

Religious Notes.

The announcement of the erection of the first building to be used exclusively for Chinese Protestant church purposes will come as a surprise to most readers, although it has taken nearly half a century to reach this event. New York has now 8,000 Chinese within its limits. The Presbyterian Chinese Mission is the first in New York to have so far developed as to need a building. The minister, Rev. Huie Kin, has been in America forty years. His American wife has been an important factor in the mission. The new building is to have an auditorium on the ground floor for services and Bible school. The second floor will contain a Chinese library, parlors, rooms for Tract Society and other adjuncts to the work, and pastor's study. On the third floor will be bedrooms for visitors and students, dispensary and hospital facilities. The basement will contain the dining-room, kitchen, etc., and a gymnasium, and there is to be a roof-garden.

The auxiliary missionary work which is carried on so successfully by the Mission to Lepers has now completed its thirty-first year and its influence is scattered over 78 asylums in India, Burma, Ceylon, China, Japan and Sumatra. It was surely a divinely inspired plan which led Mr. Wellesley C. Bailey in laying the foundations of his great work to utilize the missionaries on the field instead of sending out workers for the special mission. In this way the mission to lepers has become an interdenominational movement, and its own influence has spread indefinitely, while it has assisted, without competing, with existing missionary societies.

[For the 'Northern Messenger.']

The Victoria India Orphan Society.

At the recent well attended annual meeting of the above Society, held in Winnipeg, much interesting information was given. The total income for the twelve months was \$1,955.20; for the Orphanage at Dhar, Central India, \$1,260.00 was remitted, and \$180.00 for two native evangelists and a Biblewoman; the working expenses amounted to \$28.98, of which \$15.00 was for post office orders to India. In addition to the regular work carried on, the Society has, during the last 15 months, been raising a special Industrial Fund; \$3,000 is the amount aimed at, of which \$1,019.96 has been subscribed. This Fund is for the purpose of building and furnishing much-needed workshops in which the boys can be taught useful trades, carpentry, blacksmithing, etc., and thus fitted to earn a decent living when they leave the Orphanage. The little that has so far been done along this line has proved eminently satisfactory, and the Christians are getting a reputation for turning out better work than the ordinary natives.

The reports from India are most encouraging. During the year twelve of the girls were admitted to the Church after giving very satisfactory evidence of their real change of heart, and two boys were baptized. Forty of the children received certificates for successfully passing in different divisions of the 'All India Sunday School Union' Scripture examinations held in July. The good school work done amongst these famine orphans is shown by the results of the educational examinations held at the end of August, in which one girl passed the Lower, and two the Higher Grade Teachers' Examinations, and as Biblewomen, four passed the Lower Grade and five the Higher Grade. How much these results mean when we think of the conditions from which these children were rescued! Many at the very point of death from starvation, and nearly all in such a deplorable state that it took months, in some cases years, to restore them to normal health. The boys also are doing well in their schoolwork, and a few of the older ones, as a reward for reaching a certain standard in Hindi, are being taught English, which is thus made an incentive to study.

In the course of the twelve months eight of the older girls have been married to Christian converts, thus through the Orphanage

work Christian homes are being established, and the small Christian communities are being strengthened. Though actual famine has not reached Dhar, food is so scarce that it costs three times as much as it does in ordinary good seasons, so the cost of living is enormously increased and there is much suffering and sickness amongst the poor who are unable to get sufficient necessary food. In other parts the conditions are much more acute. At the beginning of January there were 100,000 people on the government famine relief works, and each week the number was steadily rising, with every prospect of rapid increase for some months, because the area affected by drought is of enormous extent. The foregoing brief abstracts from the reports show that the Society has closed a very successful year's work, though in the latter part of it, owing to the financial stringency, it seemed very doubtful whether the year could be completed so satisfactorily. The thanks of the Treasurer are due to those friends who generously helped in the difficulty and to some who kindly sent their subscriptions in advance.

The Society's annual membership fee is \$1.00, and members can maintain a child in the Orphanage for \$17.00 a year. All subscriptions should be sent to the Secretary Treasurer, Mrs. A. S. Crichton, 74 Furby St., Winnipeg.

Our Labrador Work.

THE ARRIVAL OF THE MAIL.

Dear Mr. Editor,—At one point on our return journey we were called to survey a schooner, as the crew were at dispute with the owner as to her seaworthiness. The voyage being bad, they were anxious to throw her on the owner's hands and leave her. She was fifty-six years of age, but had oak timbers and good spars—a contrast to one we surveyed a week previously, with both her mast-heads gone below the top gallant iron. There were many rotten spots in her side, and the deadwork in her after run could be hauled out in handfuls. Round her fastenings the wood had crumbled away in many places.

Since writing the above we came across the wreck of this very vessel, lying forlorn on the rocks of a harbor which might well be called the Graveyard. She had leaked badly on the first hundred miles of run, and the crew refusing to go any further, had called a further survey and condemned her. She had been sold for the benefit of whom it may concern. It was interesting to examine her planks and beams as they pulled her to pieces. To me she seemed fully to justify the condemnation we had passed upon her, but there were those who shook their heads and said she could have gone home if the crew had been minded. Personally I should not have been minded to risk my bones in a ship which was as rotten as she was.

While passing round a huge rocky headland known as Cape Harrison late in the evening, we sighted first smoke, and then the familiar outlines of the small mail steamer. So cutting across her path we signalled to her for our letters, and the captain kindly heaving her head to sea, we dropped our small boat and soon returned with a most welcome bag full of home news. The human mind very soon yields to the inevitable, and feels few regrets for what it knows cannot be. So we find when a month has to go by and we can hear no news—no one worries or thinks about it. But when at last the chance does come, and that bag full of letters, pregnant with such capacity for weal or woe arrives, pleasure almost gives place to dread of what may be waiting us, and letters are cut, opened, glanced through, and laid aside for reading just as rapidly as we can open and skim them over. Then there is a great sigh of relief, and then we hasten to assure ourselves everyone else has no bad news, and then comes the real pleasure of the second reading. David says: 'The righteous shall fear no evil tidings.' I have often thought that as he didn't get mails very regularly in his days, he may perhaps have had the same sensation we had. This time, however, we got the great news reported in detail to you by an earlier mail. Our agent, who had gone to Norway to purchase our herd of deer, had at

last got matters arranged. A herd of 300 had been purchased—transportation had been secured—two Lapp families engaged to come over and teach herding, and a number of Lapp dogs for driving. We look on this as an imperial, as well as an undeniable sermon, for the lone land will be lone no more if the people can abolish dogs and substitute these invaluable and prolific beasts. This country has been able to sustain vast herds of caribou, a variety of reindeer, and can do so easily again. Might not this Labrador, with its minerals, fisheries, forests and fur, be as well populated as Norway itself—or at least as Finland, Lapland, Siberia and Alaska? America, at least, has seen this miracle in Alaska. The government themselves have taken the matter of reindeer in hand. Through the beloved and widely known Dr. Sheldon Jackson, himself once a Presbyterian missionary, they have made so great a success of the enterprise that, in that way alone, it has done more to save the native population than all the other Christian and altruistic efforts put together.

On our arrival at our northern hospital, we found all going on well. The friend from the Bay with cataract was doing well, and the blind little girl twins had both eyes needled—they are only three years old—their father is dead and there are two other children. They live on a lonely island, and it is needless to say they were not fat when we picked them up. Now we were introduced to two curly black-haired balls in pink night-dresses, rolling merrily over one another about the ward floor, like our baby dogs were doing on deck.

At last we ran into Battle, and so ended our long northern trip.

Many schooners were scurrying south with us, and a stiff breeze ahead gave a spicy finish to the trip. Being empty of coals—our only ballast—and log-loaded with heavy beams and wharf shores on deck, the little steamer rolled in as lively as a cricket, and as clean washed fore and aft as we could wish, preparatory to painting her.

The staff of volunteers and regular workers gave us the usual hearty welcome, as did the craft that filled the harbor—which numbered among them our own large schooner, discharging coal for us, and a large steamer loading fish for the Mediterranean.

Having again disembarked our patients, our vessel hauled alongside the schooner to have one transshipment of twenty tons of coal, while we joined the doctor and sister and visited his wards. The doctor himself was only just back in the new launch from the south side of the straits—whence he had imported a 'crowd' of carpenters, who were already building and blasting out foundations for the enlargement to the hospital.

WILFRED T. GRENFELL, C.M.G., M.D.

Acknowledgments.

LABRADOR FUND.

Received for the launch:—A Friend and Well-wisher, Foley, Man., 50 cents; Wm. Jackson, Unity Station, Pa., 50 cents; D. R., New Perth West, P.E.I., 25 cents; M. McF., Parry Sound, \$3.00; R. W. W., Meaford, \$1.00; Joseph Taylor, Sawyerville, P. Que., \$10.00; A. F. Salter, Montreal, \$1.00; A. River Herbert Friend, N.S., \$1.00; Mrs. John Urquhart, Waughs River, N.S., \$2.00; Lewis O'Brian and M. Cameron, L'Orignal, \$10.00; O. L. Gibson, Caintown, Ont., \$1.25; Friends in Montana, \$10.00; Total \$ 40.50

Received for the cots:—Mrs. John Urquhart, Waughs River, N.S., \$2.00; Lewis O'Brian and M. Cameron, L'Orignal, \$5.00; Total \$ 7.00

Received for the komatik:—Mrs. John Urquhart, Waughs River, N.S., . . . \$ 2.00

Previously acknowledged for all purposes \$ 1,453.51

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Address all subscriptions for Dr. Grenfell's work to 'Witness' Labrador Fund, John Dougall and Son, 'Witness' Office, Montreal, stating with the gift whether it is for launch, komatik, or cots.