

Mission Field.

Boys' School at Mhow.

MHOW, Feb. 14th, 1894.

MY DEAR REVIEW.—The Mission High School in Mhow held its annual distribution of prizes a few days ago in the large new building which we hope will ultimately become the home of the school. This is the first public demonstration we have held in connection with the boys' school, and we were naturally a little anxious as to its success. Major-General Anderson, C.B., who is in command of Mhow station, took the chair, and his deep interest in the mission and its work is shown by the address he gave us; he mentioned facts connected with the early history of the mission which were quite new to me, and which he had observed when stationed in Mhow years ago as a young officer. Among the audience were Major Hay, in command of the artillery, the church of England chaplain, the General's Aide-de-camp, and others, besides native gentlemen and the parents of the children. The boys behaved splendidly, and their recitations in English, Hindi, Urdu and Persian were well rendered considering the circumstances. Their singing though perhaps not quite equal to that of the girls was very good. The General kindly distributed the prizes, which consisted chiefly of Bibles and religious books for the larger boys, and useful articles sent from home for the smaller boys.

The Mhow school had the honor this year of taking the first prize in the Middle school and the first, second, third, fourth and fifth prizes in the Lower Vernacular school in the competition among the mission schools for the Murray Bible prize. Handsome Bibles and interesting books were given as rewards to these boys. Yours faithfully,

NORMAN H. RUSSELL.

Kingston Presbyterial W.F.M. Society.

THE annual meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbytery of Kingston was held in St. Andrew's church, Gananoque, on Wednesday, March 14th, at ten o'clock. A good number of delegates and friends were present. Mrs. Byers, the president, being in the chair, opened the meeting and was assisted in devotional exercises by Mrs. Donald Ross, Kingston, and Miss MacKay, Belleville. After the reading of minutes and roll call, the reports of auxiliaries and mission bands were read by representatives from the different societies. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Byers, Gananoque, president; all presidents of auxiliaries to be vice-presidents; Mrs. Clarke Hamilton, Kingston, treasurer; Mrs. Fowler, Kingston, secretary. Mrs. Vankleek, president of the St. Columbia auxiliary, was appointed to represent the society at the annual meeting to be held in Ottawa in April. Mrs. Houston, of Kingston, opened the afternoon session with devotional exercises. The reports of the secretary and treasurer were read, showing that increased zeal and liberality have characterized the society this year. Four auxiliaries and two mission bands were organized, making in all 26 auxiliaries and 9 mission bands, with a membership of 558. 450 copies of the Monthly Letter Leaflet were subscribed for, and in addition to these a large number of prayer cards and other publications were distributed. 880 lbs. of clothing were sent to Crovatsland Reserve, and Rev. Mr. Whyte, the missionary at Yorkton, in acknowledging the gift expressed to the secretary his sincere thanks for the very bountiful supply that had been provided. \$1,335.36 were contributed. Freight expense to the North-West was \$31.25, which leaves \$1,304.11 to be sent to the Foreign Mission Board. The following donations were received: Mrs. Charles Shibley, Harrowsmith, \$50; Deseronto Woman's Missionary Society, \$20; Miss Maitland, The Ridge, \$10; Mrs. Bickner, Wilketts, \$1. Mrs. Byers, the president, gave an interesting address and urged on all present to aid in bringing in new members and increasing the work among the women of the Presby-

tery. Kindly greetings were extended by representatives of the Methodist W. Missionary Society, Baptist Mission Circle, Methodist Mission Band and W.C.T. Union. A conference on how to increase membership and interest was engaged in by many of the delegates, and also members from other societies, and many methods for profitably conducting societies were suggested. Mrs. Dowseley, wife of the Rev. Mr. Dowseley, who laboured in China in connection with the Church of Scotland for many years, addressed the meeting. In a charming manner Mrs. Dowseley described the dress, customs and employment of the women. The work of starting a girls' school there was begun and carried on successfully by Mrs. Dowseley. Mrs. Smellie, Hamilton, gave a thoughtful and instructive paper on "Christian Instrumentality." A cordial invitation was given to the society to hold its next annual meeting in Belleville. In the evening, at half-past seven, a very excellent and interesting entertainment was given by the children of the Helping Hands Mission Band, under the direction of their president, Mrs. Byers. The missionary concert was greatly enjoyed by the delegates present, and no doubt many new ideas in regard to instructing and interesting children in Foreign Mission work will be carried out in other towns and also in many scattered neighbourhoods. Songs and recitations were given by the little ones, who showed themselves well acquainted with mission work in the New Hebrides. Finally a model of the mission steamer, "Dayspring," was brought in by twelve stalwart sailor boys, and this vessel received the contributions of the children. Collection in aid of Presbyterian expenses, \$22.

Message from Mexico.

DEAR REVIEW.—My former letter aimed at giving some idea of our annual missionary conference lately held in Mexico City, leaving the city itself as a subject for this.

Mexico City is a place of unusual importance and interest, being not only the capital and largest city of the Republic, but the balancing pivot of Mexican history—a history which reads more like remarkable fiction than simple fact. Being located in the lovely valley of Mexico, one may cast his eye along the streets in any and every direction and see magnificent mountains, some of which persist in hiding their heads among the clouds. Of the 330,000 inhabitants there are said to be several thousand English-speaking people. After familiar acquaintance with typical Mexican towns one feels as well as sees a great contrast. The observer notes that there are buildings of a modern cast, stores which will compare favourably with those in our large cities at home; many people with business-like step and very respectable dress, well paved streets, numerous cabs, and even bicycles. To such an extent has this city become Americanized that one almost imagines himself suddenly transported to a home town. The plazas and public gardens are what some of our dear young ladies at home would unhesitatingly pronounce, "perfectly lovely," and in this case, at least, we are forced to admit the appropriateness of the term. Think of the lovely walks among tropical trees and plants, some of which are gradually dispensing with their old garments, and clothing themselves with new at the same time; the birds of beautiful plumage and sweet song; calla lilies, roses, violets, etc., in full bloom, gushing fountains, green grass, warm sun, refreshing shade, etc., agreeably combined and you will likely be on friendly terms with strong adjectives. For the first time I have seen the coffee plant and taken oranges from the tree.

Our visit to the aristocratic suburb of Chapultepec was full of interest. On the summit of the almost perpendicular rock, probably over 500 ft. high, is a large castle. Soldiers guard the entrance to this. The President has lately been making his home here and only a privileged few are allowed to enter. From this elevation a splendid view of the city, valley, lakes, and snow-capped mountains can be had. In the

side of this remarkable rock is a spring supplying the city with drinking water. In the natural parks surrounding the base are magnificent cypress trees draped with a beautiful silver grey moss, which has a charming effect. A walk or drive among these trees is delightful beyond expression. Here one almost imagines himself among the "cedars of Lebanon," or "the big trees of California." Let me make special reference to one of these known as "Montezuma's tree," said to have stood for several centuries. In round numbers its height is 200 ft. The diameter at the stump is about 16 ft. and circumference 45 ft. Although all is calm and peace in these lovely grounds, one's mind goes back to the time when this imposing rock was surrounded by a lake and held by a warlike Aztec tribe, who made frequent excursions into the surrounding country for captives to be offered in sacrifice on the summit to their favourite god. The mind of the thoughtful leaps forward a few centuries to witness in 147 the successful attempt of the American soldiers to capture this strong fort and give a decisive turn in favour of "Uncle Sam." We hasten to visit Guadalupe, another interesting suburb in the opposite direction from the city. This is the Mecca of Mexico, and contains the shrine of the patron saint and goddess of Mexico. To this place pilgrimages are periodically made by devoted children of the Church, who travel for miles on their knees. Great in the eyes of millions is Diana of the Mexicans. She is adored as the mother of God, and from many receives more than her share of adoration, or in other words much more than "The Father," or God Himself.

We turn from many interesting facts and features to look at the snow-clad volcanoes Ixtaccihuatl and Popocatepetl, nearly 17,000 and 18,000 ft. respectively. The higher one—Mount Popo—as it is called, rises about 11,000 ft. above the valley of Mexico, and 5,000 ft. above the line of perpetual snow. It is about 50 miles from the city, and appears to rise gradually to a point. At times the top is buried in the clouds or appears above them, and at other times the base and summit are apparent, while clouds obscure the centre. Imagine yourself in the summer heat of the valley looking upon this piece of creative handiwork when free from its floating companions and when the rays of the declining sun pass over your head and strike the glistening snow. I am reminded of a good old Scotchman's remark, "What thundering big shovelfuls these young preachers do take." Well, the shovel must be emptied however ungracefully or abruptly—so I proceed.

Being on great historical ground we may assume a meditative attitude appropriate for closing. While gazing upon the house once occupied by Cortez, the bloody scenes of the conquest naturally rise to sudden view. We look with absorbing interest upon monuments of ancient Aztec civilization. The Calendar Stone, 12 ft. in diameter, indicating a division of the year into eighteen months of twenty days. The many stone gods in form of man, lower animal or feathered rattlesnake, or all combined, though the snake is the favourite god. Last, but not least, we look upon the huge Sacrificial Stone, wonderfully carved, and on which doubtless many, many thousands of human victims were bound, while their hearts were cut out and offered in sacrifice to the gods. Leaving the conquered and ill-treated Aztecs we move down the line of history and look into the uplifted faces of mummified victims of the Spanish Inquisition, who, when alive, were built into the walls of convents. We walk in the beautiful alameda of the city, and recall the fact that our feet are on ground where victims of this same cruel and blood-thirsty institution were publicly burned at the stake.

Imagine, if you can, the feelings of the missionary who views and silently meditates upon the blank and cruel heathenism of the long past as represented by these instruments of sorrow and death, recalls the treatment of heretics at the hands of the conquering Church, which marks little, if any, improvement, beholds as a living witness