

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.—Psalm li. 7.

## Our Mission Union,

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would not be a heavy tax on the majority of our present subscribers to take a few copies for circulation. Already we have several so doing, and we know that the papers thus circulated have been gladly welcomed in remote districts.

On our part we shall do all that in us lies to make the paper worthy of support by all God's people.

### The Toronto Mission Union.

**T**HE work of this Mission is carried on in such a quiet and unobtrusive manner, that few outside of those actually engaged in the work have any idea of its real usefulness, or of the rich blessing which it has proved to many families. There has been on the part of its promoters and principal workers, a desire to avoid anything which might appear like parade or display. Thus far little has been printed either by the Mission or about it, beyond the annual report or such notices as may have appeared from time to time in our columns. Personally we have oftentimes desired to give incidents in the work, or statistics regarding it, but we have experienced difficulty in getting the brethren to say much; in fact they seem to have a greater desire to *do* than to *talk*. Feeling convinced that there are hundreds of the Lord's stewards who, if acquainted with facts, would readily recognize the claims of the work, we have secured the following statistics regarding *part* of the work during August:—

16 ladies have regularly visited 34 districts, in which 500 families are called on each week. 9 ladies are collecting for the Fuel and Provident Fund, and already 122 persons have joined it. These visitors give away each month over 8,000 pages of religious reading matter. The attendance at the Mission halls has been 2,690 during the month. 18 open air services were held. The Missionary and Bible Woman made 104 visits; had 149 personal interviews on spiritual subjects; also gave away many tracts.

We also learn from the Treasurer that the expenses of the Mission are about \$1,400 per year (certainly a very small sum for such an amount of work). At present the total indebtedness of the Mission on building, &c., is \$1,300. We sin-

cerely trust that ere long we may receive the pleasing intelligence that this amount has been handed to the Treasurer, and that the Mission hall and work is free from all incumbrances. We know that such a result would greatly cheer the hearts of the workers, who are united in their desire to "owe no man anything but love"

## OUR COLUMN FOR PREACHERS AND TEACHERS.

NUGGETS OF GOLD FROM THE S. S. LESSONS.

By REV. JOHN McEWEN, Secretary S.S. Association of Canada.

Sept. 20] Naaman the Syrian. [2 Kings v. 1-16.

Read with this lesson the parable of the prodigal son, Luke xv. 11. The spirit that can apprehend and appreciate the one will be able to teach the other. The healing love and guiding wisdom of God is not confined to country or people, "God receiveth sinners."

A NOTABLE MAN—NAAMAN A SYRIAN.

High in military and civil ranks—Distinguished and great in the eye of his country and king—as great as the world could make him. "But He is a Leper." Every life has its discordant "But." The disease is largely oriental—is selected as the MOST SIGNIFICANT SYMBOL OF SIN. Lev. xiii.

AN OBSCURE MAIDEN.

Taken captive in a marauding expedition, given as a present, or sold as a slave to Naaman's wife. Read the story of Joseph—Gen. xxxix. 1-6. She carries the knowledge and spirit of her religion with her, Jer xxix 7. But for the Maid's earnest and expressed desire Naaman would have remained a leper forever.

HOW OUR GOOD DESIRES AND GOD'S PROVIDENCE WORK TOGETHER.

This is an instructive illustration of Man's liberty and God's sovereignty. Luke iv. 27. Naaman gets the hopeful words of the Maid from the wife Eager for recovery he goes to the King, who sends an autograph letter to the King of Israel, Benhadad, as the most direct way of finding the prophets whereabouts.

Naaman's position and the value of the blessing sought are illustrated by the character of the presents sent, worth about sixty thousand dollars. The King of Israel construes the whole into a desire on the part of Benhadad to raise a personal quarrel. v. 7.

The vital link in the chain of causes, is in the king's action having been communicated to Elisha.

Contrast clearly to the pupil, the royal equipage of the Leper and the humble home of the prophet in Samaria. Compare the miracle of Jno, ix. 11, with that of the narrative—First, the ignorance of the king of Israel prevented progress. Now, the pride of the leper, v. 10, 11, 12, threatens to wreck the narrative.

THE HEALING AND THE NEW LIFE.

Manifested by Confession—open Profession—Gratitude—Worship, v. 15.

The incurable persistent disease.

The one efficacious remedy.

The one simple but divine way of healing.