

Northern Messenger

VOLUME XXXV., No. 48.

MONTREAL, DECEMBER 7, 1900.

30 Cts. Per An. Post-Paid.

Mrs. Jennie Fuller.

A LIFE FOR GOD.

Outwardly a storm-tossed life, endurance of hardship, privation, domestic affliction, and hard pioneer labor. Inwardly peace, love, and joy in the Holy Ghost. The results, a beautiful spiritual influence reaching out to all with whom she came into contact; a heart full of practical, sanctified common sense; an abandonment to the claims of others that made her always at leisure to share their perplexities and joys; one who was constantly sought after by Indian Christians and welcomed into every Protestant Missionary circle in Western India—such was Mrs. Jennie Fuller, whom God called from work to reward on June 21, 1900.

The great Indian famine of 1899-1900 will long be remembered for the number of valued missionary lives which have been sacrificed by its intense strain upon nerve-power and bodily endurance, and by the cholera accompanying the famine. Of those who have received their home-call in this manner, none will be more widely missed or more deeply regretted than the subject of this sketch.

Mrs. Fuller, formerly Miss Jennie Frow, went to India in 1877, as a faith missionary. Her childhood's home was in Southern Ohio, U. S. A. Her conversion to God in early life was definite and thorough. In 1873 she became a student in Oberlin College, and came under the powerful spiritual influence of Charles G. Finney, then its president. To him the trend of her life was largely due. She became possessed of one great desire, to spend her life for Christ in the manner best fitted to advance his kingdom, and thus a missionary career opened out before her.

Miss Frow could doubtless have obtained entrance to the mission field through some regularly organized missionary society had she applied for it, but she chose to deal with God alone in regard to her appointment. The Rev. Albert Norton had previously graduated from Oberlin, and had opened a pioneer faith work in the Ellichpur district in Central India, where no missions had been heretofore. Miss Frow felt led to join Mr. and Mrs. Norton for work in this hard and neglected field, and share with them the hardships of a pioneer life. She arrived in Bombay on Jan. 4, 1877, with no pledge of support from any human source. It was in truth deeply ingrained on her heart that anything she might say would have no effect unless her life corresponded with her teaching; hence from the first her missionary life was characterized by self-sacrifice and self-denial.

The year 1877 was one of famine in South India. Mr. C. B. Ward was gathering in orphans by the hundred in the Hyderabad country, south of Sholapur. One of the Ellichpur workers had occasion to go to Bombay, and Miss Frow commissioned him to get six of these girls. With much trouble they were persuaded to go, and with difficulty were taken back the long

journey by road and rail to Ellichpur. These became Miss Frow's first family of orphan girls to be trained for Christ. She found them very wild and unruly, and so depraved that the work was most discouraging. But by-and-by a change came. One of the



REV. M. B. FULLER.

most naughty girls came to Miss Frow and expressed sorrow for her conduct, and in a short time all were converted, truly changed in heart and life. A few weeks after their conversion, Miss Frow received a letter from a Christian man, a blacksmith in Ohio, telling her that on a certain day he had spent the whole evening in prayer for these girls, and that he had been led to mark the day and write to her that God had given him the assurance of their salvation. On referring to the date sent, Miss Frow found it to be the very day when her heart was gladdened by signs of penitence in the children.

Three of the survivors of these six girls are useful Christian workers at the pres-



THE LATE MRS. FULLER.

ent day. All have taken the keenest interest in helping to save other children from famine in these later years. Shantibai cared for the starving in Mrs. Bruere's orphanage at Poona. Imambai, who never left Mrs. Fuller, is a valued helper at the

Alliance orphanage at Khamgaon; and Ashabai is the wife of a useful man engaged at the M. E. Mission at Narsinghpur. Thus the blacksmith's prayer continues to bear fruit to the glory of God.

In the three years spent in the Ellichpur district Miss Frow learned to know the people and gained a colloquial knowledge of Marathi and Hindustani, together with many valuable experiences in caring for native children. This, the first period of her missionary career, was a period of personal training in the school of trial and faith.

After a short rest in America she returned to India in 1881 as the wife of the Rev. M. B. Fuller, a former fellow-student in Oberlin College. Akola, a large district in Berar, was chosen as their field of work. They settled in the town of Akola, which is about a day's journey nearer Bombay than Ellichpur.

As the years passed, there did not seem to be as much progress or so great results as faith had led the devoted workers to expect. During these years Mr. and Mrs. Fuller had a little family growing up around them. The best of Mrs. Fuller's life was always given to God and his service, but next to that came her children. But griefs, as well as joys, came with the children. Two little graves in the Akola cemetery marked these years, and when in 1890 the mother's frail health indicated the imperative need of a change of climate, she sailed for America with the two who were left to her; and a few months after their arrival in the homeland another little daughter came into the home. Mr. Fuller joined his family in America somewhat later.

About this time the Christian Alliance, of New York, under the leadership of the Rev. A. B. Simpson, began to create a strong missionary spirit among those who were attracted to its teaching. The watchword of the Alliance was the fourfold Gospel as indicated by the following motto, 'Jesus as Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King.' Mr. and Mrs. Fuller came into contact with this movement while in America, and were enlisted to lead out a new band of missionaries to India. Mrs. Fuller arrived in India on Sept. 3, 1892, with her three children, and the first instalment of the missionary force, consisting of five ladies and a married couple (Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey).

In accepting the position of superintendents of the Alliance Mission in India, Mr. and Mrs. Fuller changed the method, though not the principle of their life of faith. By the experience of the previous years they had proved that God could provide a table in the wilderness for those called to depend entirely on him, and the basis arranged for the support of the Alliance missionaries commended itself to their experience and judgment.

In the course of the following twelve months many new workers had joined our friends. Then the visions of past years began to become realities. Stations were opened in populous parts of Berar, for which workers had long been prayed for.