

## W. B. M. U.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR: "We are laborers together with God."

PRAYER TOPIC FOR NOVEMBER.—For the North West Missions; the work among the Indians, and all the laborers; that this year there may be a great ingathering of souls. For the officers of our Union and Missionary Societies.

An evangelist, having some experience in village work, while lamenting the spiritual darkness of many outlying districts, says:—We speak of the indifference of men and women to the Gospel and to the claims of Christ. But are not we, as Christians, largely responsible for this state of things, by our own lukewarmness, inconsistency, and worldliness? Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world" (Matt. v. 14), and the reason why there is so much spiritual darkness is because there is so little light. If a dimly burning lamp began to complain about the darkness, should not we answer, "It is your fault; you shine brighter and there will be more light"? Thank God there are shining lights in our villages who are witnessing nobly for Christ, but we want more. Let the people see our earnestness in the means of grace and our deep concern about their souls.

"Oh, ye saints arouse, be earnest!  
Up and work while yet 'tis day.  
Ere the night of death o'ertake you!  
Strive for souls while yet you may."

A very interesting Convention of the Aid Societies of Colchester County was held in Belmont in September. It was a great disappointment to find our County Secretary, Mrs. Gunn, laid aside by illness. In her absence the meetings were led by the Provincial Secretary. The work in the county was shewn to be progressing. In the afternoon meeting a number of questions were asked and answered.

Since that, the Provincial Secretary has held meetings in Lower Economy, Five Islands, Acadia Mines, Parrsboro, Port Greville, and Oxford and at the date of writing is visiting a few of the Societies in Annapolis County. Last evening an interesting meeting was held at Nictaux by the Aid Society. The two Bands in this Church took a large part in the service and shewed that it pays to instruct the young. If more of these public Band meetings were held our older people would become more interested in the work. These Bands, "Sunbeams" and "Co-Workers" have a bright future before them in the Master's service. At Oxford, on last Sunday afternoon a Mission Band was formed with twenty-one members. The officers are:—President, Mrs. Margaret Robb; Vice-President, Mrs. E. D. Tait; Secretary, Miss Gussie Hunter; Treasurer, Roy Brown.

Mrs. Read, Corresponding Secretary for Lunenburg, writes, that she has organized a Society at New Cornwall, with eight members. President, Mrs. David Eisner; Secretary, Miss Eva Spidle.

Seven reasons why I should belong to the Woman's Missionary Aid Society.

1st. Because *I am a member of Christ's Church*, and His vows are upon me; His commands binding.

2nd. *From gratitude*, because I being a woman, owe so much to that redeeming love, which coming into this world condescended to be "born of a woman," and so raised woman from a state of degradation to one of comfort, of peace, of equality with man, and also made her a co-worker with Himself. In Christ Jesus there is neither male nor female.

3rd. Because I am a *busy woman*. The cares of home, the feeding, clothing, and training of my little ones absorb so much of my time; but I can give *one hour* a month to the missionary meeting. When I am resting, I can read of the work being done. As my hands are busy, my heart can pray for our Missionary work.

4th. Because *I have the care of little children*, I can grain them in this work; I can interest, and teach them to give to it.

5th. Because *I am poor* in this world's goods, and often have hard work to "make both ends meet." Still *I can save* two cents a week for the sending of the "old, old story" to the "utmost parts of the earth."

6th. Because these women in Telugu land, these French Canadian women, these Indian women in the North West are *my sisters*. "He hath made of *one blood* all nations that dwell upon the face of the earth."

7th. Because Christ "loved me, and gave Himself for me" and He says to me, "go," "pray," "give."

When the missionaries first began to open schools in Ceylon, the people willingly allowed the boys to attend, but they ridiculed the idea of giving an education to girls saying, "What would be the use of sending a girl to school? A girl could never learn to read any more than a sheep." On one occasion a missionary was urging a native gentleman to allow his daughter to attend school. The native pointing to a horse by the roadside said, "Sir, could that horse learn to read?" The missionary replied in the negative. "Well," rejoined the native, "if an intelligent animal like a horse could not learn to read, how do you think a woman could learn?"

After laboring earnestly for two years the missionaries succeeded in inducing *one* girl to attend school. The first who came committed to memory the 240 letters of the Tamil alphabet and began to read. When the people saw that a girl could learn, they were surprised, even pleased.

At present in connection with the five missionary societies at work on the island, there are nearly 50,000 children in Mission schools, about one-third of whom are girls.

Each morning when a Christian woman measures out the rice for the family for the day, so many handfuls for her husband, for each child, and for herself, she takes one handful or more and puts it into a box marked "The Lord's Box," thus diminishing by a little the amount the family would have eaten. This custom is almost universal among the Christians. From time to time the church treasurer of each church visits all the Christian homes, collects the rice from these boxes, sells it, and sends the money to the native missionary society.

These native Christians in Ceylon cannot enjoy many luxuries. They have no stained glass windows in their churches, no paid choirs, and no church debts, but they enjoy one magnificent luxury. Many churches numbering not more than a hundred members, not only support their own native pastor, but support as well, each their