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Contributors and Correspondents

WOMAN'S ANNUAL MISSIONARY MEETING IN CHICAGO.

The sixth annual meeting of the Woman's Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, for the north-west, was held in Chicago, commencing Wednesday, April 25th. In response to an invitation from Mrs. A. R. Hoge, President of the Board, the Canadian Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church, determined to send delegates to Chicago, feeling assured that much practical information, and many valuable hints as to plans and methods of work, would thereby be obtained for the benefit of their infant society. Five delegates were therefore appointed: Mrs. MacLaren, President, Mrs. John McMurrich, Mrs. J. M. King, Miss Topp, and Mrs. J. Harris. Mrs. McMurrich and Miss Topp being unable to attend, Mrs. J. M. Cameron was appointed a representative instead.

Leaving Toronto early in the week, your delegates passed through Windsor, and with the assistance of Rev. Mr. Gray, pastor of our Church there, succeeded in organizing a very important auxiliary. On reaching Chicago at nine a.m., Wednesday, we were cordially welcomed by Christian friends, and conveyed without delay to First Church, Indiana Avenue.

Upon entering, we found that Mrs. Hoge, President, had already taken the chair.

The Board was convened in the "auditorium," or main floor of the building, several hundred ladies being present even at this early hour. Above, and behind the chair, in full view of the assembly, hung an elaborately executed map of the world, representing mission fields in the north, south, east and west. Over the platform, upon the apex of a column of ivory and other "wandering vines," perched a white dove, with wings outspread. Surrounding the pulpit, upon the communion table, and in the "lofters," were pyramids of roses, vases of heliotrope, geraniums, ferns, and water-lilies, delighting and exhilarating the senses, not only with the beauty and harmony of their coloring, but with the richness and fragrance of their perfume.

Delegates were present from Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Nebraska, Missouri, Minnesota, Illinois, California, and Canada; also returned missionaries; among others, Miss M. Porter of China, Mrs. Prunyn of Japan, and Mrs. Rhea of Persia.

After devotional exercises, Mrs. Hoge presented to the delegates and friends of the Board, an address of "welcome," outlining the work, to which the Lord had called them in the words of scripture, "The Master is come and calleth for thee." This call was to all Christian women, and she was delighted to "welcome" from hill-side and prairie, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Gulf to the Lakes, and even from the Dominion of Canada, representatives of the Foreign Mission work. With reverence, also, was a "welcome" accorded to foreign missionaries returned from India and other lands on account of failing health, and a prayer offered that God would bless the meeting, and that His banner which was love, might be over all, and above all. Miss E. Peabody of Ohio, replied to the kindly words of welcome spoken by the President.

Mrs. Hoge then delivered the opening address, which was a masterly effort, the few following passages conveying but a faint idea of either its force or beauty:

"The cause of foreign missions rests on prophecies scattered over the sacred page, from Genesis to Malachi; upon the command of the Lord Jesus Christ, 'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel'; upon the revelation of God's merciful plans for the Gentiles, in a vision to Peter; and upon the sending of Paul, 'far hence to the Gentiles,' throughout Syria and Cilicia, and even to Rome, the imperial city. In less than four centuries the Cross of Christ was reared over the throne of the Caesars, whose memory is now obscured by the dust of ages, while the teachings of Paul, Christ and Him crucified, are the vital force of the world to-day. The results of foreign mission work may be summed up as follows: The Gospel preached, sung, and prayed in 200 languages; 12,000,000 Bibles, and 1,600,000 pages of Christian literature distributed in heathen lands; 81,000 missionaries and Christian laborers of all kinds. Christian education given to 600,000 of both sexes; half a million native heathen communicants in Christian churches, and a population of over 1,500,000 who have adopted the Christian name. 90,000 Figians gather for worship on the Lord's Day. In Madagascar, the queen, prime minister, and 200,000 subjects are firm adherents of Christianity; and in 800 islands of Polynesia, heathenism has been entirely swept away by the Gospel, all of which has been accomplished at a cost of \$6,000,000 annually.

"Woman's department of this work has been specially placed in her hands by the Providence of God, and has sprung, as Dr. Joseph Cook might say, from the nature of things. For ages heathen women have been treated with so much injustice and unkindness; so excluded from all life, and hope, and happiness, by a despotic master; so surrounded by the adamantine wall of 'caste' and custom, that no wonder they become stupid, helpless beings. It has come now to be understood that woman's puny arm, braced by Omnipotence, is the only instrument that can make a breach in the wall.

"Woman is ever an acknowledged power even in her degradation, because she is the God-ordained mother and educator of the

race. When Christian homes, and Christian wives and mothers supplant the Pandemonium of degraded womanhood, then, and only then, will the idols totter and fall from their pedestals.

"The aim and success of 'Woman's work for woman,' can better be illustrated by living facts, than by logic or generalizations. Twenty years ago, old Bageet Singh Masaja of the Punjab, died, eleven of his living wives being burned with him upon a costly pile of sandal-wood. Now, his son, a Christian gentleman, married to the little Cooptoss, 'Bamba,' daughter of an Abyssinian slave, but a convert, and a teacher in one of the mission schools of Cairo—resides in England. Four beautiful children brighten his princely home, and 'Bamba's' time is chiefly occupied in visiting and praying with the poor of the neighborhood. This veritable statement explains the aim and success of woman's work for woman."

At the close of the address, committees on reports, etc., were appointed; after which delegates from other societies were received.

As representative of the Woman's Interior Board of Foreign Missions for the Congregational Church, Mrs. M. Smith was introduced, and received with expressions of welcome. She gave a short account of the work undertaken by their society, and besought a blessing to rest upon the Presbyterian Board for the north-west, and upon all the work to which they had been called.

Rev. Mrs. Harris of the Woman's Baptist Board of Foreign Missions, was then called to the platform, and presented a succinct statement of their efforts in the past. Already they numbered 200 auxiliaries and 200 mission bands. They had three central societies, namely, the Eastern, the Western, and the Pacific, while the Baptist friends of Canada had recently entered vigorously into foreign mission work.

Mrs. J. F. Willing appeared on behalf of the north-west branch of the Methodist Woman's Board of Missions. During the past year their society had collected \$75,000 without a single paid agent. They number 800 auxiliaries, with a membership of 14,000.

One of the delegates of the Woman's Foreign Mission Society, Toronto, Canada, was then presented to the Board, and cordially welcomed. Reference was made by her, to the fact, that their delegation had come virtually from a foreign land, yet it was a matter for rejoicing that they could that morning clasp hands at the foot of the "cross," feeling truly in unison, in this one longing desire for the salvation of the women and children of heathen lands. After very briefly describing the success and scope of the Canadian society, during the past and only year of their organization, she stated, that, though, in many respects, their story was a very humble one in comparison with other preceding ones, yet, in faith, they had "cast" in this "mite" of effort into the "treasury," being assured, that, by and by, it would bring forth "much fruit" to the honor and glory of God.

The morning session closed with a description, by Mrs. L. Prunyn, of missionary labor in the curious land of Japan, contrasting the time of her arrival there, when there were but six Christians, with the time of her departure, when the entire kingdom was opening up, all white unto the harvest.

After singing "Hold the Fort," the Board adjourned to the lecture-room, where the ladies of different Presbyterian churches in the city had provided an ample collation for the delegates.

Shortly after two p.m., Mrs. Hoge was again in the chair. The attendance of ladies at this hour was largely augmented, the main floor being crowded to the vestibule, with numbers of visitors in the galleries. Mrs. J. P. Kummer offered prayer, and the Home Secretary presented a report of the home work of the Board. The following is an outline: A common sorrow had been experienced in the death of Mrs. Doremus of New York, the originator of woman's work for women in heathen lands; also a family sorrow in the death of Mrs. Kittridge, one of their officers, and a leader of the work in Chicago. 127 new auxiliaries had been formed, making a total of 545, also twelve new Presbyterian societies. Indians had made thorough work of it, every Presbytery having organized a society. Two new missionaries had been sent out, one to China, another to Persia. They were now pledged to support twenty-four missionaries. Attention was especially directed to systematic giving by envelopes, and to the magazines edited by the Board. A most touching appeal was made to mothers in the great north-west, for homes for the children of missionaries returned for education, and a strong exhortation to the members to fill every day and every hour of this new year with earnest work.

The Foreign Secretary's report was then read, which contained a complete resume of the foreign work of the society. Treasurer's report showed that the total amount of the receipts during the year, including the month of April, was \$23,718.89, total amount disbursed being \$25,390.79. After reading, the reports were referred to committees.

For the accommodation, and at the desire of delegates who could not remain until next day, the "Missionary tableaux" was brought on. Mrs. Rhea of Persia, made a glowing little address, and by way of proving that our foreign mission work is not upon either the planet of Jupiter or Venus, but on the earth, and that mission fields are not "bournes from whence no traveler returns," she proceeded to introduce to the audience ladies who had labored in heathen lands, also mothers whose children

had been, or still were there. Pondering this, she invited the assembly to sing, "Lord I hear of showers of blessing." During the singing the ladies took their places on the platform in the following order—Mrs. Countess of China, Mrs. Arnold of Greece, Mrs. Barker of Assam, Miss Dean of Persia, co-laborer with Mrs. Rhea, and Mrs. Quick, of Oeylon, returned missionaries; also Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Whipple, Mrs. Bassett and Mrs. Kellogg, four venerable mothers, who had consecrated their children, some of them even from infancy, to God and mission work. The occasion was most impressive, and as these earnest self-dedicating women spoke words of cheer or encouragement, many were affected to tears.

The pre-arranged programme was immediately resumed by the reading of five minute papers, upon topics relating to both Home and Foreign Mission work, by ladies of different States. Subjects chosen by representatives from India were: "The importance of a knowledge of Foreign Missions." "Methods of gaining and spreading missionary intelligence." "Some things important for women to know about missions." "A true knowledge of Foreign Missions has invariably an elevating influence upon both mind and heart, with a tendency to destroy narrowness and selfishness, to ennoble the character, rendering it more disinterested and Christ-like. These papers were carefully prepared, brilliant and vivacious, and abounding with instructive thoughts and interesting facts. The subject chosen by delegates from Wisconsin was "Consecration." Mrs. Stewart's paper upon this topic deserves special mention. It was divided into the nature, the need, the source, and the reward of consecration, and can best be described by the words heavenly. After a short address from these words, "Let this mind be also in you," etc., the session was closed for the day by the singing of the doxology.

In the evening, by special request of Dr. Kittridge, a part of the Canadian delegation, accompanied Mrs. Gen. Van Cleave to the Third Presbyterian Church, for the purpose of interesting the ladies more thoroughly in Foreign Mission work.

The second and last days' session of the sixth annual meeting of the Woman's Presbyterian Board of Missions for the North-West was opened on Thursday morning by Mrs. Hoge, President, calling the meeting to order at half-past nine o'clock. At the close of devotional exercises, conducted by Mrs. Van Cleave, Mrs. Kummer held upon the platform a "model monthly missionary meeting." The only plan adopted in the management of this "Model" meeting, worthy of special attention or imitation, was the selection of a subject for the month, such as India, Africa, etc., and the presentation of any fact, or facts, or some important items of information concerning the country chosen.

Mrs. Vinton, of Iowa, then read another beautiful paper upon "Consecration," this being apparently a favorite topic. "Frequently have we asked the question, 'Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?' Down the centuries the answer has been echoing and re-echoing, 'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel.' We cannot all go, but we can send, we can, and must work, wherever our lot is cast."

Any little corner, Lord, in Thy vineyard wide,
Where 'T wouldst bid me work for Thee,
There would I abide;
Miracle of saving grace,
That Thou givest me a place,
Anywhere.

And the promise would surely thrill an angel's heart—"Lo I am with you always, even unto the end." Next came an admirable essay on "Steadfastness." "It matters not very much what Christian work we are doing, if only we do it to the end, and be able to say at the close of life, I have finished that which Thou gavest me to do."

The morning session closed with a short address, by Mrs. Fry, upon the subject—"So much to do at home," and the benediction pronounced by Dr. Mitchell.

Convention re-assembled at two p.m. Mrs. Hoge in the chair. Delegate from the Congregational Board of Woman's Foreign Missionary Society engaged in prayer, after which Mrs. Gen. Van Cleave, the oldest white inhabitant of the State of Minnesota, read a valuable paper on "Gift Worship." The Foreign Secretary of the Canadian Society then offered prayer, and the whole congregation joined in singing "Shall we gather at the river." As the voice of song died away, and many thoughts were reaching forward, feebly endeavoring to bridge the chasm between time and eternity, the present and the future, in anticipation of the glorious gathering of the "ransomed of the Lord," Mrs. Rhea stepped forward, and in a spirited and touching address, conveyed to the Board a legacy of \$150. This sum had been donated by a lady, who six weeks ago had entered into rest. She stated that there were supreme moments in life. Doubtless, it was a supreme moment in the life of President Hayes, when the multitude, and with the voice of one man, cried out—"Amen." It was a supreme moment in the life of "Victoria the Good," when the diadem of the Stuarts settled first upon her youthful brow; and it was the supreme moment of this Convention, when the gift of a saint, now casting her crown before God and the Lamb, was dropped into its treasury. She concluded with a prayer, that God would so bless this \$150, that each dollar might represent one, yes, ten souls, redeemed and purified for the heavenly Jerusalem.

At this juncture a most interesting and novel service was held, intended to illustrate how an interest in missions can be created, and continued among the young. A band of some twenty girls and boys was called to the platform, and under the supervision of Mrs.

Rhea, delighted the audience with the novelty and variety of their exercises. The band or circle was divided into twelve companies, each having its part, or parts, to perform in the programme. In this way, no individual could possibly be neglected. Some were writers, some historians, some item-givers, some poets, etc. One little poetess, of about four summers, repeated with accuracy, in a clear and sweetly modulated voice, that long and beautiful poem, entitled, "The Holy Crusade." Another chubby chap, an item-giver, contributed as his quota to the general information upon the subject for the day—Hindostan—the fact that "many of the Hindoos thought the moon was their father."

At the close of this class exhibition, the report of the committee on reports was received. This document, read by Mrs. Stewart, was an able one, representing the plith, or main features of the three yearly reports, and closed with a melting appeal to Christian mothers to open their hearts and homes to the little lonely missionary children. She knew of a home where the plate, napkin and chair are daily placed at the table, where the dainty room and bed are kept in order for the dear little one whom God took to Himself years ago. Would not that redeemed one, as she looks down from her happy home, be glad to see a child in her place, and would not the sweet reward of such a service be more than treasured sorrow and unavailing regrets.

An hour was then devoted to the hearing of missionary experiences, given by returned laborers—Miss Mary Porter of China, and Miss Dean of Persia. Miss Porter is the daughter of one of the earliest Presbyterian ministers in Chicago. During eight years she has labored in North China, and is prepared as soon as failing health is restored to devote herself again to the work. In appearance and manner Miss Porter is extremely youthful, with a peculiarly lovely, nay almost angelic expression of countenance. She speaks of her class of Chinese girls in the most endearing and commendatory terms, hoping soon, if the "Lord wills," to be with them again.

Mrs. Hoge stated, that as a Board, they had become responsible to the General Assembly, that year, for the sum of \$30,000. The treasurer yet lacked \$1,000 of the required amount. Some enthusiastic ladies suggested a collection, which was at once "taken up," fully meeting the demand. After singing the hymn, "Whosoever will, may come," the last business session of this unusually interesting meeting was closed with an appropriate prayer, by the Rev. Munroe Gibson.

In the evening the delegates, missionaries, and visiting friends, were entertained at the parlors and lecture room of Second Church—pastor, Rev. M. Gibson. The proceedings were of an informal nature, the social element prevailing. After short congratulatory addresses from clergyman present, hands were clasped, good-byes exchanged, and thus terminated the sixth annual meeting of the Woman's Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions for the North-West.

Praise God, that Christian women may assist in waiting the story of the "Cross" from sea to sea, and from shore to shore; in waving the Gospel banner over all lands, until finally, with a glad resounding "Hosanna," we shall triumphantly sing, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ."

L. HARRIS, For. Sec. W. F. M. S.
Toronto, May 14th, 1877.

Praiseworthy Example.

EDITOR BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN.
DEAR SIR,—Perhaps you will be kind enough to publish the following list of subscriptions towards the funds of Knox College Students' Missionary Society, by Presbyterian teachers and pupils in Hamilton Collegiate Institute.

The example of these friends of missions is worthy of all commendation; and, in omitting the amount subscribed, it is very properly suggested that by making the Church acquainted with what has been done in Hamilton, "other schools may be stimulated to take the matter up, and thus the Presbyterian students in these institutions may make the work their own."

W. G. Hanna, \$2; Geo. Dickson, \$8; J. C. L. Armstrong, \$1; P. Strang, \$1; J. Ratloff, \$5; James Stoddart, \$5; Thomas Young, \$5; John Essery, \$5; Chas. E. Bell, \$5; Jas. J. Conashe, \$5; W. E. Lyall, \$5; N. McCallum, \$5; H. W. Hicks, \$5; J. McCallum, \$5; D. Buchanan, \$5; C. Robertson, \$5; M. Chestnut, \$5; Yours very truly,
Wm. Caven.

May 12th, 1877.

Students' Missionary Society, Presbyterian College, Montreal.

The following sums received by the Treasurer, up to date, are hereby thankfully acknowledged: Baltimore and Coldsprings, per W. D. Russell, \$4; L. Amable, by solres, per D. L. McCrae, \$89.45; Thane and the Ridge, per D. L. McCrae, \$10.55; York River, per D. L. McCrae, \$5; L'Amable, per Chas. McKillop, B.A., \$7; Thane, per Chas. McLean, \$1; Stanley St. Church Missionary Society, Montreal, \$25; R. B. Arthur, \$5; D. Morrie, Esq., Montreal, per J. Mitchell, \$10; J. Sterling, Esq., Montreal, per J. Mitchell, \$5; Erskine, Church Missionary Society, Montreal, \$100; Coaticook, per J. K. Baillie, \$19; Chalmers' Church Sabbath School, Montreal, \$20; a Friend, Montreal, \$2.65; collection, Knox Church, Montreal, \$60; collection, Williamstown, per A. C. Morton, \$11.87. J. A. ANDERSON, Treasurer.
Pres. Col., Montreal, April 30th, 1877.

ANOTHER SUGGESTION.

MR. EDITOR.—As the Assembly has already through your columns received considerable advice as to how it should conduct itself at Halifax, perhaps it would suffer a little longer the word of exhortation.

Let all matters pertaining to the granting of offices, and the originating or increase of salaries be brought before the Assembly when its numbers are the greatest. Neglect of this in the past has done immense damage.

And unless it can be shown that it would result in serious harm to the Church, let all such matters be referred to Presbyteries before final action is taken in regard to them. Political leaders are sufficiently wise not to go farther than public opinion will justify them in going. Ecclesiastical leaders have not shown equal sagacity in the past. A word to the wise is enough.

Yours etc., SAPIENTIA.
May 15th, 1877.

The Recent Union.

EDITOR BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN.

DEAR SIR,—Two years have nearly passed since the harmonious union of the Presbyterian Churches in the Dominion of Canada was consummated, and the good or evil effects to the cause of Christ flowing therefrom, should now be evidently developing themselves, and we might profitably follow the example of the skillful workman, who occasionally pauses in the midst of his labor, and critically contemplates the effects of his past efforts, and decides upon what yet remains to be done to most effectually complete his work in all its parts. Would it not be attended with good effects, were the approaching General Assembly to appoint a small select committee, to investigate and report on the amount of good already accomplished, and suggest some modes of removing obstacles that may yet stand in the way, preventing the full development of all the benefits that we have a right to expect from the completion of so great a work? Undoubtedly such a report would confirm the truth of the old proverb, that "Union is strength," seeing that, in many localities, two of the late denominations had each a pastoral charge, struggling to maintain a bare existence, alike discouraging to pastors and people, which are now, through the harmonious amalgamation of their churches, under one pastor, become strong vigorous charges. But it should be borne in mind, and such a report should record the fact, that it might be kept in remembrance by a grateful Church, to the honor of those concerned, that before such happy results were accomplished, sacrifices had to be made. The people had in many instances to sacrifice many things that they looked upon as necessary to their comfort and convenience. Great though these may have been to the parties interested, they are small in comparison with those made in many instances by the ministers, who, for the sake of advancing the interests of their Master's cause, by bringing his followers into union and harmony, voluntarily gave up their charges, casting themselves and families upon the world. We justly esteem and reverence those faithful ministers in past times, who in order to maintain their principle, gave up their livings. But the instances above referred to are more worthy of our esteem and admiration, seeing that there were no principles at stake in the matter, but that it was done wholly and solely for the purpose of advancing the interests of Christ's kingdom, by uniting, and consolidating His followers more closely by the ties of a common brotherhood. It would be interesting to know the instances in which their Master has already rewarded those—His faithful followers—who thus acted, showing by their self-sacrifices the deep interest they felt in His cause. As there are still numerous localities similarly situated, where two weak charges might, with advantage and profit to all concerned, be united into one, were it not for existing interests, could some scheme be devised by such a committee as would protect the interests of those concerned, and at the same time bring about this desired end, they would confer a great benefit upon the Church. Even the recommendation of a committee, cordially sustained by the Assembly, as to the duties of all parties under such circumstances, might be attended with good results. There might also be noted the accelerated progress made by the different Church schemes, since causes of jealousy have been removed. There is also the prestige given, not only to Presbyterianism, but to the common cause of Christianity itself, by the unity of all those of a common faith. I shall not enlarge, but conclude by observing, that it appears but an act of common justice that the names and deeds of those should be known, who have contributed so largely to the success of the union, by setting selfish considerations aside, in order that the Redeemer's kingdom may be advanced.

Equity.
King, May 12, 1877.

"Give me a Moody and Sankey judgment on this," said one merchant to another upon a nice point of business involving a question of strict integrity. Is there any doubt what was meant? According to the Watchman, the thoroughness with which Mr. Moody insists that conversion must carry with it change of character, and his excited ideas of righteousness, have made current in the streets of Boston "a Moody and Sankey count," "a Moody and Sankey trade," as equivalents for out-and-out fair dealing and sound honesty.