

two Dioceses of Columbia and New Westminster were present. It was then suggested that the proposed Province bear the name of "Columbia," and that the Diocese of Columbia be forever the Metropolitan See. A committee was appointed to draw up a constitution to be submitted to a future conference, but there the matter seems to have ended.

✠ We had expected and arranged to visit Nanaimo, Kuper Island, etc., on our return from San Francisco, but the Bishop requested us instead to remain in Victoria, as he was anxious we should meet the church-women of the city and explain to them the objects and work of the Woman's Auxiliary with a view to their being organized into a Branch of the Association. Of course, we were delighted to do so, feeling sure that the Missions we had intended to visit would certainly gain by this change in our plans.

The pleasant memory of that afternoon gathering of our sister church-women in the lovely garden which surrounds Bishop's Close will never be effaced from our minds, and it is one of the very unlooked for results of our missionary visits that we now have our fellow-workers out on the Pacific coast.

That the women there will put heart and soul into their work is certain from the fact that for some years past the women of Christ Church Cathedral have contributed \$400 annually to the Mission Fund of the Diocese.

THE SORROWING LEPERS.—*Concluded.*

BY MISS LAURA MUDGE.



HE Moravians have a leper home near Jerusalem, where, for the Master's sake, men and women are in hourly attendance on the inmates. We come now to India with its teeming population, the great stronghold of leprosy. It has spread through our Indian Empire to a fearful extent and is a great source of danger to all classes of society. Government statistics give 135,000 lepers, but large as this number is, it is nothing to the reality. This statement only includes pronounced lepers, but competent authorities, reckoning incipient cases, the women secluded in Zenanas and others, place the number at 500,000! Let us pause and consider what an awful amount of suffering this represents. Can nothing be done? Shall the cry of these sorrowful ones pass unheeded and we "pass by on the other side?" Not so, the cry has been heard, and the message of redeeming love is being proclaimed by means of "The Mission to Lepers," founded in 1874, and no less than twelve mission stations where there are leper hospitals or settlements. This Society does not send out missionaries but avails itself of existing

agencies, makes grants of money towards asylums, prayer rooms, etc., and provides for the support of individual cases. At Allnorah 350 lepers have become Christians and God has given a rich harvest in many of the asylums. There is a great need for homes for the children of lepers. One missionary writes, "Perhaps the saddest of all sights that the eye of man can behold, is to see a bright innocent child fondled in the arms of a leper mother, and being fed from hands which are a mass of corruption, and yet thousands of such sights are every day witnessed in India. By God's help I have determined to make an effort to save them, my plan is to build a home for them near my own Bungalow, distant a mile and a quarter from the asylum, and to induce the parents to hand over the care of them to me. We shall endeavour to instruct them in the knowledge of God's word, the three R's, and in some of the handicrafts of the country so that when old enough they may be able to gain their own livelihood. The total cost of maintaining these children will be very small, and already (Nov., 1890), the support of nineteen children has been promised. \$20 will support one child. Our hope is that not only the whole of the children now in the asylum at Tarn Taran, (the largest of all the leper asylums of India), but that in time the home will become a central institution for the Punjab, as the asylum now is. This is not a visionary idea, as at the asylum at Allnorah where they do separate parents and children most satisfactory results have been obtained, and of all those separated only one child has shown any signs of the disease. Many are now out in the world and gaining their livelihood. If these little ones are separated in time from their parents they may escape the dread scourge, as being hereditary, it is contagious, and under purer surroundings and proper care, if they have not inherited the malady, there is hope for them. So contagious is the disease that in one instance, the native Bible women were forbidden to come into the leper hospital, as they might through their bare feet receive infection. Notwithstanding this, we read of one missionary who was in charge of a new asylum in the Himalayas, when one of the lepers died, with his own hands prepared the body for burial, and carried it to the grave, being unable to get anyone to help him. At the asylum of Tarn Taran, when first visited by the Rev. E. Guilford of the C. M. S., he found six candidates for baptism. How had they found the light amidst the heathen darkness? Through a little company of Christian lepers, who after the death of their own beloved teacher, Dr. Newton, had wandered about the country and finally brought the tidings of salvation to this dark spot. The work increased, a church was built, where, every Sunday with open doors and windows, so that the poor heathen lepers