

Foreign Mission Board

W. B. M. U.

"We are laborers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please address MRS. J. W. MANNING, 240 Duke Street, St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR MARCH

That the Spirit's power may graciously descend upon mission helpers, schools, outstations, and that all who are halting may now decide to live for Christ. For Mission Bands and their leaders.

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS—Perhaps no month in the year is so eagerly looked forward to by the young people as the month of December. It is the month that is supposed to bring sleighing, coasting, skating, and all the joys of Xmas.

While we had neither sleighing or coasting here the month commenced in an especially good manner for on the very first day of it our three new missionaries landed in Vizanagram. A number of the missionaries were on hand to bid them welcome. For weeks beforehand their coming formed an important topic of conversation and their arrival was eagerly looked forward to. It was a great joy to the writer to be able to meet the Moncton friends so soon after leaving the homeland, and it was with heart felt gratitude to God that I bade them welcome. They stood their long journey very well and all three presented a fine appearance.

The next important event was Christmas. It was a beautiful day in Tekkali. Mr. and Mrs. Glendenning and Miss Harrison had been invited to spend it with us.

Somehow or other Santa Claus managed to get across the ocean and arrived at Tekkali on Christmas eve. When we retired everything was about as usual but next morning when we went into the sitting room the table was loaded with presents. It is a mystery how and when the change took place. Waiting till all were assembled we formed a circle around the table and sang—"Hark the Herald Angels sing," then each in turn recited a verse of Scripture bearing on the birth of Christ after which the presents were distributed as Santa Claus had marked them. Then we all sat down to our morning meal. At ten we went to our little chapel where a service had been arranged for. Several of the different schools were represented and all had some part in the service. I was able to understand and enjoy it rather better than a service of a similar character attended the previous year.

In the afternoon, men, women, and children to the number of about two hundred assembled on the mission compound. Mr. Higgins had arranged for a number of sports and for over an hour he and Mr. Glendenning were busily engaged superintending in races, games, tug of war, etc. Then we had some fire-works, including the fire wheel, etc. The fire wheel is made by tying rags soaked in oil to the ends of a long stick, setting fire to them and twirling the stick rapidly round the head and body. Master Frank has become expert at it. He can make the fire wheel as prettily and skillfully as any of the natives and has never once burned himself.

After that was over we all went into the chapel to see the wonderful Xmas tree. It was well loaded. Nearly 200 received bags of candy, oranges, plantains and pop-corn. They were as excited and made as much noise as the boys and girls in the home land.

As it was getting dark we sent all but the Christians and their children home. It had been arranged for them to remain and enjoy their Xmas dinner together. Ninety eight in all partook. There was an abundance of rice and curry and all pronounced it first class. Am glad they enjoyed it but for my part I very much preferred our turkey, vegetables, etc. Have not yet learned to like the rice and curry. To tell the truth I am not trying very hard.

It was about nine o'clock when the dinner was cleared away and the Christians returned to their homes. The thought that we had been enabled to make the day a pleasant one for them and for a number of the heathen made our own lives indeed a happy one.

Next day we were as long as could be getting ready to go to Vizanagram, where our conference was to meet. Before we left there the home boxes arrived. That is just about as important an event as the arrival of the new missionaries. The boxes had been expected several days before they came and when they really arrived all were eager to see the contents. Some of us were very agreeably surprised to find how kindly we had been remembered. You have no idea, dear friends, of the joy it gives, when thousands of miles from home to find that we are remembered and to know that amid all the rush of the Xmas festivities the friends in the home land still have time to think of their missionaries and to prepare gifts for them. It makes the distance seem so much less. Besides personal gifts this wonderful box contained a fruit

cake, some dried apples and some confectionary for each mission family, a lot of dolls, picture cards and rolls, toys, sewing utensils, etc., useful articles for the little boys and girls in this land, and a generous supply of bedding, etc., for the hospital. A large bundle of ready made garments found its way to Tekkali. As no address was given neither Mrs. Higgins nor I can write and thank the kind friends. If these lines should meet the eyes of any of them, we would like them to know that the clothes are much appreciated, some of our little ones are wearing them and are very proud of their pretty white suits trimmed with red, and look nice and comfortable in them. We intend keeping them and just giving them from time to time as they are needed. After a very pleasant conference we returned to our homes to begin the work of another year. What will the record be? You, too, dear boys and girls, are starting on a new year. May it indeed be a happy one, and may the record for each and all of us be better than any year before. With best wishes for all. Yours lovingly,
Tekkali, Jan. 31st. FLORA CLAKKE.

A public meeting of the Woman's Missionary Aid Society was held at New Minas on Feb. 15th. Mrs. Nalder of Windsor being present, gave a very interesting address of the life and work of Ramabai, a converted Bramin. A collection of \$4.50 was taken for the Ramabai Association Fund.

MRS. TRUMAN BISHOP, Sec'y.

Report W. M. A. Society, St. Stephen.

30 years ago a little band of women of the Union St. Baptist church, met in the parsonage to organize a W. M. A. Society. Our organizer and first president was Mrs. Manning, now President of the W. B. M. U. The number was small only 9 members. Four of those dear sisters present with us that day have "crossed the river" and we know they are today "face to face with the dear Saviour whom they loved and served here. After the removal of our loved Pastor Manning to another field, there came to us the Rev. J. T. Eaton, whose wife had formerly been missionary in Burmah (going out under the American Board. Mrs. Eaton was elected President of the Aid and we carried on our meetings under her wise leadership during the period of their stay with this church. But there came a time when a pastor without a wife came to us, and as there was no sister in the Society who felt they could take the office of President, our Society disbanded. For several years we had no meetings, but mission money was given through other channels than the Society.

In 1885, our returned missionary, Mrs. Churchill visited St. Stephen, and re-organized the Aid with a membership of 18, which has since increased to 60. During this time seven members have had life membership certificates presented to them. The whole contributions of the society to Home and Foreign Missions during the last 18 years, is something over twelve hundred dollars. The smallest amount ever given for one year being 20 dollars, the largest \$112. And so our society has grown with the years, stronger with steadfast effort, in faith, in courage, brighter with zeal, with love, with sacrifice. Our service with all its incompleteness we can only lay it at the feet of him, "who for our sakes became poor. That we through his poverty might become rich."

I. R. Sec'y, pro tem

Foreign Mission Board.

NOTES BY THE SECRETARY.

How it was Done.

There can be no question that Christian nations are in the ascendant in the world's affairs today, that the learning, the literature, the commerce, the arts, the great industries, the political power of the times are in their hands, and that it rests with them to shape the future of mankind. This position in the world's affairs was held by Rome at the beginning of the Christian era. The civilized world then was pagan; today it is Christian. And this tremendous revolution is supremely the result of Christian missions. Compared with this, there is no record in human annals that does not pale into insignificance. Rome's greatness was majestic, and has left a profound impression on the world, but it did not equal this; in truth, it was but the prologue to this swelling theme.—Missionary Herald.

There were over fourteen million of dollars given for the Protestant foreign missions last year. Of this England gave more than seven million, and the United States more than five million. May these two strongest nations in the world ever go hand and hand in the good cause.

Missionary Herald.

The soldiers of Garibaldi were once on the point of

mutiny. They sent him a message detailing their losses and helplessness. "What shall we have if we follow you farther?"

The answer was: "More hunger, cold, thirst, wounds; more of you will fall in battle; many will never see your homes again." But the hero's eyes gleamed with hope. The brave men sprang up: "We are the men; lead us on."

Shall we not so speak to the Captain of our salvation: "We are the men; lead us on." That is missionary heroism.

Contributions to the Minister's Fund for Annuities.

Wallace River, per J. W. Nelson, \$5; Seal Harbor, John Crooks, \$2.50; Penfield Centre, A. C. Pool, \$5; Central Cheboque, Rev. E. J. Grant, \$4; Arcadia church, Rev. E. J. Grant, \$3; A. M. McMillan, \$2; Lucasville, I. J. Lingley, \$2; North Brookfield, B. Y. P. U. Mrs. N. W. Frank, \$10; Indian Harbor, P. B. Isnor, \$2; Port Medway, J. W. D. Lley, \$2; Hampton, Isaiah Brown, \$2.50; Isaac Prescott, Albert county, N. B., \$5; Rev. P. R. Foster, \$6.60; Miss Ida Parkie, \$2; Springhill, A. G. Purdy, \$30.

I had just begun to feel discouraged about getting the amounts from the churches for the ministers which are much needed, when a letter from Brother Purdy, of Springhill, enclosing \$30 from that church, and a letter of enquiry from Brother H. E. Gross, of Moncton church, which is a guarantee of another large contribution, when my discouragement vanished. Will the ministers and clerks of the churches which have not yet taken contributions, please bring the matter sympathetically before their respective churches?

E. M. SAUNDERS, Sec'y-Treas.

CORRECTION—In last week's issue, in the notice of the meeting of the Barrington Mission Band which reads "The idea presented itself," should be "The idea of a valentine party presented itself."

If the joys of this world have deceived you, and like the autumn flowers, lie dead at your feet, give them an honorable burial and turn to him who is your chief joy and in whose hands no hopes ever wither.—Sel.

Rheumatism

No other disease makes one feel so old. It stiffens the joints; produces lameness, and makes every motion painful.

It is sometimes so bad as wholly to disable, and it should never be neglected.

M. J. McDonald, Trenton, Ont., had it after a severe attack of the grip; Mrs. Hattie Turner, Bolivar, Mo., had it so severely she could not lift anything and could scarcely get up or down stairs; W. H. Shepard, Sandy Hook, Conn., was laid up with it, was cold even in July, and could not dress himself.

According to testimonials voluntarily given, these sufferers were permanently relieved, as others have been, by

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which corrects the acidity of the blood, on which rheumatism depends, and builds up the whole system.

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