

prompt replies and cordial help in many ways, all of which make the work of the past year so pleasant to look back upon.

Respectfully submitted.

L. H. MONTIZAMBERT,  
Cor. Sec. Pro. W.A.

Nov. 12th, 1896.

## RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1896.

Since the third triennial meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary was held in Montreal in September, 1895, the work of the auxiliary has gone steadily forward, not with the rapid increase of its earlier years, but still growing and making its influence felt. New branches have been established, membership has increased, and a warmer and more intelligent interest felt in both domestic and foreign missions.

*Total Membership.*—The dioceses of Quebec, Montreal, Ontario, Toronto, Niagara, and Huron report 479 branches, of which 134 are junior. The total membership is about 12,750, 3,824 being juniors. Those figures do not really give the correct membership, so many of the branches failing to report their numbers.

*Total Receipts and Expenditure.*—The total receipts from the six above-mentioned dioceses amount to \$22,596.89. The expenditure is much the same; the balances, if any, being small.

*Missionaries in the Northwest and by Whom Supported.*—Appeals for help from the great field of the Northwest are constantly reaching the auxiliary, and, by the blessing of God, much is being done to lighten the labors and cheer the hearts of His faithful workers in our missionary and far-distant dioceses. In addition to much material help, Toronto contributes largely to the support and salary of Rev. Mr. Hinchliffe, of the Piegan Indian reserve; Margaret Dartnell, matron, at Lesser Slave Lake; Miss Haynes, at Blackfoot Home; and of Rev. Mr. Johnson, at Temiscamingue. Montreal gave \$200 towards the support of a teacher in the Washakada Home. Ontario undertakes Miss Brown's salary at the Piegan Indian school. Quebec contributes \$200 to the matron's salary at the Sarcee reserve. Huron is responsible for the salary of the lady missionary with Rev. Mr. Swainson at Omoksene, and Niagara has joined with Quebec in paying the teachers in the Sarcee reserve school, and Miss Phillips, at Onion Lake, is paid for by all the dioceses conjointly.

*Missionaries in Foreign Work and the Progress During the Year.*—Miss Smith, our medical missionary in Japan, is supported by all the dioceses. Notwithstanding many and great difficulties, she writes most encouragingly of her work—her training school for nurses already bearing good fruit.

Miss Paterson, our late valued Dorcas secretary, is working under Mr. Kennedy at Matsumoto, in Japan. She is most anxious to establish a training home for Bible women, feeling "one earnest, zealous native Bible woman is of more use in this work than three foreign women." She asks for the co-operation of the Auxiliary in carrying out her plan. The Zenana missions are largely supported. No doubt much fresh interest will be aroused by the coming visit of the two Zenana ladies.

Respectfully submitted.

CARRIE S. DENNE,  
Recording Secretary W.A.

## THE COOK AND THE CAPTIVE;

OR,

## ATTALUS THE HOSTAGE.

BY CHARLOTTE M. YONGE.

### CHAPTER IX.

#### THE HORSE HERDS.

Valhild shook her head. "Father does not want those black-gowned Romans to come spying and lording it about here. You know it, Roswitha; you have heard him say how they knocked down the Rolandsaul and Erman-saul at Treves, and how no luck has since come to the Burgunds."

Attalus did not understand this, nor take in much of what the girls tried to explain to him, that the two pine-trees on either side of the door were called the pillars (*saulen*) of Roland and Erman, and were held sacred; and that there was a much larger pillar in a temple in the depths of the forest, to which their father was about to present a part of the spoil of his expedition against the Thuringians under King Theudebert.

How far all this was idolatry Attalus did not know. He had a dim notion that he had heard of these pillars of Roland and Erman before, and that there had been a debate at his grandfather's table whether they were really idolatrous, or only emblems of power civil and military.

He was rested by this time, and growing used to life without the neat and dainty habits to which he had been bred, and when he was out of Hundbert's way he rather liked the companionship of the little girls, since, though Valhild despised him as a miserable, incapable, cowardly Roman, Roswitha admired him as a model of learning and wisdom. Curiosity and enterprise prevailed with him, and he determined to avail himself of the doubt he had heard expressed as to whether it really were a pagan rite and accompany the whole family to see what they did.

Very early in the morning the master was