

## Foreign Missions

### 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 SEPTEMBER. THE SAVARA WORK.

That Mr. and Mrs. Glendenning may be encouraged by seeing a large number of Savaras brought to Christ. Thanksgiving unto the Lord for his goodness and for his wonderful manifestations to us his people.

By appointment a meeting of the ladies of the W. B. M. U. was held on Tuesday afternoon in Immanuel Church, Truro, this meeting having been suggested by some of the sisters, as a good opportunity for seeing and hearing our returned lady missionaries.

Mrs. Gunn, county sec. for Colchester opened the meeting with prayer and scripture reading from Matt. 9:35. After a brief address of welcome a few moments were spent in prayer, Sisters Nalder, Blackadar, and Crandall taking part, remembering our loved missionaries, especially those who were tired and weary, and are now seeking renewed strength, looking forward to a return to their work again.

Prayer was also made for wisdom and guidance in the all important question of Union, then under discussion in the other churches.

Mrs. Corey was then introduced and told many things of the idol worship in India. Every heart must have been deeply touched by the earnest plea for young ladies to give themselves to that work, and it seemed to many that God must surely be calling someone to go. Mrs. Gullison, by using the map, gave an idea of the vastness of the work, and how few the workers. She too urged the plea for some one to go, telling us that unless we go in, and do better work, we had almost better give up the field to some other Christian body. Surely every sister felt that this could never be. In her plea she asked the questions, "Is there a wife who is holding back her husband, a mother keeping her daughter, or a father a son? We have the choice in all India in regard to mission work."

On the suggestion of the leader that we should bring an offering unto the Lord, a collection was taken amounting to \$9.14. This amount to go to the treasurer of W. B. M. U., and to be used for the Ragadha mission. Closed by prayer by Mrs. Edwards, after which all had the pleasure of examining a number of curios which Mrs. Corey had placed on the table.

I. C. Sec.

Dear Sisters—The Convention of the W. B. M. U. has come and gone. To merely say it was a success would seem to those who enjoyed the privilege of attending the several sessions like greatly underestimating the value of such a meeting. Experiences were enjoyed there that can never be forgotten, and the influences emanating from such a gathering of Christian women have no doubt for this begun their blessed work. In numbers, the Convention exceeded our expectations, and I think equaled the anticipation of the most sanguine Haligonian, being the largest Convention ever held under the auspices of the Union. The arrangements for the entertainment, comfort and convenience of the delegates, were almost faultless. The several committees performed their arduous duties with unerring wisdom and unbounded energy. All tasks seemed easy and attractive because all hearts were warm, true and loyal.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the work done by Mrs. W. B. Freeman, who displayed such tact and excellent executive ability and did her part so cheerfully, faithfully and successfully. The spirit of the Convention was delightful, all sisters seemed imbued with such a lovely spirit. The crank was conspicuous for her absence. The fault-finder evidently not in our midst—and "Halifax, 1904" will long be remembered for the harmony and love which prevailed, and for the underlying current of devotion and consecration which pervaded all the meetings. The programme was a model one. The addresses were of a high order. Different papers were very carefully prepared by successful workers. Topics considered were of a very spiritual and practical nature, good judgment characterized the discussions and deliberations. Reports were of a very encouraging nature, showing a prosperous and progressive year.

Prayers were earnest, and helpful—inspiring. Great sorrow and regret was expressed on every hand, that our dearly beloved and highly valued President could not meet with us, on account of illness, but a very wise, and experienced head guided affairs. However viewed, truth and candour, must pronounce the Convention of 1904 a decided success. The constant attendance at all the meetings of our dear missionaries brought us in closer touch, and sympathy with the work, and workers in India, and by their stirring addresses, and pathetic appeals created a

greater desire, in all hearts to do something more, and to do it at once. In the Convention time just past we have been raised to lofty heights from which "our eyes beheld a vision, our feet may some time hope to reach—"Down into the valley we have come again. But shall we, dear sisters allow the vision to fade away? Ah no! May the enthusiasm, the hopeful optimism, the loyalty, and consecration manifested there, ever remain with us, a delight for the present, and rich prophecy for the future. I am confident, as we separated, every heart in some form re-echoed this thought:

"One aim, the highest, guiding to one goal,  
One purposes animating every soul,  
One chorus, echoing from shore to shore,  
"We're going home to try once more."  
One prayer, "Give us, O give us, strength to be  
Laborers together, Lord, with Thee."

Yours in loving service,

MARIANNA S. PEARSON

Paradise, N. S.

#### Amounts Received by Treas. of Missioin Bands.

FROM AUG. 1ST. TO SEPT. 7TH, 1904.

Central Bedeque, F. M. \$5; Hammond's Plains, F. M. \$1; Gabarus, F. M. \$5; West Yarmouth, F. M. \$5; H. M. \$2; Marysville, F. M. \$5; Farmington E. M. \$3; H. M. \$2; Stony Beach F. M. \$1.20.

#### CORRECTIONS.

In last acknowledgements the money from Liverpool band was to constitute Alice West a life member. We regret very much the mistake in annual reports in the amount from Kingston, N. S. The only explanation to be made is it has become mixed with some other Kingston. Find Kingston, P. E. I. credited with an one plus \$5; which must be for Nova Scotia.

IDA CRANDALL, Treas. W. B. M. U.

#### Amounts Rec'd by W. B. M. U. Treasurer.

FROM AUG. 3RD TO SEPT. 3RD.

Windsor, F. M. \$3; Tidings 25c; Weymouth, F. M. \$2; Sandy Cove F. M. \$2; St. George 2nd Falls, F. M. \$10; Bellisle Station, R. A. Freeze, F. M. \$1; Florenceville, F. M. \$12.15; North Range, F. M. \$4; Pleasant Valley, F. M. \$1; Upper Stewiacke, F. M. \$1; Summerside F. M. \$7.50; H. M. \$7.50; Granville Ferry, leaflets 54c, Tidings, 25c; De B. C. Reports 15c; Digby, leaflets 72c; Great Village, leaflets 36c; St. Martins, F. M. \$3.35; H. M. \$3.85; Tidings 25c; Brentwood, Tidings 25c; Jemseg, F. M. \$20; H. M. \$5; Tidings 25c; Doaktown, Tidings 25c; Reports 25c; Wolfville, Tidings 25c; Whitinsville, W. W. Rockwell, F. M. \$5; Bear River, H. M. \$1; Wilmot, F. M. \$3.90; H. M. \$1.10; Argyle Head, F. M. \$5.50; H. M. \$1.15; St. Stephen, F. M. \$3; Centreville, F. M. \$6; 1st Chipman, F. M. \$2; St. George, F. M. \$6.70; Lockhartville, F. M. \$4.25; H. M. 50c; Hillsburn, Tidings 25c; Argyle Shore, Tidings, 25c; Havelock, Tidings \$1; Coll. Annual Meetings, \$44.45; Rand from M. E. Gilmore, Dawson Settlement, Pleasant River, Tidings 25c; Nictaux, F. M. \$1.50; H. M. \$5 and St. Margarets Bay F. M. \$2.50; H. M. \$2.50; Burlington, F. M. \$8; Scotch Village, Mrs. Judson Dunlop, F. M. \$1; Hampton Tidings, 25c; Port Greville N. W. M. \$2; Port Greville "in loving remembrance of Miss Elizabeth Page, by her sister and family, to constitute Mrs. Hubert Elderkin a life member of the W. B. M. U., F. M. \$25. MARY SMITH, Treas. W. B. M. U.

Amherst, P. O. B. 513.

### "Unclean, Unclean!"

BY GRACE DICKERSON.

Perhaps you children have thought, as I thought for many years, that leprosy was a disease belonging to Bible times and Bible lands. When I was a child I never dreamed that the words "Unclean, unclean," which made me shudder even when I read them, were being echoed in the world to-day; and when I read about Ben Hur's sister Tizah it was always with a sigh of thankfulness that the dread disease was no longer to be found. One day when I was playing "still-pond-no-more moving" in the beautiful, sunny town of San Remo, on the Mediterranean sea, I overheard some one say, "There is a city of lepers, you know, just above us on one of the hills." I shall never forget my surprise and horror. I should not have been more astounded to hear that St. Paul was in the prison there; and I was afraid that at any moment I might "catch" the loathsome disease since the lepers were so near.

So leprosy was in the world to-day! I could not bear to believe it or hear about it at first; but afterward I wanted to know all that anyone could tell me. I learned then that the Italian government separated all its lepers and shut them up in walled cities from which they might never go out. The little town of San Remo was responsible for the leper village above it and provided food which was carried up the hill each day and left outside the closed gate. I used to worry a good deal sometimes lest the men should forget to go up, and I wondered what would become of the poor lepers then. I never had pitied any one so much before and I often stopped in the midst of my play to think of them, and look up at the gray, forbidding walls of their little city. It seemed to me that Italy was the most beautiful place in the world; for I had never seen anything so lovely as roses blooming at Christmas time, and trees of

heliotrope, overgrowing the high garden walls, and the terraces under the olive trees on the hillside where the lush wild hyacinth grew. And beyond was the bluest of seas. Yes, it was indeed a paradise, and yet in the midst of it was that dreadful place, that desolate city, shut off from the blooming lands about it, and from all the beautiful world. I thought the worst of it all to them must be leaving their friends and dear ones, forever; and I remember how my heart went out to them at Christmas time when we children were enjoying our beautiful Italian gifts, our sparkling tree and our letters from over the sea. I was very glad that we could send up something to them to be put down outside the gate which should bring them some cheer when it was brought inside.

That was a good while ago, and since then I have learned that there are many other lepers in different parts of the world, and that, although some of them are Italian, some Eskimo, some Chinese, they are all alike "unclean." It seems as dreadful to me now as it did when I was a tiny child, and just as sad that, in all these many years no one has been able to discover a cure which shall set these poor prisoners free and make them whole again. How wonderful it makes those miracles in Samaria seem!

You will be surprised to know, perhaps, that away up in the cold country of Iceland there are many of these poor creatures just as there are in an island off the coast of South Africa, where about 2,000 of them live. In China there are many, many more and they are not as carefully separated and looked after in that country, so that sometimes as one travels about in those queer, crowded Chinese boats he finds himself close to seven or eight lepers who do not act as if they were to be feared at all.

Oftentimes, if one were to visit some of the heathen temples in Burma he would find the steps crowded with lepers of all sorts. By that I mean that some do not seem to be lepers unless one looks closely, while some are dreadful to see. Poor things! I suppose they know their bodies cannot be cured, but they climb the temple steps and worship the heathen gods hoping to get some help for their souls.

Down among the Hawaiian Islands is one famous settlement which our dear friend, Robert Louis Stevenson, whose poems you all love, once visited. He wrote a letter all about it and about the brave Father Damien, who was the first man to go as teacher and helper to the "unclean." For many years people did not think much of doing anything for those poor suffering people; but when they had shut them up away from the world they just left them alone. This was dreadful; for leprosy does not kill people quickly and sometimes little children have it and then they must live long, pitiable lives in one of these desolate cities. Sometimes a man who is rich and powerful and has beautiful lands and many friends is discovered with leprosy. Neither his riches nor friends have any power to save. He must leave everything for a life-long exile in a leper city. Sometimes a little girl who looks as fresh and pretty as one of you, shows one of the dreaded white spots. She must leave her mother and home and playmates and perhaps be put into a boat with some who are most loathsome, to be carried to the distant island.

I am sure you will be glad to know that nowadays a great deal is done to make these people happier and better. They are taught to build houses and to live neatly in them. The children go to school and are taught to do many things. The Hawaiian settlement is on the island of Molokai, and, although it is a land of exile, the blue ocean which surrounds it and the hills and fertile valleys make it a beautiful place. Many of the lepers help to cultivate the island and make things grow, and I am sure they must especially like gardening among the luscious pine-apples.

A good many children who have been born at Molokai have no trace of leprosy and I think they must have good times, after all, going to school and church and playing with their mates like other children.

Away up among the hills of India there is still another village, where for many years there was no one to teach the lepers or to do anything for them. But who do you think is there now planning things to make them happy, teaching them to live clean and honest lives, to be kind and gentle toward each other and to love the Lord Jesus of whom they had never heard? It is a beautiful woman from our own America, Mary Reed, who discovered a good many years ago that she had leprosy and who decided at once that she must be a missionary to these poor outcasts for whom so little was being done.—The Standard

Ideals must never lie a great way off, and we will right thankfully content ourselves with any not intolerable approximation thereto. Let no man too querulously "measure by a scale of perfection the meagre product of reality" in this poor world of ours.—Carlyle.