

PALM ✻ BRANCH.

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St. John, N. B.

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ST JOHN, N. B., JUNE, 1900.

Your Editor has had the great privilege of attending, for one week, the grand Ecumenical (world-wide) Conference on Foreign Missions, just held in the city of New York. To say that it was impressive, inspiring, is to say nothing. To see thousands of people seeking admittance to such a council was a sight in itself; to see them while there attentive, eager, enthusiastic in the greatest cause in all the world, must have rejoiced the hearts of Christ and the angels. The New York Sun, among other good things, says of it: "The missionary movement thus celebrated is the most emphatic expression of absolute faith in the Bible which could be made." The meeting was inaugurated by the presence on the platform of President McKinley, Gov. Roosevelt and Ex-President Harrison. The president made an earnest and sympathetic address, showing an interest in all missionary work. Gov. Roosevelt said he had once been sent on a mission to the Indians—not a mission in one sense of the word, but a diplomatic mission, and it had made him missionary as far as the Indians were concerned. He paid a glowing tribute to the success of missionary work; drawing a sharp contrast between the Indians in their natural state and those who had been reached by missionary effort. He dwelt particularly on one Indian woman who was a marvel to him. She seemed to be the head of the village. She had not only brought up a family, of whom any one might be proud, but she was teacher and preacher; consulted in cases of sickness and trouble of every kind; settling disputes and doing the duty generally of both chief and missionary.

It was very delightful to come suddenly, in the "Hospitality Rooms" and elsewhere, upon acquaintances from afar, and surprised exclamations and cordial greetings were heard on every side, as friend recognized friend in the vast crowd. We were pleased to meet our President, Field Secretary, Asst. Editor of Outlook, and a number of our own missionaries, Misses Cartmell, Preston, Belton, Brackbill and Lambly among the rest.

THE NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH OF THE W. M. S.

1882 TO 1900.

To Chentu, China, we have sent four representatives—two teachers, 2 doctors and a nurse. It was to this land that Dr. Retta Gifford and the much lamented Jennie Ford were first sent; the latter "though dead

yet speaketh" through the home for children bearing her name. Dr. Anna Henry went to the work last August. There is also a mission school with about twenty children; 14 little girls have their feet unbound, and we pray that soon their hearts also may be unbound. A small hospital is under the charge of Dr. Killam and Miss Foster. The importance of this two fold work cannot be estimated when we consider how the Chinese women are prohibited from receiving medical attention from a male physician, and up to the last few years have been without scientific medical treatment. Last year there were 80 cases, very many women having diseased bound feet. Our ladies also conduct a day school of 45 pupils and a large S. S. The work here is especially hazardous and difficult, the natives, as a rule, resisting any attempt of change in life or religion.

In Canada God has given us every blessing in connection with the work. At Victoria, B. C., there is a Girls' Home for Chinese women and girls, where the task of first rescuing and then retaining the girls is most disheartening and difficult. The usual work in S. S., visiting and house to house meetings, etc. is carried on. At Port Simpson is the well known Crosby Girls' Home, a blessed factor for soul saving among the Indians, among whom it now has an assured place.

Here, too, is the little hospital where medical service is rendered by that consecrated man, Dr. Bolton, who entered the field solely at the command of God, and relying upon Him alone. How God has honored his faith by giving him precious souls as his fee! The W. M. S. most gladly support two trained nurses to aid in his blessed ministrations. At Chiliauack is the flourishing Coqualeetza Institute, where a sound Christian education and every branch of house and farm work, and many trades are taught. This school is well nigh self-supporting; the W. M. S. but giving a grant. So advanced are the pupils that they have a Mission Band of 16 members.

To my mind there is nothing so pathetic in the history of our society as Kitamaat, where night after night came the half frozen and starved little Indian children tapping at the door of Mr. and Mrs. Raley, our Missionaries. I wish all my little friends who read the Palm Branch could know all about the little ones there who crowded into that little mission house to such an extent that the walls fairly cracked, and larger rooms had to be built. Perhaps some one will write to them about the home at Kitamaat.* Our W. M. S. gives a grant to aid Mr. and Mrs. Raley. Then, too, there is the French work, where a French Methodist Institute, at Montreal, does grand work among the Roman Catholics. Last year there were 132 applications for admission—55 coming from Roman Catholics. There are also four mission schools, whose combined attendance is close to 300. We, of Nova Scotia, have taken up the supply work to some extent, and goods to the amount of \$70 have been distributed.

M. R.

*This was done last month