

The following were elected officers: Mrs. S. Manzer, *Pres.*; Mrs. L. Goodspeed, *Vice-Pres.*; Miss Manzer, *Sec.*; Mrs. Campbell, *Treas.*; Mrs. Peterson, *Auditor*. We believe this society will do good service for missions, and shall not be surprised if the Lord elect from us a worker for the foreign field. *Sec. P. R. York*

Report of the Brant Association

A very brief report of the work in the Association might be given in two words—steady progress. During the year the Circle at Onondaga has been reorganized, but owing to the re-division of the Association we only report nine Circles—two less than last year. All of which include both Home and Foreign Missions. Number of women in churches, 728; number of contributors, 307; money raised for Home and Foreign Missions by Circles, \$1900. In April a Band was organized at St. George. There are now seven Bands; six of these have contributed \$116.30. The boys Band of 1st Church, Brantford, have not reported. Total reported for Circles and Bands, \$1105.30, an increase of nearly \$300 over last year. In addition to these, in the East Ward Church, Brantford, a class of young girls are engaged in work for Grande Ligne. Some of the Circles report half the women in the church members of the Circle, with an average attendance of half the members at the monthly meetings. Westover Circle reports three more members in the Circle than there are women in the church. As there are eighteen or twenty churches in the Association, and only nine Circles and seven Bands, it has been thought that more might be done in the way of organizing. In reply we only say it is wise at times to make haste slowly. There is much to be considered in country churches, as it is one thing to organize a Circle or Band, but quite another to carry it on successfully. We close the year with hearts full of gratitude to God for the blessing that has followed our labors, and enter upon a new one with the earnest prayer that much more may be accomplished in the future than has been in the past.

A. MOYLE, *Ass. Director*

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

1 Cook's Road, Pombore, Madras.

Nov 14th, 1888

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS.—I thought that among my unanswered letters was one from your secretary, but as I cannot find it, I suppose I must either have written to her or else torn it by mistake. I was very glad to hear through her of your being so well organized, and since then I have heard from Mrs. Roberts, and my sister that you are taking an interest in mission work, and doing something practical. I often think of you, and our small beginning in Mrs. Roney's house one April evening, and I pray that from that beginning, much work for the Lord Jesus may result, and that in helping to send the Gospel to others, that same Gospel may affect your own hearts and bring forth fruit in your lives.

This afternoon my little girls were here, from our heathen school, for their sewing lesson. Some of them came and top-sew as neatly as any of you; they learned when Mrs. Waterbury was here. Others are only learning to hold the needle, and until they have tried for some time, they want to sew backwards. Indeed the native tailors all sew from them instead of to them, and often

hold the work between their toes. Well while they were sewing four or five young girls came into the room who had come to draw water from one of the tanks in our compound. I began talking with them and as they cannot come, or do not come to our prayer meeting, I thought this was a good chance to say and read something to them while they were watching the others sewing. So I had Mary, who is the teacher read part of the fourth chapter of John to them, about the woman drawing water. I tried to say something to them, and Mary spoke too, but soon they had to go and carry their water home. I went out on the veranda and watched them filling the large earthen pots and helping one another to place them on their heads. I wonder if they understood what Jesus meant by the "living water"; I can pray that they desire to have it, and we know they will receive it if they ask for it. Afterwards some more girls came who were also drawing water. I knew none of them went to our school and so asked the reason, as four of them were about the same size as other girls who are in school. "Oh," they said, "we cannot, we have work to do at home," and they were all married, had been married a couple of months ago. September is considered a very "lucky" month for marriages so a great many took place then. One Sunday evening in September, Mary and I went over to this palace (a hamlet or cluster of houses where people of one caste live) to talk with the women at their doors. We had to move twice to different places on account of the noise made by the musicians in a marriage procession. I found to-day that it was one of these girls who was being married then, she remembered seeing us stop our reading until the procession was past. They were just little girls, none of them could have been more than fourteen, and I doubt if any were over twelve years old. They never know their ages if you ask them.

For about ten days we have had quite a little trouble about snakes in our compound. One Sunday three young cobras were found and killed; one was apparently on its way to the house, as it was coming on to the veranda when caught. We knew there must be a nest of them somewhere, and so wished to get the old ones. On account of the heavy rains we had to wait a week, but yesterday the snake charmers came. I do not know how they managed to get the snakes out of the holes, as it was too hot for us to go in the sun, but very soon we saw the three snake charmers coming, followed by about a dozen people or more from the compound, and one of them was carrying a great cobra by the tail. It writhed and I thought it would surely strike him, but he had a dexterous way of managing it, he struck it a quick blow on the head, threw it down, as we thought, dead, then opened its mouth to show the fangs. But the ugly creature was not dead, for as soon as he let go, it began to move. He had stunned it only intending to take it home, and use it in his snake charming business. But our men soon put an end to it with sticks. Then they went in search of others, and found another cobra and a large snake of some other species. They brought them to show to us, then put them both into a small canvas bag about a third of a yard square. I wondered how two such large snakes could be put in so small a bag as they tied it about a third of the distance from the top. Then they began searching for more snakes, one of the men all this time carrying the bag with the snakes inside, under his arm. Not finding any more, they came to the veranda, opened the bag, and one man carelessly put his hand in, drawing out first one, then another snake. One played on a very small instrument, which sounds much like the bag-pipes, all the time waving in a nonchalant manner the empty bag before the snakes.