

Foreign Missions.

W. B. M. U.
MOTTO FOR THE YEAR:
"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 OCTOBER.

For our Missionaries going to India, that they may have a prosperous journey and the presence of the Lord abiding with them as they enter upon their work. For our W. M. A. S., that they may be more active and consecrated this year than ever before.

Crusade Day.

Please remember Crusade Day October 14th. With what delight and profit special days have been observed among the followers of Christ ever since his advent upon earth! The observance of such days have been honored and blessed of God. Let us earnestly seek for a great blessing this year, that many women among us who have not yet come to know their privilege, opportunity and responsibility concerning the last great command may hear the Master's voice and "come forth." Private prayer in the home during the morning. In the afternoon visiting every woman in the congregation, asking all who are not members of the society to join, encouraging the weak ones, putting in remembrance the careless or indifferent, comforting the bereaved and shut-in ones. This can easily be done by having the names of the women divided into lists and assigning them to different visitors. Please let us know how this day was observed and what were the results.

A platform missionary meeting under the auspices of the W. B. M. U., was held at Gibson, Sept. 12th, in connection with N. B. Convention, Mrs. M. S. Cox, Provincial Secretary, presided.

The house was filled with an earnest attentive audience. At 2.30 p. m. the meeting opened with singing a suitable selection, by the choir, followed by the reading of the 55th of Isaiah by Mrs. E. L. Strange. Prayer was offered by Rev. A. B. McDonald, and the choir sang "The morning light is breaking."

Miss A. C. Gray, returned missionary, was then introduced to the audience and especially to the sisters of the aid societies who rose to welcome her. Miss Gray then spoke of the work in India, the persecution endured by those who professed Christianity, the miseries of the widows, and concluded with an earnest appeal to Christians to send them the Gospel. All were deeply interested in Miss Gray's address.

Another hymn was sung. Mrs. Belyea, whose home is in Edmunston, was then introduced. She told us of the difficulties to be faced in the North West, the dearth of gospel privileges, the Indians, their superstition and fearful cruelties, committed under the name of religion. Mrs. Belyea awakened an interest in all hearts, by her "plain story, plainly told."

Rev. N. P. Gross, Danish Missionary, in the north west of N. B., told us of his work. No synopsis could give any idea of his address. The hearers alone could properly value its pathetic and convincing eloquence. Mr. and Mrs. Gross also sang a Danish hymn. In his speech Mr. Gross spoke of his need of a horse, in order to reach the distant settlements, and said he had prayed for \$30 to buy one. When he closed his address, Rev. J. W. Manning laid a dollar on the table saying he "would like to help get that horse," and in five or six minutes \$44 were in the hands of the moderator, for that purpose.

Rev. H. H. Hall, of Portage La Prairie, then spoke in his usual forcible manner, urging the importance of the missions in the north west, with its heathen Indians and hundreds of European immigrants. It was getting late, so that before Mr. Hall concluded, many people left, which made the collection small, something over \$9. Meeting closed by singing the doxology and the benediction by Rev. W. E. McIntyre.

W. M. A. S., Meeting at Gibson.

At 3 p. m. the sisters met in the vestry of the Baptist church, the Provincial Secretary for N. B., in the chair.

Meeting opened by singing "Nearer my God to thee." The 145th Psalm was read by the Provincial Secretary and Mrs. J. S. Titus (St. Martins) led in prayer, followed by Mrs. Cox. "Sweet hour of prayer" was sung "and many of the delegates took part in the fifteen minutes devotional service which followed, after which Mrs. Cox gave a report of the work and of the W. B. M. U. meeting at Sackville. Reports from the various societies were then in order, as follows: Carleton, Mrs. John Richards; 1st Salisbury, Miss Taylor; St. Martins, Mrs. J. S.

Titus; Gibson, Miss Miles; Marysville, Miss Bradley; and Grand Lake, Penlyn, 1st and 2nd Chipman were reported by the Provincial Secretary. Mrs. Titus then told of Mrs. Heyes and Miss Bradshaw, missionaries to Africa, from St. Martins. Collection \$2.45 from the 19 sisters present. Closed by singing "Blest be the tie that binds" and prayer by Provincial Secretary. It was a good meeting.

M. TAYLOR, Sec.

The September meeting of the W. M. A. Society of Bedeque, held at the residence of Mrs. Herbert Leard, was one of unusual interest. Being our first meeting since that of the W. B. M. U. at Sackville, reports of that gathering and the business done there were the main topics for consideration. The sisters here try to keep themselves well informed concerning all matters relating to the Union and the different departments of Mission work taken up year by year, feeling their responsibility as a society for a share in all new enterprises. The estimates for the coming year as accepted by the W. B. M. U. were duly considered, and ways and means for increasing our contributions and membership were earnestly discussed. To many it seemed impossible that we could do more than last year, for it really did look as if we had "done what we could" and no means had been left untold. Still, as one remarked, if we did so much better last year than we had dared to hope at its beginning there was no foreseeing what might come to pass this year, if we all worked with a will. Thus we talked and planned, growing more enthusiastic as our plans matured. But the enthusiasm of the meeting reached its climax when our host came quietly into the room, and after a few words of cordial greeting to the sisters, gave expression to his interest in the missionary cause by laying \$25 on the table for the purpose of making his wife a life member of the Union.

Words failed to express our gratitude to this good brother, and we leave his reward to one who is able to do abundantly more than we can ask or think, while encouraged by this timely aid, we go hopefully forward in the work of the coming year. L. M. WARREN, Sec'y.

Notice.

On Friday, September 17th the Women's Missionary Aid Societies of Colchester county, met in convention in the Baptist meeting house at Belmont with the Aid Societies of the Belmont and West Onslow church. Owing to the serious illness of our County Secretary, Mrs. J. Gunn, the chair was occupied at both sessions by the Provincial Secretary, Miss A. E. Johnstone, of Dartmouth. Our afternoon session opened at 2.30 with a short devotional service before we began the business part of the meeting. The societies represented reported in a good, healthy condition. It was decided to petition our brethren for union with their District or Quarterly meeting, we holding one afternoon session per year, by ourselves, for the hearing of reports. The evening session was a public one. Miss Johnstone gave us an address on "Giving." Miss Effie A. Johnson read some extracts from an address by Dr. Pearson, on the "Progress of Women's Work During the Victorian Era." Miss Fanny King addressed us on "Christian Beneficence." A few remarks from one of the brethren, a solo by Dr. McIntyre, formed our programme, and the meeting was closed with the benediction. We felt that our coming together had not been in vain, but that the Master was with us in our meeting. Thirty-seven delegates had been appointed by the societies. Of course they were not all present, but among them we saw Miss Flossie Johnson, of Acadia Mines, who is the youngest life-member of the W. B. M. U. EFFIE A. JOHNSON, Secretary.

Foreign Mission Board.

Missions a Failure.

This is what we hear sometimes, and it is repeated so often that men begin to believe that it has some truth in it. But when the wish is father to the thought men can be made to believe almost anything. Yes, it is said with grave earnestness that the same amount of money expended at home will give better results. Who told these wise people this thing and made it so clear that it cannot possibly be gainsaid by anybody? It is said "It costs so much money to save so many souls. You can save more men and women in this country for the same number of dollars, therefore it is clearly the part of wisdom to expend your money where the best results are obtained." And the thing is proven—Proven is it? How so? Can you tabulate the influence of missions? A missionary preaches the gospel in a heathen city—he scatters the seed by the wayside. This seed is taken up and borne to a distant place, and no one will know until the day of judgment, the amount of good sown or the influence of that scattered seed. Time must be given for Christian missions to work. Let the Telugus of India be the heirs of a Christian civilization as we have been, and then make your comparisons. The leaven is hid in the measure of meal until the whole is leavened. It is, to say the least, not wise to keep turning over the meal to see if the leaven is working.

Besides it is much easier to confess Christ in our home

land, where friends and neighbors are sympathetic, than it is when the dearest friends are openly and bitterly hostile. To be a Christian here calls for some sacrifice, 'tis true, but to be a Christian in India calls for such sacrifices of which we have very little idea. We prefer to go with others even here. Solitary confessions and solitary martyrdoms are not so frequent as wholesale confessions and wholesale martyrdoms. It is much easier to go in a regiment to death than to go up alone and meet it. It is much easier to have the assistance of your friends in turning from heathenism to the religion of Christ than it is to step out from the family and from the home, and from all associations that have made life dear to you and to confess Christ alone. Of the truth of this statement our missionaries have abundant proofs. The beginning of mission work must always seem barren and unfruitful, utterly out of proportion to the time and labor expended or the good done. Who can measure it? Where are the scales that can weigh the subtle influences which have been set at work? Who can calculate the good done and the blessings conferred? He is a bold man who ventures to compute by arithmetical processes what missions to the heathen have already accomplished and what they yet will do. God's word will not return to Him void, and we may be assured that the future will fully justify all the outlay of the past. There is foundation work before the capstone can be laid.

This is what our people are doing in India today. The time is coming when the multitudes will flock to the banner of Prince Immanuel. There are scores of men in our little mission who are at heart believers in Christ but who have not the courage to break away from all the associations by which they are held. Our cry should be daily, to the Lord of hosts—Oh, Lord, how long? There will be a break ere long. As sure as God lives the heathen will be given to His Son for an inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession. Then it shall be seen that missions, instead of being a failure, will be seen to be a conspicuous success, and God's muster-roll of worthies will be largely made up of those who have been engaged in rescuing the perishing heathen. May we Baptists in these Maritime Provinces see to it that we part not with our birthright. Let every member of our churches do something for our Foreign Mission work, and do it now.

J. W. MANNING.

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