

The place fixed for holding the next meeting was Renfrew, in the early part of 1895. The newly elected officers are: President, Mrs. Stewart, Perth, 1st vice-president, Mrs. Campbell, Renfrew, 2nd vice-president, Mrs. Farrell, of Smith's Falls, corresponding secretary, Miss Bella Sinclair, of Carleton Place, recording secretary, Miss Riddell, of Perth, treasurer, Miss Lizzy Findlay, of Carleton Place.

After a vote of thanks to the kind people of Carleton Place for their generous hospitality, there was brought to a close one of the most interesting and profitable of the Presbyterians of Lanark and Renfrew. About twenty-five Almonite ladies were present at the meeting.

Mission to the Lepers.

The following letter, published in the PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW a few weeks ago, is republished by request, the issue in which it first appeared being out of print, and there being a desire for its further distribution:—

4 Rest House Road, Bangalore, India.

To WILHELMY C. BAILEY, Esq., Secretary and Superintendent Mission to Lepers in India.

SIR,—With reference to your letter published in the *Madras Mail*, dated 12th April, 1893 (an extract of which is herewith enclosed for your information) relative to the proposal to start a Home on the cottage principle, for European lepers, male and female, in some central position in India, I make bold to address a few lines at your kind invitation on this most important question, being personally interested on behalf of my family.

About four years ago it was discovered that my eldest son, who is now in his sixteenth year, was afflicted with leprosy. The fact was first brought to my notice by a missionary who visited the Sabbath school at which my children attended, and in which I was a teacher. I was perfectly staggered at the announcement, and did not believe it. The same evening, however, I had occasion to visit the station hospital and the medical subordinate in attendance called me aside and urged me to get my boy treated, as he observed the boy was in a bad state. On my pressing him for an explanation the apothecary said he feared the boy had leprosy, but he could not be positive. I had the lad examined by a medical man, a personal friend of my own, and he pronounced the case an incipient form of leprosy; and medicine was prescribed for him and administered, but without removing the symptoms. We then tried Clark's Blood Mixture—five or six bottles; this also proved fruitless, and about this time a bad sore opened on the sole of his left foot near the toes, and I also observed that two fingers of the left hand were contracting. I then obtained the Count Matthei remedies from the Rev. Father Miller, at Mangalore, and kept up this treatment for nearly two years, with the result that the wounds healed up; but all the other symptoms had become more pronounced. The face was bloated, with large round marks on the cheeks, these marks had also appeared all over the body. The skin thickened at the elbows, joints of hands, etc., and feeling had left three fingers of the left hand. We then tried other medicines until October, 1892.

At this time I received a box of medicines from Lieut. Algar, in Bengal, whose wife had discovered a herb, which is apparently a most valuable remedy, for at the end of two and a half months when the medicine was exhausted, the lad had very much improved, the swellings had gone down very much and his general condition had very greatly improved, but as I was unable to procure any more of this medicine the disease is again progressing, and I have given up all hopes of a cure being effected. I have great fears that my second son has been attacked with the disease, as he has a thickening of the skin over the forehead, and an eruption of small pimples on the face, especially the nose. His hands are also much larger than they ought to be for a boy of his years, and are of a pale hue. I am almost beside myself with grief and remorse at the prospect before my unfortunate children.

The announcement made in your publication that something is being done to care for these poor unfortunates comes like a ray of sunshine out of the darkness which has come upon me. I have prayed earnestly to God to open up some way that my poor children may be provided for, and I look upon this proposal to establish a Home of this kind as an answer to my petitions.

I proposed some time ago to send one boy to the Lepers Asylum at Madras, but my wife would not entertain any such suggestion, as she said it was like sending him to prison, and I felt the force of her argument. It goes against our feelings to part with our child forever, in such a manner. It, however, a Home on the cottage principle was established as proposed, where we could visit our loved ones whenever we wished, which perhaps would not be often, it would remove all the objections to parting with them. We earnestly pray that the Lord will bless the efforts you are putting forth to the accomplishment of this most worthy object, for an institution of this kind is absolutely necessary in this country.

I believe that such an institution could be made almost self-supporting in a short time provided the site for its location was in a fruitful part of the country. I would respectfully suggest that the land selected should be capable of yielding either wheat or rice as well as vegetables. On such a site the residents would be able to cultivate the ground and rear stock in sufficient quantity for the support of the institution. The country around Bangalore is very salubrious and yields fruit of every description in abundance; but, even in very favorable cases, the condition of my children and my own failing health will not grow wheat or rice, and therefore I think it would be unwise to select this part of the country for the purpose.

I feel intensely interested in this matter, and should be most happy to assist you in any humble way that I can; and I shall be glad to give any further information which you may desire to have in connection with my case particularly. I am a subordinate in the Madras Barrack Department, and have served in the army now a period of thirty-four years, and could stay on for two or three years longer, but I fear that the condition of my children and my own failing health will necessitate my leaving the service very soon, on a small pension. I have a family of six children, the eldest a girl of seventeen, then four boys, aged respectively sixteen, thirteen, twelve, and nine, and lastly a girl of eight years. I am in a most distracted state of mind on their account, and I feel my health giving way under the immense strain of anxiety and sorrow.

Trusting, sir, you will kindly excuse this long letter, and thanking you most sincerely for the interest you are taking in this important subject, I beg to subscribe myself

Your most humble and obedient servant,

J. B.

Conductor Barrack Department,

4 Rest House Road,

Bangalore,

Madras Presidency, East Indies.

[An Association in connection with the mission to lepers has been formed in Toronto. The president is Rev. John Neil, B.A., 577 Sherbourne street.]

The Quebec branch of the Canada Woman's Board of Missions held a most successful meeting last week, the reports of work done being very encouraging.

"Woman's Work in Foreign Lands" was the theme of an interesting lecture to the ladies of Bridglen congregation, the other week, by Rev. J. C. McKee.

Rev. J. H. McVicar, of China, delivered a lecture at Welland in aid of the Chinese Mission Fund. In spite of inclement weather a good audience attended, and the lecture was most interesting and enjoyed.

The annual meeting of the Ottawa Presbyterian Society was held in the Sabbath school hall of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, on Tuesday, March 6th. The President, Mrs. Thornburn, presided. The meeting was well attended, delegates being present from most of the auxiliaries and mission bands. Eight auxiliaries have been added during the year—Carp and Lowry, besides six congregational,

auxiliaries in Ottawa, as a result of the disbanding of the Ottawa Auxiliary, which has existed since 1878. There are now twenty-three auxiliaries and four mission bands connected with this society, with a membership of 616. Total amount contributed, \$1,049.19. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Mrs. Thornburn, Ottawa, president; Mrs. James Gibson, Ottawa; Mrs. Gamble, Wakefield; Mrs. E. A. Nelson, Bristol, Mrs. Lockhead, North Gower, and Mrs. C. Hall, Russell, vice-presidents; Miss Eliza H. Gibson, Ottawa, treasurer; Miss H. E. Dunie, Ottawa, Secretary.—H. E. DUNIE, Sec. O.P.S.

Church News.

In Canada.

NOMINATION of elders took place lately at Alexandria, Ont.

A SUCCESSFUL concert was held on the 8th inst., at Spring Ridge, B.C., in the Mission Hall, which was largely attended.

THE congregation of St. Paul's church, Toronto, have presented their pastor, Rev. W. A. J. Martin, with an address and handsome study desk. The congregation expressed their satisfaction at Mr. Martin's recent decision to remain with them.

THE congregation of Abingdon meets with a loss in the removal to Hamilton of Mr. John A. Jackson, an elder. Miss Mary Jackson on leaving her position, having been organist for three years, was presented with a purse from the congregation.

REV. L. C. EMES, who has completed a three years' pastorate at Ballinacraig and Melville, gave a review lately of the progress of the congregation. The good work accomplished has been acknowledged by the congregation, who have presented Mr. and Mrs. Emes with a couple of handsome pieces of furniture.

REV. J. R. MCKAY, of Knox College, Toronto, has received a call from the congregations of Bayfield and Bethany. Mr. McKay is recently from the old country and after some successful mission work in British Columbia, completed his course at Knox College.

A VERY successful concert and sale of work netted the ladies of the Fern avenue church, Toronto, upwards of sixty dollars towards the furnishing of a new church which this little congregation hopes to erect very soon. Some fifteen ladies deserve the credit of the work that has given so handsome a return.

A VERY pleasing item of news is that which records the act of the night school boys of St. Andrew's Church Institute, Toronto. They resolved that the sum of twenty dollars, given them for a sleigh ride by a friend in the congregation, be applied to the relief of the destitute in the parish, the boys themselves to report any case of special need that might come under their notice.

A MOST successful "at home" was given by the Ladies' Aid Society of Parkdale on Friday last. Nearly 400 people were present. A short but excellent programme was rendered by a quartet of the choir; Miss Howard, instrumental solos; Miss McGregor, recitation; Mr. Walker, vocal solo. Rev. Mr. Hossack acted as chairman. Refreshments were served at the close by the members of the Ladies' Aid. Messrs. Bell, Jack, Fenwick, Mitchell and others looked after the comfort of the guests.

REV. T. O. SMITH, D.D., general secretary for Queen's University, lectured in the Presbyterian church, Blackstock, on the evening of March 1st. His subject was, "The Boys I Knew," and in his treatment of it, the Doctor showed himself possessed of very remarkable imaginative and descriptive powers. Life among the lowly, in Scotland, forty or fifty years ago, was depicted in a masterly manner, and from the grinding poverty that there and then prevailed, Dr. Smith showed that some of the boys he knew, rose, through sheer force of character and an insatiable thirst for knowledge, to positions of eminent usefulness. The lecture is certainly a critical one, and its delivery leaves nothing to be desired.