

removal of Mrs. W. H. Evans from the Guysborough Circuit, we have lost an energetic and faithful work.

MARION C. HART, *Cor.-Sec.*

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.

THE Annual Meeting of the Board of Managers of the W. M. S. will be held in the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, on Oct. 16th, 17th and 18th. We bespeak for this gathering earnest, believing prayer, that a spirit of love and wisdom may characterize its deliberations, and that all its decisions may be divinely guided.

E. S. STRACHAN, *Cor.-Sec.*

## Missionary Readings.

### CONCERNING A MISSIONARY'S OUTFIT.

AMONG the things which no missionary should forget, if he or she would be really well equipped for the work, we need not dwell on the necessity of faith and love, which may be represented as *gold*. To start without these would be presumption worse than folly.

So with the *silver* of knowledge. It is self-evident that such is required. And do not forget your *small change*. It is amusing to see what trifling pieces of knowledge will come to account. How to pack a box, or strap up a bundle, prepare arrowroot or quiet a baby, nail up a picture or knit a stocking, strum on an instrument or sketch a ground-plan, are scraps of knowledge not to be despised. A maxim used by my grandmother was, "*Can do* is easily carried about." So have plenty of this small change in your purse.

A great deal of *steel* is needed for one entering on a missionary career. Physical, and above all, *moral courage* is required. Nervous weakness of character is undesirable at home; it would be a grievous misfortune abroad. One habitually afraid of cattle, wild dogs, snakes or scorpions, or timid at crossing rivers, would be not utterly hindered, but hampered and distressed in a land like India. A missionary should claim the Christian's privilege of fearing no evil, nor have her nerves shaken by an earthquake, or the sudden crash of thunder overhead.

There is an old saying, "*Nothing like leather*," and one is reminded of it in missionary work abroad. What I would symbolize by *leather* is a capacity for encountering *drudgery*; something that will bear the daily strain of monotonous work. We want no imitation calf, tricked out with embossing and gilding, that will not bear "a long pull and a strong pull." Give us tough *leather*, such as harness and straps are made of; not romantic sentimentality, but steady, resolute perseverance.

Another useful article is a *letter weigher*, by which I would represent *sound judgment*. There is special experience required for work in a foreign land. It is a blessing in disguise that missionaries have to toil to acquire a new language, such delay giving them time to learn something of native character, manners and ideas. If language came by intuition, we should make many more blunders in other things than we do

now. Blunders are numerous enough already. The unfledged bird is more likely to get into trouble than the one whose feathers are grown; and the callow, downy creature fresh from the English nest, might be the most likely to put itself forward to chirp its opinions, but for the wholesome restraint of ignorance of the language.

Another necessary must not be forgotten,—a *white-covered umbrella*, representing prudence regarding health. There should be the pure desire to economize health *for the sake of God's cause*. A neglect of prudence is often concealed laziness. One knows that exposure to the sun may cause temporary or permanent incapacity for work. The umbrella has been forgotten. "But oh! it's such a little way to walk; it is so tiresome to have to go back for the umbrella!" cries the imprudent missionary. Or, "I knew that the water at such a place was likely to be bad, but it is such a trouble to be carrying about the little filter." "Quinine? oh! I've been out of it for a month. One does not care to be anticipating fever."

One more necessary I would mention, and it may provoke a smile: be sure to bring a box of *salve*, and not a very small one either. Where people of different antecedents, rank, age, temperament and opinions are brought together closely in a climate which tries the temper, there is at least a *possibility* of some slight rubs, which, without the soothing ointment brought by the peacemaker, may even develop into sores. There should never be heard the exclamations, "I cannot work with X!" "It is impossible to get on with Q!" One might almost say that the most valuable laborer is less the one who displays most zeal, or endures the greatest amount of fatigue, than the one whom all love, who bears with the tiresome, instructs the ignorant, and never wounds by an unkind look, or provokes by a sarcastic word.—A. L. O. E.

### ANTI-CHRISTIAN LITERATURE IN INDIA.

THERE are six hundred native newspapers in India, all of which, with the exception of about half a dozen, are bitterly opposed to Christianity. Societies are now being organized for the dissemination of the sceptical writings of England and America. An important one is in operation from Lahore, as a centre, while another has its headquarters in Benares. The pictures of the gods best known to the Hindu pantheon are even lithographed in Germany and England, and are sold in Calcutta. Native rajahs interest themselves in circulating Hindu tracts, and have adopted shrewd methods to carry on their work. The Rev. Mr. Craven informs me that he knows of one rajah alone who is printing just now, at his own expense, 2,000,000 of Hindu tracts, and intends to distribute them at the larger fairs of North India.

The missionaries, however, keep close watch over these antagonistic forces. They, too, are enlarging their operations rapidly. But the churches and societies which they represent should adopt far more liberal measures to furnish the millions of natives to whom they are sent with sound Christian literature. The passion for reading has struck every part of India. The people will have books and newspapers. It is for the western Christian world to say what their fibre shall be.—Dr. Hurst, in *Harper's Magazine*.