

REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY ANNUAL CONVENTION, HELD AT AYLMER, Nov. 11th, and 12th, 1903.

FOREIGN MISSION DAY.

Jacqueline M. Norton.

"And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee." "Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you." "Pray without ceasing."

Summed up in these passages is the spirit and thought which held possession of all in the Twenty-seventh Annual Meeting of the Women's Foreign Mission Society. After a prayer service, led by Mrs. Spidell, of Boston, and devotional exercises by Mrs. Newton, of Durham, Mrs. J. T. Booker, the loved and honored President, of the Society, gave her annual address.

The report of the Recording Secretary, Miss Moyle, was read in her absence, by Mrs. Robertson, of London.

Miss Elliot, the Treasurer, reported the total receipts for the year to be, \$8,727.84; the total disbursements, \$9,098.58, which includes the balance left over from last year. The income available for regular work, is \$7,104.31. There has been an increase of receipts in regular work of \$299.51.

Mrs. Porter, Editor of the LINK, reported the number of subscribers, 4,709, the list extending from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and over to India and China. The receipts for the year were, \$961.45; the disbursements, \$887.79, leaving a balance on hand of \$73.76.

After prayer led by Mrs. Hoyt, an address on "Village Schools," was given by Rev. J. E. Chute, of Akidu, India. There are 82 of these village schools in our mission with 1039 boys and 540 girls on the roll. They have 98 teachers whose duties, aside from the secular teaching, are to conduct the prayers of the Christians in several neighboring villages, to visit and preach, to teach the singing of hymns and to conduct classes in Bible and the catechisms. Their schools are held in a chapel, if there is one in the village; if not, under a tree or in an open square. Their highest grade is the Fourth Standard, the first government examination but nearly all the scholars leave after reaching the first or second Standard. The majority of the teachers are Normal-trained of the Intermediate Grade. The greatest hindrances to the work are the ignorance and poverty of the people and the per-

secution and public scorn which those who attend receive.

Mrs. Barber, of St. George, conducted a Bible Reading founded on Paul's words, "Whose I am, and whom I serve." We belong to God, by right of creation, by His purchase of us, and by choice. Our relation to Him is that of a servant to a Master and Christ has given us this place which He willingly occupies Himself. As the vine and branches exist only for the production of fruit, so we must bear in our lives the fruit of the Spirit,—love, joy and peace.

Greetings were received from the Methodist, Disciple and Presbyterian congregations of Aylmer, the Provincial W.C.T.U., the North West Missionary Society, the Women's Eastern Ontario Society, the Leper Society and Mrs. Fanny Stovel, McLeod.

Mrs. Holman opened the afternoon session with prayer, after which the election of officers took place. It resulted as follows:—

President, Mrs. W. D. Booker; 1st. Vice-President, Mrs. Freeland; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. T. M. Harris; Recording Secretary, Miss Moyle. Members of Board till 1907: Miss E. L. Hill, Miss Norton, Mrs. Woodburne, Miss Alexander, Miss Nicholls, Miss Rogers, Miss Tapscott.

The report of Miss Buchan, Foreign Mission Secretary, was most encouraging. A very important request was made by the Conference held in India. There is not sufficient accommodation for our single ladies. They are now living with the missionary families and there is no room for more, while on the field there is an urgent necessity of having two single ladies on each of the three largest fields, Akidu, Vuyuru and Ramachandrapuram. This question of bungalow building was much discussed and there was a strong feeling both in regard to its necessity and to the advisability of starting a fund for building purposes.

An address was given by Dr. Pearl Chute, of Akidu, India, on her medical work. She gave many interesting accounts of the native way of treating patients and the medicine in vogue. She treated 2000 patients during her first year in India. Her little hospital, "The Star of Hope," has three rooms, a dispensary and two wards, each accommodating five beds. Men, as well as women, are treated for the simple diseases and all