

ed pages contain a clear and full statement of the work effected by an organization which, while comparatively young—being yet in its teens—has become a great power in the Church. Its object is to raise money for Foreign Mission purposes, to excite a deeper interest in the spread of the Gospel by diffusing missionary intelligence, and to train the young when at a susceptible age to work in the good cause. In constitution the society somewhat resembles our Church courts. The Synod is represented by the annual gathering attended by delegates from the Presbyterian Societies. The Presbyterian Society itself is formed of auxiliaries, usually congregational, within the bounds of Presbytery. A few auxiliaries have not yet erected themselves into a Presbyterian Society. Sixty-six Bands for Young People's work are reported with a total membership of 1538, and a revenue of \$1,203. The total amount raised by the Women's Society during the last year is \$6,839.75. The most of this would probably have been lost to the treasury of the Church had it not been for the Society's existence. Largely as this sum must aid the Church fund, the good imparted by the stimulus of work and by increased interest in the missionary enterprise is, if possible, a higher benefit. The report gives a complete list of auxiliaries and bands of work, office bearers, and amounts raised. The last annual meeting was held at Sydney and proved to be a successful gathering. The attendance was large, the various reports showed progress all along the line, and the members returned home fired with new zeal for the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom. Mrs. Dodge, the president, read an eloquent address which is published in full. A few points in this address claim special notice. The society wishes always to work in entire harmony with the Foreign Mission Board of the Church, handing over to it for appropriation all the funds that that may be raised. Promptly responding to the Board's request, the society has raised \$500 towards the liquidation of the Trinidad Mission debt. To afford more space for mission intelligence, the "Leaflet" has been enlarged from 8 to 16 pages, and is now issued under the name of the "Message." This little monthly publication is full of information concerning our mission fields, and it supplies a medium of communication among the various auxiliaries. We wish the W. F. M. Society the largest measure of success in all departments of work. We rejoice to know that the Church now, as well as the Church of old, has women who deem it a delight to "labour in the Gospel."

THE following letter has been received by the friends of Miss Melville, a young lady from Toronto, who, with Miss Johnson, of Brandon, sailed last spring for the West Central African Mission:—All the dear ones,—We have reached at last Benguela, the end of our sea voyage, and are on old Mother Earth again, for which we are not sorry, much as we enjoyed our voyage. We are all in the best of health. I was weighed the day before yesterday, and have gained ten pounds. We went on shore at Loanda about 11 a.m. to the Dutch House, where we secured two machillas (a sort of chair or rather lounge, with a cane bottom and walnut frame, over which was an awning and side curtains to protect one from the sun) these were carried by two natives. Miss Johnson and I took our seats for this our first trial of native travelling. We enjoyed it very much, as it was easy riding, but certainly odd. We went to visit Bishop Taylor's mission, finding them very glad to see us. They have a nice home made of sheet iron, with a stone foundation. The house has a large room in the centre, reaching from the front to the back, with three bedrooms on each side. The wall is only two-thirds of the way up, making it very cool, but not as private as one would wish. We had luncheon with Mr. Burton, and were there for prayers, and how we did enjoy meeting for worship with those who love the Lord. As they had an organ we also enjoyed some singing. There is a schoolroom below the house (not at all underground), but at present they have no day school, but hope soon to open one. There are four black children, not slaves, living in the house. These

were given to them. They are such nice children; one, a girl of twelve or thirteen, speaks English well, also Portuguese, and her native language. We then took a carriage, two horses, or rather two mules (one cannot walk on account of the heat, and it is not safe for fear of fever), to the British consul's, whom Mr. Saunders and Mr. Currie had seen the day before, when he invited us to tea with him. We enjoyed it very, very much; the butter was so sweet, the bread cut thin, not in chunks. The coloured servant who waited on the table was very polite; he wore a swallow-tailed coat and white shirt, and certainly looked very nice. We next went to visit the Catholic Hospital. It is a large building with long, large halls, and between each of the public wards is a garden opening into the halls. The gardens are beautiful, filled with flowers, palms, etc., so very fresh and nice. The wards were beautiful and clean, the private ones having iron bedsteads, with white cheesecloth draped all around as curtains to protect them from flies of various kinds; also marble-topped stands. The walls between these wards and the halls were only half-way up, making them very much cooler. The floors of the halls were of tiles, and as clean as could be. There are four or six large wards, and ten or twelve private ones. After this visit we returned to our boat. We arrived at Benguela, the desired port, on Monday morning, July 17, 1893, and we were again on Mother Earth, for which we were very thankful. That text was much in my mind, "Then are they glad because they be quiet, so he bringeth them into their desired haven," (margin revised) "haven of their desire." Ps. cvii. 30. We had a fine voyage, and yet were very glad to land. We came at once to the Dutch House, where we were to stay, as they were our agents. Now I hear you say, "What do you think of Benguela?" Well, first, as to sleeping room. It is a small one, made of mud, or rather bricks 18x19x3, made of mud and allowed to dry in the sun, then laid like bricks, using mud for mortar. The roof is of red tiles, with two or three niches left between the wall and the roof, I suppose to supply air. The windows are of a fair size, with no glass, but shutters, so that you have either to be in darkness or have a group of blacks "watching" your every movement. When we first arrived Miss Johnson and I wished to prepare for breakfast, but there were six black boys looking in at us. There are six or seven slaves in the house, some of them nice boys. Just think, you can buy a boy nine or ten years old for fifteen dollars! They are sold up the coast for a good deal more. One thinks the slave trade is over, but now they have what is called contract labour. These poor things are brought from the interior and made to sign a contract that they will work for so many years for so much. This, for them, just means a cross on a white paper and no more. They are slaves taken up the coast and sold, never to return. Poor things, how much they need the love of Christ Jesus in their lives. The town of Benguela has about two hundred white and two thousand black inhabitants. The houses are much nicer than I thought they would be. The telegraph company have a very nice place, quite large, built of iron, with two stories, each with a verandah and green shades. There it was very cool and pleasant, and we would have liked so much to have been able to stay, but could not find accommodation. The manager is an Englishman, on whom we called yesterday. There is also a public garden, with a fine iron fence, beautiful palm trees and oleanders in full blossom. In the centre was a drinking fountain, at which a boy in grotesque dress was drinking. You will want to hear something of the dress. Well, it is grotesque to say the best of it. They seem to wear all the clothes they have as a piece tied round their waists, another round the shoulders. A good many do not have even this, but are bare to the waist. The men who carried me over to the telegraph company in the machilla had two skins tied round their waists. Hats are the exception, and boots more so. I did not tell you there was a railway here from Benguela to Catumbella, about fifteen miles. It is not a sixty mile express, but the people are proud of it here. There was a woman killed on it yesterday;

the body was taken and put under a tree, and there it had to remain until the judge came and allowed them to take it away. The body was wrapped in white cloth and placed in a hammock, then carried away, followed by several singing and chanting a sort of solo and chorus. How much they need the light of Jesus! The women on returning from their work sang, "We have worked hard, we are tired and weary." Pray for us and our work. Benguela, W.C.A., July 20, 1893.

"A New Sharp Threshing Instrument" in Central India.

SOME have questioned at my unreasonable zeal for the Missionary College at Indore. I cannot put my own feelings toward that college plainer than by giving a verse that has been ringing in my heart while thinking about it. "Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth; thou shalt thresh the mountains and beat them small, and make the hills as chaff."

That is what we want for the huge work committed to us in Central India—"a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth"—something that will make short work with the mountains of difficulty and do what is to be done with a glorious completeness. I did not seek the verse in connection with the college; it came to me. At first I did not welcome it. It looked too strong, I was afraid to take it. But now I welcome it. God can make of that college just such an instrument.

Change the figure, but keep the idea of the mighty gain of wisely arranged machinery over hand labour. We, as Canadian Presbyterians are responsible for the evangelization of 10,000,000 souls in Central India. That is a big field. It would not do to set it down as less than one of 10,000 acres—10,000 acres now "white to the harvest!"

A college thoroughly equipped and "meat for the Master's use" is a reaping machine. It multiplies the power of the missionary many fold. It is the very sort of machine Christ Himself arranged when He "saw the multitudes fainting and scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd." First He prayed for labourers, then He gathered special disciples about him, trained them by daily teaching and occasional direct missionary work, and, at the end of three years and a half, he turned out twelve graduates, filled with His own spirit; omnipotent in His name to do the work He gave them to do. Dr. Mackay, of Formosa, has caught the Master's idea, and has modelled his whole missionary work "after the pattern." Watching carefully the Lord's methods, let us rest content with nothing short of such a reaping machine powerfully equipped in Central India. All honour to the hand labourers and their necessary preparatory work, but God speed the reaping machine, and complete it quickly, take the bonds of debt off from it, give it a strong team to work it, and plenty of oil that it may run smoothly and well. Our part in the meantime is to complete that building.

Do you wonder, with such thoughts about the college, that whole-hearted haste seems necessary? ANNA ROSS.

Brucefield, Ont., Nov. 23rd, 1893.

ON the evening of Mr. McKenzie's induction, the Orangeville people gave him a most enthusiastic reception, when over 500 people sat down to a sumptuous supper. After supper addresses were delivered by Mr. Hensack, their late pastor, Mr. Brown, Methodist, and Perry, Baptist, of the town, and Mr. McKenzie. We wish the pastor and people of St. Andrew's church, Orangeville, long and unmingled prosperity.

A LARGE and suitable furnace has just been placed in the manse, Gananoque, which will prove no doubt a great comfort to the occupants. This has been done by the liberality of the Ladies' Aid of the congregation, a society which by its labours and constitutions, through several years has done much to assist the congregation in its various undertakings, and has illustrated what can be done by a band of ladies working quietly but persistently to promote the interests of the church to which they belong.