

Foreign Missions.

W. B. M. U.

"We are laborers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. J. W. MANNING, 178 Wentworth Street, St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR APRIL

For our Grande Ligne Mission, also that the French work in these provinces may be greatly blessed in the salvation of souls.

"Not in vain the distance beacons,
Forward, forward let us range."

The gate 1899 no longer stands wide open—closing, closing, closing—soon it will swing into place with a great clang shutting out all possibility of making this year a glorious one for Jesus. A youth was wont to see a beautiful figure floating in the distance, away over the river which flowed by his father's farm. The passion of his life was to enshrine the vision and thus he became the greatest sculptor of his or any age. Beautiful visions, lofty ideals do pass before the mind. One voice says: "See, the poor and the neglected are ever near me. How I would like to gather them in my arms and bless them. But the demands of society—" Oh custom, thou tyrant! How broad thy domains, how exacting thy claims and how obedient thy slave! "Freedom from custom's sway!" Seize the ideal. Henceforth "What would Jesus do" shall only, wholly rule my life.

That some have endeavored to be true to the highest ideals, that some have thought and prayed, struggled and obeyed is evidenced by the evolution of our present organization for missionary effort. And what are the signs of progress? The organization of the first Boards in 1870; the consolidation of these into the Woman's Baptist Missionary Union in 1885; the introduction of the Missionary Link in 1879 and the Tidings in 1894; and the recent efforts to obtain a full corps of County Secretaries and Mission Band Superintendents. Whose heart would not be stirred and strengthened by a careful review of the "Fourteenth Annual Report of the W. B. M. U." More money raised, more Telugus saved, more Societies and Bands, more upholding of hajids. Who would not be enthused by reading our president's address which abounds in suggestions and illustration, facts and inspiration.

Yes, the Lord has blessed us, but we "count not ourselves to have apprehended." If you will, let us compare the W. B. M. U. Report with the last Year Book. Can it be true that in 414 churches we have only 245 Aid Societies and 96 Mission Bands? Can it be true that in the Nova Scotia Western Association alone there are 15 churches of more than 100 members with neither Society or Band? Can it be true that the banner "We are laborers together with Him" waves over only 6000 of the 25,000 of our sisters in church fellowship? Yes, it is true and a pity 'tis 'tis true. Paul was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision. Are we?

Could you have attended a certain session of the Fifteenth Telugu Association recently held in Vizianagaram new visions of your work in Telugu land might have passed before your mind. How eagerly the thirty or forty delegates are gazing upon a certain speaker. What is he saying? "Telugu brothers and sisters listen! To the north of us, in the mountainous regions of the Kimeri and Tekkali fields, are 200,000 Savaras, a simple, honest people without a written language. No special effort for their salvation has yet been made but there are now twelve or fourteen Savara Christians. Now brothers, if we do not take hold of this work we must appeal to some other denomination to take it up. The Telugu Home Mission Society of the A. B. M. U. has provided funds sufficient to support one evangelist for one year. What will you do?" The subject is seriously discussed, prayer is offered, a collection of 20 Rs. is taken, then a Home Mission Board is formed for special work among the Savaras.

The next day we hear one of our recently baptized Telugu sisters say, "I would like to sell my necklace so as to help this Savara work. I am afraid to say I will but I would like to." During the Conference the lady apothecary, Miss De Frazer, who was converted in Bimlipatam twenty years ago, paid us a flying visit. When asked if she found opportunities for Christian work she replied, "Oh, yes, yes, I often pray with my patients and even in Brahmin homes I have told again and again the Old, Old Story. Only the other day one of these women when dying sent for me. Her last words were, 'Oh, Miss De Frazer, tell me more, tell me more!'" On Miss De Frazer's return home she sent a letter to Mr. Sanford to this effect, "I this day donate 1000 rupees (3 Rs. equal \$1) to the Savara work and I will feel amply repaid if it will be the means of saving even one soul." Miss De Frazer is about taking a trip to Europe and America and hopes to attend the next Maritime Baptist Convention. On her return Mrs. A. may yet succeed in securing her services for the Chicacole hospital.

The work is looming; new ideals are appearing. Do we not see a missionary at work among the Savaras and an other occupying the new station Sompett? Do we not

see the Tekkali mission house completed and the Palcondah buildings repaired and occupied? Do we not see an unprecedented baptism of the Holy Spirit and a corresponding enlistment of native workers and a glorious ingathering of the redeemed? Will we not pray that these and many other ideals may be actualized. Pray now—now pray.

Have we done what we could?

Have I? Have you?

A cloud of witnesses above encompass us,
We love to think of all they see and know;
But what of this great multitude in peril
Who sadly wait below.

Oh, let the thrilling vision daily move us
To earnest prayer and deeds before unknown,
That souls redeemed from many lands may join us
When Christ brings home his own.
March 8th. MABEL ARCHIBALD.

Greenville, Cumberland Co., N. S.

A deeply interesting missionary concert was held in the Baptist church, Sunday evening, April 2nd, by the W. M. A. Society. Readings and recitations were given by a number of the sisters, and members of the Sabbath School. The Pastor, J. Clark, gave a short earnest address, and the choir furnished excellent music. A collection was taken for H. M. amounting to \$2.60. The evening was stormy, but there was a fair attendance, and the impression was good. We are hoping for results in increased interest in the cause of missions.

S. A. CLARK, Co. Sec'y.

Middle Sackville Mission Band

As it is some little time since our Band has been heard from, we thought a short account of what we are doing would not be amiss. On March 31st an Easter concert was held at Bethel, and an appropriate programme was rendered. A collection was taken which amounted to \$6.25. At present we are making an autograph quilt which we propose sending out to our Missionaries next fall by Miss Helena Blackadar. The money so raised to go toward paying her passage out. We are pleased to be able to report that we have six life members and have funds on hand for another. We find that our zeal instead of decreasing is becoming more ardent, and we hope ever to be active mission workers. With best wishes for all our Bands.

T. MABEL BELVNA, Sec'y.

Monies received by the Treasurer of the W. B. M. U. from March 23rd to April 4th

McKenzie Corner, \$4; River Herbert, \$6.51; Truro 1st church, \$1.25; Fredericton, \$40; Harvey, \$11.94; Salem, Albert Co., \$5; Chester Basin, \$50; Sackville, \$20; Middle Sackville, Mission Band, to constitute Miss Mary Towse and Miss Luella Richardson members, \$1 M. \$5.55, toward Miss Blackadar's passage, \$14.45; St. Margarets Bay, Mission Band, \$1.20; Florenceville, \$5.80; 2nd Kingsclear, \$3.50; Jernigan, Mission Band, \$3.37; Salisbury, \$4.75; Wolfville, \$11; Havelock, \$4; Milton, Mission Band, toward Miss Archibald's salary, \$5; Melvern Square, \$7; Apple River, \$6; Amherst, Sunday School, \$3.09; Hillsdale, \$4; Lower Newcastle, proceeds public meeting, \$2.64.

MRS. MARY SMITH, Treas. W. B. M. U.
Amherst, P. O. B. 513.

Foreign Mission Board.

NOTES BY THE SECRETARY.

The appeal of the missionaries for reinforcements, reference to which was made last week, will be read with interest. Our brethren on the fields are laboring under a slight misapprehension as to the recent bequest made to the Board. It is not yet in hand, and so any calculation based upon it is a little wide the mark. That there ought to be at least another family sent to the front is clear enough to anybody who has any idea of the nature of the work entrusted to the Baptists of these Provinces. But the enlargement of the work must depend upon the regular gifts of the churches. If the work is to grow it must fill a larger place in the hearts of our people. More can be done, more ought to be done in all good conscience. And yet it would not be right for the Board to assume obligations which they had no good reason for believing would be met. There are men who would go to the mission field if they felt the people wished them to go. We want an advance in giving to the amount of three or four thousand dollars. May God the Holy Spirit put it into the hearts of the people to say: "We must do more than we have done in the past for this greatest work of the church."

Appeal.

DEAR BRETHREN.—The news of that recent bequest to our work, the gift of \$10,000 by Brother Forest of Amherst has called forth expressions of profound gratitude from our hearts.

We rejoice with you in this matter. The burden that was resting so heavily upon your hearts and ours has lifted somewhat and a bright ray of hope has come to fill us with cheer. We now desire to call your attention to our appeal sent to you last July. In view of the needs out here that are ever pressing upon us, we felt that we must have two families and a lady missionary or two to reinforce us. The year has passed and they have not come. We know how straitened you were for funds and so we have tried to wait patiently. We now urge upon you, brethren that special prayer and special search be made for two young men of the Lord's choosing to send out the coming Autumn. We understand that one or more young ladies are already found and only await the funds to send them. But in addition to our sisters who are waiting to be sent, we plead for a special

effort to be made to secure two new families. It seems rather striking that the news about this recent bequest has reached the field just when we had become specially burdened about the evangelization of the Savaras among us and we would call your attention to the fact that a fine building site in Sompett is procurable for a mere trifle and that the field in that neglected neighborhood is languishing for the gospel. We therefore recommend that you sanction the opening of that new station and its occupancy as soon as possible. In view of the stringency of the funds at home, and in view of our desire to cut down our expenses to the lowest possible point consistent with health and efficiency we shall attempt to supply these new stations with buildings at a cheaper rate than heretofore. The sum of \$4000 would, we believe, fit up Sompett and also the station for the Savara missionary (at Gunapur or elsewhere). It is very important that we should proceed not later than next August with the Tekkali buildings and complete them without further delay. The aim in these buildings also will be to cut down the cost just as far as possible. From the rentals now being received from the Palcondah building it is hoped that we may be able to fit up that station and make it comfortable for a family without asking for much, if any, further appropriation from the Board. Brethren pray for us that the Word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified.

In behalf of the Board,
I. C. ARCHIBALD, Pres.
W. V. HIGGINS, Sec'y.

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