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Edited by Rev. Wm. Inglis.

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## REPORT OF WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

THE Fifth Annual Report of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Canada, has been lately issued from the press. It gives a list of the various office-bearers, a tolerably full account of the proceedings at the annual meeting held in Toronto on the 12th and 13th of April last, with the reports in full of the different secretaries; notes from the various auxiliaries; a list of all the members throughout the country; a statement of income and expenditure, with the Constitution and By-laws of the Society, and a form of constitution for any Auxiliary that may be established. From all these we glean the following facts: the number of members in General Society is 498, number of Auxiliaries, 49; average number of members in each, 25; amount raised by Auxiliaries, \$2,879.51; number of Mission Bands, 9; average number in Mission Bands, 41 (eight of these have raised over \$1,000); number of Presbyterian Societies, 2—Hamilton and Whitby, the first of which has six Auxiliaries and three Mission Bands, and the second seven Auxiliaries and one Mission Band; the amount raised in Toronto, \$1,104.28 total amount raised, \$4,666.55.

Like others of a similar character, this good work is still but in its infancy, but it grows healthily and with a considerable amount of vigour. It is one of the best instrumentalities at once for extending interest in the mission enterprise and for raising money to carry it forward. In 1877 the first report showed 17 Auxiliaries and 3 Mission Bands, while the amount raised was \$1,107. In the four years which have since elapsed the number of Auxiliaries has increased nearly three-fold, while the contributions have more than quadrupled, and there is no reason why this rate of progress should not only be maintained but increased.

It may indeed be said, and has been, that the supposed advantages of women's missionary societies, at least as means for raising funds, is illusive, in as much as they simply drew off contributions from the ordinary societies and thus make the matter about as broad as it is long, if not something worse. The experience of our friends on the other side of the lines does not in any degree confirm this presumption, though it certainly is a fact that every year the operations of both Home and Foreign Mission Boards in the States are increasingly dependent upon the zeal and liberality of women. The contributions of the men during the past ten years have certainly fallen off, but not more so in the case of the Home and Foreign Mission funds than in those of all the other Boards of benevolent and Christian enterprise.

In 1872 the receipts for Foreign Missions from Woman's Boards in the Presbyterian Church of the United States were \$27,964.66, while in 1881 they had risen to \$170,314.23. The increase for Home Missions was still more marked, for in 1879 only \$11,000 were thus contributed, while in 1881 the amount had risen to \$38,360. At the same time it is never to be lost sight of that the chief recommendation of Woman's Foreign and Home Missionary societies is not the mere raising certain sums of money, though that is desirable, but the more effective diffusion of missionary intelligence, the deepening of general interest in missionary work, and the likelihood of there being thus secured a more earnest spirit of self-consecration, especially on the part of the young, which will take the form not only of giving their money to the work but themselves as well. If the wives and mothers, the sisters and daughters, of the Church come to

be generally and deeply engaged in the advancement of Christ's cause in the regions which are beyond, there will, it is felt, be very little fear of the husbands, fathers, brothers and sons being also more and more drawn in to take a healthy and ever-growing interest in the same great enterprise.

## THE HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE various reports presented to the General Assembly which lately met in Buffalo were very full and very interesting. They were all previously circulated in printed form among the members of the court so that all could make themselves familiar with the details and be prepared to discuss one and all of them with intelligence and effect as they came up for presentation and adoption. Those which had respect to the Home and Foreign missionary operations of the Church were specially exhaustive and instructive. Nothing was omitted which was calculated to make all aware of the extent of the different fields, and the work which had been actually done during the past year in each. The report on Home Missions was a goodly pamphlet of 116 pages, and embraced full details in reference to the work carried on both in the frontier States and in the older and more settled districts. The calls for additional labourers were very many and very urgent. Everywhere the field seems white to the harvest, and from Alaska to Mexico the work is being prosecuted with very much energy and an encouraging amount of success. As a whole, we find that 1,217 men had been in commission under the Home Board during the past year. These had preached the Gospel at stated intervals in not less than 3,000 places, had during the year organized 224 additional Sabbath schools, and had under their care in all 105,524 Sabbath scholars. The number of members in those mission churches was 65,666, and the total in the congregations, 99,018. There were 1,147 church edifices of the value of \$3,006,282. The Treasurer's report is also given very fully. From this it appears that while the year was begun with a debt of \$4,582.77, it ends with a balance on hand of \$7,947.48. The whole expenditure for the twelve months was \$365,022. This is a large sum, but nothing like what might be or what ought to be. As with ourselves, the congregations are all given as they appear on the Presbyterian rolls whether they contribute anything or not, and the number of blanks is at once very marked and very mortifying.

Nor can we say that the advance made within the last decade is anything like what might have been expected. The number of contributing congregations was, in 1880, 3,761, and the amount—leaving out legacies and that derived from other extraneous sources—\$221,031.34, while ten years ago the corresponding sum was \$230,340. The names of all the missionaries are given, with their post office addresses, the number of months in the year during which they were employed, the additions made, the number of communicants and Sabbath scholars, etc.

When we turn to the Foreign Mission report we find the same fulness of detail and the same anxiety to have all made acquainted with everything that had been done, and all that it was proposed should be attempted. Every field is taken up separately. There is a map attached to each section, so that the various stations may be seen at a glance, and the different localities easily studied. There are missions among the Indians; missions in Mexico, Brazil, Chili, Western Africa, Syria, Persia, India, China, Japan, etc., each carefully described, and the descriptions all assisted and illustrated by maps.

The Board evidently recognizes the fact that it is impossible to interest people in any Christian enterprise of which they know little or nothing by merely telling them that they ought to feel such an interest, and it acts accordingly. Of the annual report 4,800 copies are circulated, and the "Foreign Missionary," a monthly publication devoted exclusively to Foreign Missionary intelligence, and illustrated with maps, wood-cuts, etc., has a regular circulation of 17,250 copies each issue.

The Foreign Mission income for 1880-81 was \$590,680.47, and the expenditure, \$581,515.19, thus leaving a balance in the treasury on the 30th of April, 1881, of \$9,165.30.

Considering its numbers and resources, the Pres-

byterian Church in Canada has no reason to be either discouraged or ashamed when it puts these comparatively large contributions and extensive enterprises side by side with its own. Relatively we fully hold our own. It is interesting, however, to know what our neighbours are doing, to consider their plans of operation, to rejoice with them in their joy, to sympathize with them in their disappointments, to feel more fully than ever that we are all engaged in the same work, and to be thus the more stimulated to an earnest and perfectly justifiable rivalry in the way and work of the Lord. Neither Church has as yet put forth anything approaching to its full strength in this glorious enterprise. With both it is still the day of small things. What, however, has already been accomplished calls for devoutest thanksgiving, and ought to stimulate all with ever-growing earnestness of purpose and an ever-deepening sense of personal obligation to "forget the things that are behind and to reach forward to those which are yet before."

## THE OUTLOOK IN EUROPE.

THE state of matters in different parts of Europe is not improving. Ireland is on the verge of civil war. Indeed, before these words see the light the conflict may have begun, though we scarcely expect that it will. The opposition to Mr. Gladstone's land bill is as bitter and unscrupulous as it well can be, while the evictions going on in the meantime very naturally provoke the fiercest passions, and almost necessarily lead up to popular outbreaks and bloodshed. While the great measure of the day was under discussion it might naturally have been supposed that a truce would have been called on both sides till it could be fairly seen what Parliament was actually prepared to do in the premises. Instead of this, refusals to pay any rent, and consequent evictions have only been multiplied, and everything possible done to embitter the hostile feeling between landlords and tenants, just as if a fair and likely to be permanent settlement were the one thing to be averted at all hazards. It is quite possible that the tactics adopted may be so far successful as either to defeat or indefinitely to shelve Mr. Gladstone's great measure. But that the agitation for land law reform will thereby be put down is too fond a delusion for any man of ordinary intelligence to cherish for a single moment. It will only intensify and embitter the movement, and make the change the more sweeping when it comes. The measure at present under discussion is evidently the most moderate of its kind which either House of Parliament will ever have the opportunity of considering. Many of the proceedings in Ireland on the part of the tenantry and their leaders may be quite unjustifiable, and we think they are, but that there is more or less to complain of in the relations between land owners and tenants is beyond all reasonable question, and the longer an equitable settlement of the matters in dispute is delayed so much more sweeping the change when it comes, and so much the greater the intermediate misery and heartburnings. Nor is it only in Ireland that the relations between landlord and tenant will have to be modified and improved. It is unreasonable altogether that the man who supplies a certain raw material called land, and is paid for it according to the present value of that article, should have a legal right to appropriate the improvements made upon that raw material by the skill and labour and money of another, without his having even helped to bring that improvement round. Reason would say that the land owner has a right to get back his land in as good condition as it was in when he leased it, but nothing more. He has been paid in the shape of rent for its use. If it has been deteriorated in the hand of the occupier, the owner ought to be compensated to the extent of that deterioration. But if it has been made more valuable the man who has effected the improvement has an evidently equitable right to be recognized in the case, and to be paid for what is really his own. This is the great principle which lies at the root of all this tenant-right agitation, and the present struggle in Ireland will go far, before it is over, to establish this principle of equity, not only for the occupants of Irish land, but for similar classes all the world over. It will also cut up to the very root the whole business of the land speculator, who without doing anything in the way of improvement buys and holds in utter barrenness, land that may gradually rise in value and importance by the labour of those who hold and improve property on every side. It does not stand to reason that any man should sluggishly and selfishly hold land,