

"For the ministration of this service not only fillet up the measure of the wants of the saints, but aboundeth also through many thanksgiving unto God . . . for the liberality of your contributions unto them and unto all.

Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." (2 Cor. 9: 12, 14, 15.)

GRACE B. ALEXANDER,  
Foreign Secretary.

#### MISSION BAND REPORT.

The routine of life and how to make it ultimately successful is described in a few terse lines: "Forenoon, and afternoon, and night—forenoon and afternoon and night—forenoon, and what? The empty song repeats itself—no more? Yes, that is life. Make this forenoon sublime, this afternoon a psalm, this night a prayer. And time is conquered, and thy crown is won."

With irresistible force has time hurried us through another year of blessed opportunity. If we have used time well, abounding in labor for the Lord, and growing in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus, we need not fret because another year has gone from us forever. There are failures to deplore: for these we humbly plead forgiveness. There are blessings abundant: for these we praise God. Let both blessings and failures spur us to greater efforts and higher achievements.

In seeking results in the line of Band work, we naturally turn first to financial reports. In our Home Mission work there is a falling behind last year's record by \$139.45. Eighty-seven bands contributed \$741.24. Just after the books closed the sum of \$67.66 was received from eight bands, so the showing would have been better had these Bands been more prompt in making returns. As these amounts are reported to me, the discrepancies between the Band Secretary's books and the Treasurer's records are thus easily explained. Norfolk is the banner Association for Home Missions. As many Bands as Circles reported, and the sum raised was \$168. Oxford-Brant Association stands second with \$127.82. Honorable mention may be made of Aylmer, First Church, Brantford, Waterford and Delhi, which raised \$54, \$45, \$43.25 and \$41 respectively. Clendon Pearce and Mrs. F. C. Elliot, Waterford, Mrs. J. M. Hudson, Talbot St., London, and Miss May Curtis, Langton, have received Life membership certificates.

To the Foreign Mission treasury 121 Bands have sent \$1,440.07, a gain of \$18.63 over last year. Still we are behind the year 1904-05, when \$1,536.26 was given. Twenty-six Bands not forwarding funds last year have sent money this year, while nineteen of last year's givers have not been heard from. These sums do not represent all the gifts of Bands, however, as there have been several offerings diverted from regular channels, and devoted to work among lepers, to Chinese relief, to Quill Lake Church, Grande Ligne, the Indians and other worthy objects. The fact seems often

forgotten that the Home Mission Board has work at Grande Ligne on its regular appropriations. Quilts and boxes and bales of goods have been sent to home missionaries, and cards, picture rolls, etc., to the foreign work.

It is encouraging to note that more Bands than last year have answered the call for reports, 138 having responded. Twenty-one Bands have been organized or reorganized, three of these being young ladies' auxiliaries. Many leaders write of special enjoyment in their work, increased interest and hopes for still better work in future. One Band gave up its bazaar and each member is giving of his own earnings instead. A potato patch netted \$3.00 for the work. A group of children in a small country church had no Band leader so had to disband, but they retained mite-boxes and sent \$8.20 to the treasury. Another Band made over \$14.00 from sale of old rubbers and bottles. One doleful note is sounded when a youthful secretary says their work was disappointing in results because their president had not enough interest to attend the meetings regularly. Are not some leaders compelled to sound the same sad strain when referring to their members? But enthusiasm is contagious and so often is the fact emphasized that where a leader is devoted and earnest, the members catch much of the same spirit. One Band leader rejoices that one of the members wishes to devote her life to foreign missionary service, and begins her special preparation this winter. Another is glad because four have accepted the Saviour, and three have united with the church. So it is not by addition and subtraction, not by dollars and cents that our work is measured. The general knowledge increased, the widening of sympathy, the direction of youthful energy in proper channels, all these have immeasurable influence on the upbuilding of character. Let those who are spending and being spent in service, be content to know that the Christ who fed five thousand with five loaves and two fishes is as all-powerful to-day and may through us bring great things to pass.

A woman in Nottingham, England, lay very ill. A minister by her side said, "Can you tell me what led you to the Saviour?" She had him take from her drawer a torn bit of paper. "Where did you get this?" he asked. "It was wrapped around a parcel sent from Australia," she answered. The article was part of a sermon preached by Spurgeon in London, England. It was printed in a New York paper, sent to a friend in Australia, then used as a wrapping for another parcel. Back in England it leads a soul to Jesus, and hence to life and joy and peace. Take courage, then, for,

"No act falls fruitless; none can tell  
How vast its power may be,  
Nor what results unfolded dwell  
Within it silently."

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Band Secretary.

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