

# W. B. M. U.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR:

"We are laborers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please address Miss J. W. MANNING, 178 Wentworth Street, St. John, N. B.

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## PRAYER TOPIC FOR JULY.

For our Home Mission work in these Provinces that the laborers may be greatly encouraged and a host be won to the Lord.

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We have entered upon the last month of our year's work. My sisters much depends upon the coming few weeks whether the note at our annual meeting shall be success or failure. If any have been careless and unfaithful in the past now is the time to make amends as far as possible. Let the thoughtless ones be reminded of their neglect, let all the scattered dollars be collected and the report of work done be promptly given so that the records may be more complete and satisfactory than ever before. God bless the officers of our W. M. A. S. and give them the necessary patience and love for Christ that their work demands. The grace of continuance is what we need in these days of change and haste. "Having done all to stand." Soon the record of this year's work will be with the Master and what He has written will remain. Of whom can it be said, "She hath done what she could?"

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MY DEAR SISTERS,—I received a very encouraging and sympathetic letter from our good President last week, in which such a cordial invitation was given me to write occasionally for the W. B. M. U. column that a tender chord was struck and I cannot but grant her request. Just what to write is my query.

In letters received from the dear home land questions such as these are continually being asked: Are you pleasantly situated? Is the heat very oppressive? Do you enjoy good health? Do you find the language difficult? Do the natives seem intelligent at all, or are they very degraded? Perhaps I cannot do better than try to answer some of these questions right here.

As many of you know we have been at Chicacole since the first of April. Here the Mission house is situated on the bank of a river. The outlook from the back of the house is very pleasing. Immediately below the verandah the river crawls stealthily along. Just now the water is very low, but when the rains come it will present a very different appearance as it madly rushes along on its winding course. Just a little to the left of the Mission house it is spanned by a bridge which adds much to the beauty of the surrounding scenery. The foliage along the river bank on the opposite side is richly tinted in different shades of green, brown and gold. Some mornings a very light mist hangs over the trees which with the soft rays of the rising sun shining upon all makes the scenery most charming.

At the front of the house there is very little to attract the eye, save the garden which in itself is an inspiration. It reminds me of what I have read concerning oasis in the deserts. The verdant ferns, the bursting roses and the spotless lilies with all their freshness and fragrance in the midst of a dry and sterile soil are, I think, beautifully emblematic of the little Christian churches dotting here and there the great and spiritually barren expanse of idolatrous India. A five minutes' walk takes us to the heart of the town where the house of worship is situated, alongside of which Mr. Archibald is having a reading room erected.

In regard to the question about the heat I would answer yes, we do find it very oppressive. But considering that this is our first year in the country we feel that we have great cause for thankfulness. My health has not been better for some time than it is at present. We regard it a sacred duty to take care of our bodies for the Lord. We spend half an hour every morning before sunrise and an hour in the evening taking exercise in the open air. In this and other ways we are trying to help the Lord answer our prayers that our health may be continued and our life here a long one. On account of the heat we on the plains have not accomplished as much in the study of the language as we desired. Still we are toiling on with the hope of conquering by and by. We sometimes long for the "gift of tongues." When we go out in the villages and see the ignorance and superstition of the people, and the suffering and sadness caused by cruel idolatry, our hearts ache for them and we yearn for ability to direct them to Jesus the comforter.

Here is one example of heathen superstition. Mr. Archibald had a very faithful servant who, a fortnight or more ago fell sick with fever. Mr. Archibald being on tour we visited this sick man with the hope of rendering

## Foreign Missions.

help. As we approached the house we heard such wailing from within that we concluded "Thavardu" must either be dead or dying. But imagine our surprise when we learned that all these hideous sounds were the vociferations of only one woman. We were told that the sick man was possessed of a devil and this woman was in communication with the gods, to ascertain their will concerning him. We learned later that the message she received in answer to her incantations was that first, he must make a sacrifice at full moon; second, he must go to a noted temple more than sixty miles distant and there make a money offering; third, he must take no medicine lest the devil that was in him become angry and cause his stomach swell, which would result in immediate death. All our efforts to help him were fruitless. We returned defeated.

Thavardu had heard the gospel message. He told us he had prayed all day to the Christian's God. He himself had not implicit faith in these heathen superstitions, but was compelled to submit to the wish of his relatives who were less enlightened.

Who are responsible for so much darkness? Are the Christians at home, the Christians here, or the heathens themselves? Perhaps all share the responsibility.

Dear sisters let us renew our endeavor to be faithful to our sacred trust.

While we earnestly pray God's bountiful blessing upon the workers in the home land, we trust that you will remember that we are

His and Yours,  
NETTIE GULLISON.

Chicacole, May 19th.

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Moneys received by the Treasurer of the W. B. M. U. from June 17th to June 30th.

North Brookfield, F. M. \$1.00; Parrsboro, F. M. \$3.00, H. M. \$2.00; New Castle, F. M. \$3.87; 1st Salisbury F. M. \$2.00, H. M. 1.25; Alberton, F. M. \$2.75, Alberton Mission Band, \$4.41; Woodstock, F. M. \$7.20, proceeds public meeting, H. M. \$13.00; Oxford, F. M. \$20.00; Albert, F. M. \$9.00, H. M. \$18.85; 1st Hammonds Plains, F. M. \$5.00; Berwick, to constitute Mrs. William Skinner, a Life member, F. M. \$25.00; Dartmouth, F. M. \$11.55; Collection, Miss Grey's meeting, Colchester County, De Bert, \$3.60; Acadia mines \$2.07; Bass River, \$2.80; Five Islands, .80 cents; Clyde River, G. L. M. \$2.00; N. W. M., \$2.00, H. M. \$1; Port Maitland, F. M. \$10.00; Springfield, F. M. \$6.00; Forest Glen, F. M. \$3.00; Dundas, F. M. \$3.00, H. M. \$3.00; New Tusket, F. M. \$7.00, G. L. M. \$3.00, N. W. M. \$2.00; Berry's Mills, F. M. 2.72, proceeds of public meeting \$2.28; Port Medway, F. M. \$10.50, H. M. \$1.00.

MARY SMITH, Treas. W. B. M. U.

Amherst, P. O. B. 513.

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Report of W. B. M. U. meetings held in connection with the N. B. Western Association. On Saturday evening, June 26th, the sisters of the W. B. M. U. met in the Temperance Hall, at the Range. The Provincial Secretary in the chair. Meeting was opened by singing "Nearer my God to Thee." The 2nd chapter of Mark was read, followed by prayer led by Mrs. C. E. Miller, Cor. Secretary for Kings. Reports were given by delegates from 1st and 2nd Chipman, 2nd Grand Lake, Cambridge, Narrows, Woodstock, Upper Queensbury, Jennege, McKenzie Cor., New Castle Bridge. A card had been received from the President of Fredericton society, stating that delegates were coming. We were sorry that in some way they failed to arrive. The meeting was small, but it was enthusiastic. All present felt the refreshing influence of the spirit of God. A very interesting account of the Bellisle Station Society was given by Mrs. Miller. Meeting closed by singing "Blest be the tie that binds" and prayer by Provincial Secretary.

Sunday, June 27th, 2.30 p. m.—A large and apparently deeply interested congregation met at the Upper Meeting House at the Range to attend the platform meeting under the auspices of W. B. M. U., Mrs. Cox, Provincial Secretary, presided. After singing by the church choir Mrs. H. B. Hay read Psalm 72, and prayer was offered by Rev. J. W. S. Young. Another hymn was sung, Mrs. M. G. McLean, read a helpful paper entitled "Our Prayer meeting." Then Rev. E. Bosworth in his earnest, convincing way, advocated the claims of Grand Ligne Mission. A duet was sung by Miss Mary Barton and Mr. A. F. Barton. A paper was read by Mrs. L. H. Crandall "Woman's work in Missions." It showed much research and careful preparation. The indefatigable secretary of the Foreign Mission Board then spoke earnest words regarding this greatest work of the church. We were sorry that time did not permit him to speak longer. The singing which added much to the interest of the meeting was very good. Collection \$20. Closed with benediction by Rev. C. Henderson.

Our W. M. A. S. which was organized last July with a membership of eight, has since increased to thirteen. Our meetings held regularly once in four weeks, are gen-

erally very well attended, and we always feel that the hour has been profitably spent. Some portion of the time is usually occupied with readings by some of the members present, frequently these are selections from the "Link" and "Tidings." Though our Society is but in its infancy, and we realize how small must be the results of our efforts to extend Christ's kingdom, yet we trust as the weeks and the months advance, they may bear witness of our increasing zeal for the cause of missions, and of more earnest activity in the Master's service.

ISABEL H. HOLMES, Sec'y.

Homeville, June 21st., 1897.

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## The Ministry of Prayer.

There are those who talk to us often and sentimentally upon the subjective influence of prayer. Prayer, they say, is contemplation, is communion with God, is contact with God through the truth, is the upward look of the soul. It is singular that the Bible itself has little or nothing to say about this side of prayer. The exercise, high and holy in itself, must have a corresponding influence upon those who are engaged in it. But while communion with God, and holy contemplation and the upward turn of the mind and heart are involved in the exercise of prayer, these are not prayer. Prayer is objective. In the emphasis put upon it in the Bible it is always and essentially objective. To pray to God is to ask God for something. It is an effort to enlist the divine mind and heart to move the divine hand. Our Lord himself prayed for divine blessings for himself and others, and taught his disciples to enter into the exercise with a like understanding of prayer. "Ask and ye shall receive," said he; "seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." The influence of prayer upon ourselves must needs be great, but let us not for one moment overlook the primary and commonplace design and significance of the ordinance. If God does not hear and answer prayer, as we are so clearly taught that he does in the scriptures, there is nothing in the Christian religion.—Charles A. Stakely.

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