

Canadian Missionary Link

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THE VISIT OF MRS. MONTGOMERY.

The visit of Mrs. Helen Barrett Montgomery to Toronto brought just the inspiration and outlook that the Women's Foreign Mission Board has always felt that it would. They have tried a number of times to have her come to deliver their annual lecture, and were very happy to welcome her on Monday, March 19, in Jarvis St. Church.

The members of the Board were given a much-appreciated opportunity to meet Mrs. Montgomery at tea at the home of Mrs. Charles Stark. Mrs. Montgomery gave us a glimpse into the large workings of the Northern American Baptist Board, into the joys of a carefully-planned budget and appropriation scheme; and into the success of the World-Wide Guild, which has made room in its wide embrace for all kinds of girls' organizations—organized classes, Mission Circles, Sewing Clubs, etc., bringing them into relationship with itself as chapters. So far, we have only one chapter in Canada—that of the Girls' Circle at Moulton College. We are hoping there may be many more applications for affiliation before the year is out.

A large audience gathered at Jarvis St. Church, an audience of our own people, very largely reinforced by missionary women and enthusiasts from the Methodist and Presbyterian denominations. Mrs. Montgomery belongs to us, but her work as author and editor and as President of the Federation of the Women's Boards of the United States has given all missionary workers a right to claim her.

Mrs. McLaurin, the President of our Women's Board, presided; Mr. Shields of Jarvis St. Church read the Scriptures; Mr. Ernest Warren sang "He Lifted Me," and the McMaster University girls in cap and gown—they are

studying this year one of Mrs. Montgomery's books—acted as ushers.

Mrs. Montgomery's subject was "The Obligation of the Church to the Empire of Christ." She spoke of the obligation as depending on two things, the nature of the Gospel itself, and the people to whom the Gospel is to be told. The Gospel is simply "good news,"—news must be told, and we find ourselves the trustees of this particular news. The people—two out of every three—are not yet told. And it belongs not to one, nor to another, to this class or that, but to "just folks." She emphasized very strongly this note of universality being found only in Christ and His message. We do not always realize that other great religious teachers do not give it, neither Plato, nor Buddha, Confucius nor any other. Mrs. Montgomery made us feel very distinctly the kinship of us all, the world over, for "just folks," as she told of the shining of father-love in the face of an Indian coolie she had once met on the road—that same affection we know so well, and as she spoke of the universal language of a baby's cry, or of a merry laugh—not Chinese, not Indian, not human.

Nor did she allow us to feel our obligation too heavy, too crushing, without inspiring us with a vision of the Empire of Christ actually lengthening its borders and strengthening its stakes, and accomplishing it so much more rapidly than our pioneers, even with their magnificent faith, had dared to hope for. China is an outstanding example, a great inspiration, a sure antidote for discouragement. Robert Morrison went out in 1807, alone, discouraged from his enterprise by high and low, upheld only by his vision of the deprivation being suffered by one-quarter of the human race. For twenty-five years he worked and saw only three Chinese Christians, nothing but "the day of small things" for him—but now, the kingdom is coming with rapid strides. We have to record that the Chinese Church is doubling in numbers once in every five years.