that of their United States competitors. This is conclusive evidence that our people are realizing the great advantages and convenience, when accommodation is needed, of dealing with our own institutions, and that companies like our own, which limit their operations to our healthy country and vigorous population, must necessarily be able to do better for their policy-holders than those extending their operations to the Southern States and other unhealthy parts of the world. Years ago, when consulting director of a large Scotch Company, I observed that the mortality in Canada was comparatively small; this fact is one of the utmost importance. The reports show that our Home companies receive a better rate of interest than their foreign competitors, and, therefore, should be able to give more satisfactory returns to policy-holders than such companies. As the profits will not be divided for two years, it was, I thought, a wise procedure, in view of passing events, to carry the whole of the whole of the savings of the past year to our Reserve Fund. This in no way affects the Surplus Fund, which could have been considerably augmented this year, but makes the position of our Company in security to our policy-holders and intending insurers unexcelled in this country. By a reference to the official Government reports, it must be exceedingly gratifying to notice that in the matter of income, assets, insurance in force, etc., we far excel any of them at the same period in their history. I have such confidence in our agents that I have no doubt we will be enabled each year to report to our Company in even a more favourable position.

MR. A. H. CAMPBELL, Chairman of the Finance Committee, in speaking of the care and discrimination used in making the Company's investments, said that it was a remarkably satisfactory state of affairs to have only some \$600 due for interest at the close of the year, and a few days after that this sum should be reduced to about \$100.

The usual votes of thanks were passed, and the election of Directors was then proceeded with. The scrutineers reported the old Board of Directors re-elected, with the addition thereto of his Worship, E. F. Clarke, Mayor of Toronto. After the adjournment of the meeting, the Board met and re-elected the officers of last year.