

The Canadian Missionary Link

CANADA.

In the interests of the Baptist Foreign Mission Societies of Canada.

INDIA.

Vol. 10, No 6] "The Gentiles shall come to Thy light, and kings to the brightness of Thy rising."—Is. lx. 3. [FEB., 1888.

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THE NEW MISSIONARIES.—Messrs. Davis and Laflamme reached Cocanada in safety some weeks ago, and are now earnestly plodding away at the language. Mr. Garvide has been heard from several times while on the way, and has doubtless reached India before now. Mr. and Mrs. Auvache are now, in England, Mr. Auvache in a very debilitated condition. It is not likely that they will ever resume work in India.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP.—The inquiry has come to us, whether life memberships can be paid for out of the ordinary members' fees of a Circle? That is to say, supposing that by the ordinary fees of the members of a Circle \$25 or more are raised during a year, can the Circle apply this money to making one of its number a life member? This question must be answered in the negative. The payment of the ordinary fees entitles one to membership in the Circle, and so in the Society; and it will be readily seen that if the money which constitutes the various members of the Circles annual members is applied to making some individual a life member the annual memberships are left unprovided for. The chief aim of the life-membership arrangement is, we take it, to promote extraordinary efforts to raise funds. It is often possible, after the ordinary fees have been fully paid, by a little effort, to secure contributions for making some honored sister a life member. Such efforts are deserving of all encouragement, and should be made oftener than they are. What does life-membership involve? It would seem to constitute the person, on whom it is bestowed, a member of the Society for life, independently of the payment of annual fees. But we have no idea that any sister who is at all worthy of the honor would for a moment think of such a thing as making it an excuse for failure to pay regularly for the support of missions. The effect, we should imagine, would generally be to double the amount given rather than to decrease it.

Miss Alexander.

The following letter to the Board will verify the statement in the January LINK concerning Miss Alexander. We are sure now that we are to lose one of whom we had

very great expectations. But may we not pause for a moment and ask, to what is she lost, and to whom? The Board designated her to do mission work in Cocanada. She writes back to us of circumstances that direct her to Madras. Which is right, the Board or the circumstances? Is the Master's vineyard embraced only in the hand-breadth of map that we call "our field," and is she lost to the cause that inspired her to leave home and friends and native land because she is not to go just there?

But the time! We lose a year of precious work in our mission, for it is not considered safe for another to go to India before next autumn. May we not here do well to consider that a year of loss in Cocanada may be a year of gain in Madras, and therefore no loss in the advance of God's great kingdom. Let us be trustful and believing in this, let us take wider views, let us look beyond the narrow horizon that encircles our field and our time, for even now we learn that, as Mr. Drake is to take the place of Mr. Waterbury, deceased last year, Mrs. Waterbury who remained in Madras, working on alone as long as health would permit, is greatly rejoicing at the good Providence that is sending one so able and efficient as Miss Alexander to fill her place. Who knows the "ways that are past finding out"? And who will cease to cherish great expectations of a noble work from a noble life because, forsooth, its ways are not just our ways? We do expect great things from Miss Alexander, and we most lovingly and earnestly pray that she may have a happier life and do a grander work for the Master as wife and missionary at Madras, than she could have done, according to our way, as missionary to Cocanada.

Concerning finance in this connection, the Board is assured of returns that will be very satisfactory, reports of which will be made in the future.

A further indication of God's Providence in this disappointment of ours is, that another young lady, well fitted for the work, stood ready, waiting and longing to go. Of the appointment of Miss Sara Simpson, of Paris, fuller mention will be made at another time.

M. A. CASTLE.