

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 Westworth 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.

We are glad to have this letter from Miss Clark for our Mission Bands. Hope it will be read to the children and that all our missionaries may, during the year, write to the young people through the MESSENGER AND VISITOR.

Chicaco, September 5, 1897.

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS,—I'm going from village to village and seeing the almost numberless boys and girls that flock around us, I have often contrasted them with you in your happy homes and today have decided to write to you, so that you too may know something about them.

Only the higher classes, those who can afford it, go to school. All the others grow up perfectly ignorant of reading or writing; their knowledge of the outside world is gained entirely from hearsay. The children of weavers grow up in their father's profession, basket-makers in their's, etc. Every boy is expected to follow in the footsteps of his forefathers, and as far as caste goes it is impossible for a shoemaker's son to become a carpenter or weaver.

Mrs. Archibald and I have decided that we would try and see what could be done by way of Sunday Schools among the children, so three weeks ago Ethel and I went out to Arrasville, a village two miles from the Mission House, where we hoped to start our first school. When we got there we found all busy at work and soon learned that they had no holiday even from day school. The little ones were sitting on the floor with their slates and books. The books are strips of palm leaves, on which the words are written with a sharp steel. When I asked the teacher what time he dismissed school he said six o'clock, so we suggested that he let us have the children from five to six. To this he consented and we went up on the verandah. As everything was new and the little ones rather shy we did not divide them into classes, but talked to them turn about, and such a good time we had as they looked up at us with their shining black eyes. The front of the verandah was crowded with men who came out of curiosity and wished us to talk to them, but we told them that today we had come especially to the children and they must listen, not talk. When we left we asked leave to come again on the following Sunday, which was readily granted by the teacher. Next Sunday we had rain, but in the afternoon it cleared up. The roads were rather bad and "Good Luck" (the old white horse I bought from Miss Wright) did not see why he should go to Arrasville, but he went just the same. On our arrival the teacher said he would have to ask the head teacher's leave before he could give the children over to us. After some hunting they found him. I have not decided yet whether he is a teacher or the village priest. He came and said yes rather slowly so we climbed up on the verandah, and as the children were better acquainted we divided them into two classes. Ethel took the smaller ones and I had the third and fourth standard boys. We decided to teach them the first verse of—

"Jesus loves me this I know For the Bible tells me so."

This old Brahmin stood quite near my class and remarked every now and then "they are only children and cannot understand anything; it is not worth while staying to talk to them, etc." I told him that God loved the little ones just as much as the grown folks and turned to my Bible and read to them the children's verse, "Suffer little children, etc." It was plain this old man did not want us there, so after several hints from him as to time, we dismissed them with the promise that we would return again. During the week we heard that there was cholera in that place, but as there has been cholera all around we did not think much about it until we arrived next Sunday and found only about eight children instead of forty eight. The teacher said they were frightened of cholera and stayed away. The old Brahmin was there and said that people were saying that because we had come to teach in their village this disease has come and he thought we had better go away at once. I think myself he was the principal one who said it, he seems to be

such an ignorant old Hindu. We did not go away but talked first to the children who were there; then when the old man told them it was time to go home we had a good talk to the people who had gathered around. They listened well, and we pray that the seed sown may have fallen on good ground. As to our school we are not discouraged, but will return next Sunday, and if they do not give us leave to teach on their verandah we will have our classes under two large Banyan trees near by.

Why have I written this letter? That you may help us in our work by your prayers. Yours sincerely, M. CLARK.

The Missionary Aid Society of St. Martins celebrated its third thankoffering service on Wednesday, September 29. A meeting of the sisters was held in the afternoon at 3 p. m., the president, Mrs. J. S. Titus, in the chair. This meeting was largely attended and the following programme carried out: Singing; The morning light is breaking; Scripture Reading, by President, Isia. 49; Prayer, Vice-President, Mrs. Benj. Vaughan; Singing, Wonderful words of Life; Address, President; Reading, Mission Needs and Work, Mrs. Tabor; Singing, All hail the power of Jesus' Name. At the close a circle of the sisterhood was formed and the hymn "Blest be the tie that binds" was sung from loyal hearts. We felt as we joined hands in our circle that soon it must be broken, for one of our number, a member of our society, Miss Lenora G. Bradshaw, in the near future goes to Africa to tell "His story" to the lost ones. Our sister has been home with us for a four months' vacation, and by rest to prepare herself for her work in the foreign field; what these months of rest here have been to our village we feel eternally alone will reveal. She came to us in June, just in time to assist in a missionary meeting in our "West Mission." In her address she told us she had come home for the summer under the direct command of her Master and with these words ringing in her ears, "Go home and tell thy friends: what great things the Lord hath done for thee," that she desired only to know Jesus among her friends. Her mission has truly been a blessed one, owned by the Lord. Pastor and people have realized the strength and devotion of her young life. Through trying scenes and over rough places she has been a tower of strength to our dear Pastor Cornwall, and each member of our church has felt to some extent the blessed influence of her Christian life. Her special delight has been to assist Christians to a higher plane of living and to arouse in them a greater knowledge of Jesus and the Comforter as an abiding, indwelling, ever-present Guest.

Our sister goes to Africa under the Missionary Alliance of New York, but we as a church and society feel that Africa is being blessed with one of our dearest members, one who will be indeed missed, but one whom the Master can rely upon to be true to the work to which she has yielded up her life.

At the close of the meeting the gentlemen came in and a social hour was enjoyed, after which tea was partaken of by a large and interested company. We were happy in having with us as guests Mr. and Mrs. Trueman, Rev. Mr. Greig, Rev. Mr. Champion (Methodist); Rev. Mr. Irwin (Presbyterian), and a few others.

At 7.30 our public meeting opened, our president still occupying the chair, and a programme of the following order carried out: Singing, All hail the power of Jesus' name; Scripture, Psalm 96; Prayer, Rev. S. H. Cornwall; Duet, Miss Denton and Miss McLean; Address, on Missions, Mrs. J. S. Titus; Address, Miss L. G. Bradshaw; Singing, To the Work; Address, Rev. S. H. Cornwall; Reading, Interested—If not, Why not? Mrs. Pownee; Singing, God be with you; Prayer, Rev. Mr. Irwin; Collection and opening of envelopes containing gifts and Scripture references. These latter being read aloud formed an interesting feature of the evening. Envelope collections amounted to \$25.13. We felt as we listened to these earnest addresses a greater stimulus to work on in this noble work of missions when we realize we have as our leader in this movement King Jesus, and we trust our zeal will grow until not only India and Africa but the whole world shall claim our sympathy and prayers. Mrs. A. W. POWNEE, Sec'y W. M. A. S.

Foreign Mission Board.

NOTES BY THE SECRETARY. Our Baptist Young People and Missions.

The young people of today have the floor, or think they have it, which for all practical purposes amounts to the same thing. To a careful observer, there are grand possibilities in this movement among the young. Every wise pastor has felt the importance of attaching to himself the youthful element in his church and congregation—to fit them for service. It is therefore a delightful sight to see the young Baptist hosts gathered together and planning for service in the Master's name. To do this well they should know what is wanted—the needs of the work and how best to meet them. To extend the Kingdom of our Lord is what the church of Christ is for. Since "the field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom."

The great commission of Matthew 28: 18-20 and Acts 1: 8 was given to the apostles and to all who should accept Christ and be led by the Spirit in this age. Our Saviour promised to be with His followers all the days until the end of the age. The age referred to includes the time in which we live.

This great commission cannot be accepted in fragments without seriously disfiguring the atoning sacrifice of our Saviour upon the cross from which He had a far-away look over coming Europe, the land of the Angles and Saxons, Britain, the future America, the cold north lands, the great dark continent, the Orient and the isles of the sea. Where He looked, we must look. Whom He loved we must love. For whom He prayed we must pray. For whom He gave we must give.

The gospel must be sent to the whole world and we young people must do our part in the great work. We should do this in order that the way may be prepared for further victories for our King. When we carry Christ to the whole world then Christ will bring the whole world into subjection to Himself. He will never permit any country or nation to have a monopoly of His gospel.

Further, our young people should give themselves to this foreign mission work because of the rich blessings which will come to their own souls by so doing. The Lord Jesus said, "If ye know these things happy are ye, if ye do them." While happiness is not the end to be sought in Christian work, yet good cheer in the heart is most helpful in all our endeavors. "To obey is better than sacrifice," and obedience to the Lord's will is sure to be rewarded, and the reward is usually an increasing interest in the work and a fuller and deeper consecration to Him whom we call Master and Lord.

Young people: it is a great and grand thing to come in close touch with Him who is "the Life." There is inspiration and joy and blessing. It is in this way that "your cup runneth over." The trouble with many of us is that we spend our strength in getting a few converts and building up a church, when we should have our eyes and hands upon the gathering in of the peoples for whom the Lord Christ gave His life.

Give to Foreign Missions because you will thus become interested in the progress of the Kingdom of which the churches are but a part. Study the mission of the church—what it is for—its aims and endeavors—its possibilities and its rewards. And, if you do, you will never say that a missionary meeting is the dullest meeting the church ever holds. J. W. M.

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