

Foreign Missions

W. B. M. U.

"We are labourers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. J. W. Manning, 240 Duke Street, St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR JANUARY.

For Paicondah.—That Mr. Hardy may be cheered in his loneliness and given great wisdom and success in his work. That God's blessing may be clearly manifested in the work of every church in the home land during the coming New Year.

Two years ago during the conference in Vizianagram our Missionaries who first went out to India in 1873, met after so many years of separation and had their pictures taken. Mrs. Armstrong takes the place of Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Boggs of Miss Armstrong (Mrs. Currie), Katie Armstrong, Lottie Sanford and Bessie Churchill are also included.

It was intended that this picture should accompany this article, but it has failed to reach us. Mrs. Churchill's article will be enjoyed by all our readers as it gives many details unknown to our younger readers and forgotten by the older ones.

Not one death had occurred in this pioneer band in all these years, and a song of thanksgiving went up when we met in Vizianagram, for sparing us all so long to his work among the heathen.

A few reminiscences of the early life of these missionaries may not be amiss for the young people in our home churches. All were born in Nova Scotia. Mr. Churchill in the West, Yarmouth, and Mrs. Armstrong in the East, Canso, Mr. and Mrs. Sanford and Mrs. Boggs in the beautiful Cornwallis valley, and Mr. Boggs and Mrs. Churchill in Lower S'ewiacke. Mrs. Sanford and Mrs. Churchill were born in the same year. Mr. Churchill, Mr. Sanford, Mr. Boggs and Mrs. Armstrong in the same year.

They were each born again and baptized in the same part of Nova Scotia in which they first saw the light, except Mr. Churchill. He was converted and baptized by Rev. D. W. C. Dimock in Truro, at the age of 26. Of the others, Mr. Sanford was converted at the age of 13, and baptized at 15 by Rev. A. S. Hunt, Mrs. Churchill at 14, baptized by Elder D. Lawson, Mrs. Boggs baptized at 11, by Rev. A. S. Hunt and Mr. Boggs at 15 by Rev. T. H. Porter, Sen. Mrs. Sanford by Rev. James Parker, Mrs. Armstrong converted at 15, baptized at 26, by Rev. D. A. Steele. The three young ladies were all born in the East. Katie Armstrong at Maulpiani, Burmah, Lottie Sanford at Bimlipitam and Bessie Churchill at Madras, India. These were all born again in early life and baptized at the age of 13. Bessie Churchill by Rev. N. T. Dutton at Houlton, Maine, Katie by her father at Brighton, England, and Lottie by her father at Bimlipitam, India.

These missionaries were all Sunday school, and most all day school teachers in the home land. Mrs. Churchill taught seven years in the Prov. Model school, Truro, besides teaching a Grammar school in Pictou County for a year, she being the only lady teacher who ever took a Grammar school license from the Normal School, Truro. Mrs. Armstrong taught for a short time in the Ladies' Seminary at Wolfville. Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Churchill, Mrs. Boggs, and Mr. Churchill, were all trained as teachers, at the Normal School Truro. Mrs. Boggs took two terms, and Mrs. Churchill three at the Woman's Medical College, Philadelphia. Messrs Sanford and Boggs were graduates of Acadia University, Wolfville, and Messrs. Sanford and Churchill, graduates in Theology at Newton Centre, Mass. Acadia University has the honor of conferring the degree of M. A. on Mr. Sanford and Mr. Churchill, and D. D. on Mr. Boggs. Mr. Boggs had been a pastor at home some years before coming to the East. Katie Armstrong studied at McMaster University and at Newton Centre. Lottie Sanford attended the Ladies' Seminary at Wolfville, and holds a nurse's diploma from Malden, Mass., and Bessie Churchill is a graduate of Acadia University. Mrs. Armstrong had been a missionary to the Indians at Canso, and Mr. Churchill to the Negroes of Truro, for some years before coming to India. In the coloured Sunday School at Truro, Mrs. Churchill was assisted at different times, by several young ladies who afterwards became missionaries, i. e. Miss Norris (Mrs. Armstrong), Miss Norwood (Mrs. Lyale), Miss Lowe (Mrs. Geo. gr.), and Miss Eaton (Mrs. Boggs). To Mrs. Armstrong, nee Miss Norris, belongs the honor of starting the W. M. A. Societies in Canada in 1870, before she came out to Burmah as a missionary young lady. Mr. and Mrs. Sanford were married at Billtown, Aug. 20th, and Mr. and Mrs. Churchill at Truro, Sept. 16th, 1873. These with Mr. Armstrong, Miss Eaton and Miss Armstrong were all designated to the work of Foreign Missions at the Convention held at Windsor in Aug. 1873. After this, farewell meetings were held in Halifax and St. John. Then the party took the train at Carleton for New York accom-

panied by Dr. Cramp, T. H. Porter, Mrs. March, Mr. Boggs and others. They sailed from New York, Oct. 1st and to this day, the remembrance of the long white locks of dear Dr. Cramp, as he stood in the crowd on the wharf, after saying good-bye, the last clearly recognizable object from the deck of our steamer, as our native land sank from our sight, brings tears to our eyes, as if it had been yesterday. Many of us never saw him again. Thirteen days we rolled and pitched and tossed upon the waves of the Atlantic, in our cattle steamer, before we reached Glasgow. Many of the cattle died and were thrown into the sea. At Glasgow we were detained six weeks, for a steamer to Burmah. Here we were joined, the next week by 8 missionaries of the Union, and the 15 of us held missionary meeting in Glasgow, Paisley and Edinburgh. Miss Eaton and Mrs. Churchill, visited the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, having received permission from the matron Miss Tait, and waited upon the patients, learning to dress ulcers and bind up bruise and broken limbs. From Glasgow we 15 missionaries took the same steamer to Rangora. We were six weeks on this journey, and glad indeed when our feet again touched terra firma, on Jan. 12th, 1874.

We had been sent out to the Karens of Siam, but it was thought best for us to remain in Burmah for a time and learn the Karen language. In less than two weeks after we landed the one unmarried man of our party, Mr. Armstrong took to himself a wife, Miss Norris, who had come out two years previous. After this event one band took steamer to Savoy. The old Mission house there was expanded by means of mat partitions, sufficiently, to accommodate the three families, Mr. and Mrs. Sanford, Mr. and Mrs. Churchill Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, and the two young ladies, Miss Eaton and Miss Armstrong in separate rooms, so that the roof covered all, and all started in to learn the Karen language. But after a month of this, it seemed expedient that some of our party go around to Siam and learn the Siamese language. Mr. and Mrs. Churchill and Miss Eaton volunteered for this service and embarked on a small trading steamer for Penang. There a P and O steamer picked them up and conveyed them to Singapore, from which place they journeyed by river steamers to Bangkok. Here they industriously studied the Siamese language, and the two ladies started an English school, which some of the nobility with others attended, and heard something of Christ, the principal object in starting the school. Before the New Year, Mr. Boggs arrived and he and Mr. Churchill took a journey by boat 350 miles up the Meinam river to Peshawing, where they met their brethren Sanford and Armstrong, who had journeyed from Maulmain in Burmah, by boat up the Salween river to the foot of the mountains that separate Burmah from Siam. These three ranges they crossed on elephants, and came out at Kaha'ng. There and all along these journeyings they had sought for Karens among whom to establish our Mission, both decided upon comparing notes, and after much prayer, that the project was not feasible and wrote home to that effect. Messrs Sanford and Armstrong returned to Maulmain, and Messrs Boggs and Churchill to Bangkok, where both Armstrong and Churchill had the joy of welcoming the former a daughter and the latter a son who had arrived during their absence, and were now two weeks old. The next month, March, at Bangkok, another marriage was celebrated, and Mr. and Mrs. Boggs began their life journey together, in an upper room on the banks of the beautiful Meinam.

In June a telegram was received from our Board, in obedience to which the four families, two from Siam and two from Burmah, leaving two little graves behind one in Bangkok and one in Rangoon, came across the Bay of Bengal and settled in Coconada. The four families occupied a house of five rooms, one for each family and the dining room in common where we clubbed and took turns at housekeeping. We remained here but a few months and have never since met, all of us together, till at this Conference in Vizianagram in Dec. 1902.

Only one of the 8 is absent in this picture Mr. Armstrong; and the only child in it, who was there then, is Katie Armstrong. Now there are two more, and all ready to enter into the work in which their parents have been so long engaged. The Sanfords and Churchills have stuck to the old ship in which they were first launched into missionary life. The Boggs and Armstrongs have been taken on by the A. B. M. U. the former working in India and the latter in Burmah.

The experiences of each family during these 27 years, if written would no doubt be interesting reading. To all have come most of the experiences of Mission life, work, loneliness, anxiety, discouragements, separation of families, sickness, death, joy and thanksgiving. Four little graves, one at Calingapatam, India, one at Canard, N. S. and two at Bobbili, made since the months spent together at Coconada, testify that that sorrow has not been a stranger to these missionaries during these years, and some of the coffins in those graves, the missionary had to make with his own hands.

Success in their work, converts gathered in, testify that they have known joys, perhaps greater than those who have

hazarded less, and the "Lo I am with you always" has never failed them. Besides direct evangelistic work in which all have been engaged, much school work has fallen to the lot of Mrs. Armstrong in Burmah, Mrs. Churchill in Bobbili, and Mr. Boggs in the Theological Seminary at Ramapatam. Katie and Bessie are also teachers, and Lottie a professional nurse, and all love their work.

It was a great joy to meet again after so many years of separation, and as we talked of our experiences and recounted the Lord's mercies our hearts were filled with praise and our mouths with thanksgiving. This is our last picture together! Little we thought that death would so soon enter our charmed circle, but it has, and our dear sister Sanford is the first break, and we sorrow that we shall see her loved face no more here. The first grave of the seven appointed nearly 30 years ago was made in the cemetery at Madras, in July, 1903, on which a wreath of white flowers, and a bunch of fragrant violets were laid the Sunday afternoon we visited it.

She was not there, the one we loved so well and so long; and though our tears fell upon the mound, we looked upward and by faith saw our beloved friend, safely folded in the home above, Mrs. Sanfords first Sabbath in Heaven. Her memory will be held in loving remembrance as long as one member of the present staff of missionaries is this side of the river.

"No single virtue we could most commend, whether the mother, the wife, or the friend, for she was all in that supreme degree, that as no one prevailed so all was she." "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

Foreign Mission Receipts.

Donations:—A friend, \$8; S. S. class, Campbellton, \$7.50; A friend, \$5; Mary M. Hewson, \$1; Nat. Bible Society, Scotland, \$35.08; B. Y. P. U., Tryon, P. E. I., \$3; Walton church, N. S., \$5; A friend, \$4; Bethany church, Sydney, \$100; Kentville S. S., \$5.50; \$174.08

Legacies:—Est. John Bew \$100; Est. Mrs. Allison Smith, \$3000; \$3100.

Support of Rev. R. E. Gullison:—A. W. Noble, \$5; Harry King, \$10; Mrs. E. D. Shaw, \$5; \$20.

Support of Rev. S. C. Freeman:—B. Y. P. U., Main St., St. John, \$15.

Support of Rev. J. E. Glendening:—Forward Mission Band Yarmouth \$5; Temple church, B. Y. P. U., \$13; Mrs. Frank Strickland, \$5; W. M. A. S., New Germany, \$5; German St. church, \$56.78. Total to Jan. 1st 1905, \$477.75

Besides the above there have been received from the Rev. G. A. Lawson on account of the B. Y. P. U. fund for support of Rev. S. C. Freeman the sum of \$195.88 which will appear in the account of treasurer of denominational funds for N. S., as they have been reported to him, and \$20 which will appear in the account of the treasurer of denominational funds for N. B.

The funds accruing from the Industrial Guild will be credited in full to the churches within whose bounds the "Guilds" are in operation. This will save confusion and misunderstanding. Brethren send along your remittances. J. W. MANNING, Sec'y Treas.

St. John, Jan. 04, 1905.

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