

from their nests in long and living ropes; at night the lamp upon my study table was black with crawling insects of a score of kinds; all nature seemed revived and burst out in one irrepressible song, that reverent souls would find no difficulty in interpreting as a sacred oratorio written by Him whom all the thoughts of nature only praise.

Right from the doorway of the mission to the front gate, I look out on 200 yards of greensward. Green juice runs down the drawn lips of the pager cattle, the terror has faded out of the faces of the people. There is now a song in my soul that answers to the song of the birds, and I know the same song is in the hearts of ten times ten million souls a song of thanksgiving. It is the spontaneous uprising of hearts made grateful by this visitation; but they know not whom they should thank. Our Christians do. And when we gather in the prayer meeting, we shall thank the Lord God Jehovah, in the words of the Psalmist.

"He turneth a wilderness into a pool of water,  
And a dry land into watersprings,  
And there he maketh the hungry to dwell,  
That they may prepare a city of habitation,  
And sow fields, and plant vineyards,  
And get them fruits of increase.  
Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness,  
And for his wonderful works to the children of men!"

The famine here is not at an end; one swallow does not make a summer, but a great many lives both of men and cattle have been saved by this rain. It will by no means help the crops, they are months past help, but it will save millions from dire distress, and possible death. The cry for food is as great as ever.

May God help us to open our hearts wide to the great and silent, and 10,000 times more awful cry that ascends inaudibly to the foot of God from 300,000 times 10,000 hearts in this land for the Bread of Life, and the water thereof that can be found only in the Lord Jesus, whom you and I know and love so dearly. Shall we give it them for salvation, or shall we withhold it and let them die in the famine described in the eighth chapter of Amos: "Not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east; they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it. In that day shall the fair virgins and the young men faint for thirst. They that swear by the sin of Samaria (idolatry), and say, As thy God, O Dan, liveth! and, as the way of Beer-sheba liveth, even they shall fall, and never rise up again."

If any of you would like to write to me, just put the letter in a linen envelope, stick on a five cent stamp, address it Cocanada, India, and mail it Monday morning,

and in four weeks' time I shall be filling my heart with your thoughts.

Yours, in the dear Lord,

H. F. LAFLAMME.

Cocanada, India, 31, 3, '97.

### RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Six meetings of the Board and four meetings of the Executive Committee have been held during the year. At the first meeting of the newly appointed Board appropriations were passed amounting to \$6,244.

A special meeting of the Board was held in June to consult with the Executive Committee of the General Board regarding further reductions in the appropriations. After the most careful consideration, it was decided to transfer twelve and a half per cent. of the amount appropriated for our work, exclusive of salaries and Miss Baskerville's school, to Miss Folsom's, Miss Priest's and Miss McLaurin's work. The timely gift of \$600 by a friend who wished to remain unknown, enabled the Board to vote \$300 towards Samulcotta Seminary, and to make up the balance required for Miss Priest's and Miss McLaurin's work.

In October the Presidents of the Home and Foreign Mission Societies appealed to the members of the Circles on behalf of the Thank-offering meetings. Seventy-five Circles and two Bands responded.

Amounts received by the F.M. Society: From Circles, \$534.58; Bands, \$25.82. Total, \$560.40. An increase over last year of \$77.41.

In November Mrs. E. W. Dadson resigned her position on the Board. This was rendered necessary by her removal from Woodstock to Montreal, which belongs to the Eastern Convention. The resignation was accepted with regret, Mrs. Dadson having been for years a most efficient worker of the Foreign Mission Society. Mrs. Thos. White, of Park Church, Brantford, was appointed to fill the vacancy.

In January Mrs. C. T. Stark resigned her position as Sec. of Bands. The Board gladly take this opportunity of expressing their appreciation of Mrs. Stark's faithful efforts to increase missionary interest among the children of the various churches during the last four years.

The Treasurer having stated that a legacy of \$1,000 had been left by the late Miss Nellie Davies, a committee was appointed to decide upon a suitable investment, as will be seen by the Treasurer's report, the money has been invested, and an income will be received from it next year.

Ten new life-members have been added: Mrs. Carrie A. Head, St. George; Miss Violet Elliot, Toronto; Mrs. Arnold, London; Mrs. H. H. Wright, Aylmer; Mrs. J. Schwalm, Boston; Mrs. James Morris, St.