

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 DECEMBER.

For Chicacole, the lady missionaries and their helpers, the school and Hospital, that God would use them all for the salvation of souls. For the Northwest and Indian work.

A letter received from Mrs. Churchill, Bobbili, India, makes reference to the money sent for famine sufferers that will be interesting to all. "How poor the people are! Many of them respectable women and would die rather than beg. Many of them are simply bones with the skin drawn over and I think those at home who sent the famine money, would be only too glad for me to distribute a little among the very poor of Bobbili. If we are not in the famine district we have much suffering here from the very high prices and the poor cannot get enough to eat day by day, and have nothing to cover their nakedness and now the cold season is coming on they will suffer greatly, and many will die from colds and fevers. Thousands in India have been saved from starvation by the money our people sent. Most of the money is out of our hands now, and there will be plenty of needy people on whom we spend the rest before harvests are gathered. The prices are so high that many of our Christians could not get sufficient food to eat, and we have had to supply them somewhat, and as Mr. Churchill has been appointed Treasurer of the famine fund, we have done all we could to put all the money sent into the hands of missionaries, who really needed it for starving people and for clothing the destitute. When sending one remittance we would ask them to write of their needs and we would send more. A great many letters have come with hearty thanks for searching them out, and to our people at home for their great kindness in remembering the starving. Some have asked for more and it was sent promptly, others have written they have sufficient for present needs. Of course those who have taken in orphans are always needing funds. But they will seek these from their own boards at home, though we have helped many. We have sent to Pandita, Ramaibai, three times. I think she has 1,500 girls now under her charge, but of course she has a large constituency from which to draw, England, Canada and United States. I trust by your prayers and the Lord working through your missionaries, very many of the heathen may be brought to Christ. Four of my Bible Class and one from Siamma's class have been baptized since we came from the hills. Those who were excluded from the church have been restored. We will praise God and take courage.

Chelsea, N. S.

We have sent no reports to your columns as yet, the Society being so small, but our number being increased by thirteen in July, we feel strengthened to more effort. Our monthly meetings are fairly well attended and considerable interest manifested. We held a concert in the Baptist church on the evening of Nov 4th. Mrs. MacPherson, a returned missionary of the Free Will Baptist church, addressed the audience. She gave a vivid account of the people of India, their idol worship, etc., making us see heathenism as it really is. Her intense interest in, and love for the work, her earnest appeal to those present to do what they could for benighted India, stirred the Society to fuller consecration. Exercises and recitations by the children, music and an address by the president, closed the concert. The proceeds of this and a previous concert held in July \$5 is in aid of Mrs. Archibald's school for girls at Chicacole.

MRS. DESMOND, Sec'y

St. Stephen.

Our Missionary Aid Society observed Crusade Day on Tuesday, Oct. 30. The president made several calls, and in the evening we held a public meeting in the vestry at 7.30. The president presided at this meeting. Meeting opened with singing of the hymn "Jesus shall reign"—Scripture reading by Mrs. W. C. Goucher, prayer offered by our pastor. President then stated the object of Crusade Day and read parts of the W. B. M. U. president's address. Miss A. Wry sang a solo, and then several sisters read different parts from the report of the W. B. M. U. Mrs. F. Grimmer and Mrs. W. Grimmer sang a duet, "God is Love." "In Memoriam," was read, pastor gave an address and referred to the work of the women in missions. Refreshments were served by the ladies of the Society. Two new members were added. Collection \$5.

O. E. LINDOW, Sec'y.

Foreign Mission Board.

NOTES BY THE SECRETARY.

A letter to hand from a good sister speaks volumes. My heart was greatly touched in reading it, and it occurred to me that others might be benefited as well.

"Enclosed you will find P. O. Order for \$4 for Foreign Missions. It is sent by Mrs. — as a special thank-offering for God's goodness to her during the past year. She wished me not to mention her name, but I think when gifts are made with such self-sacrifice it helps those who are laboring so long, and often under such trying circumstances, to know about them. Mrs. — has been an invalid for some years and for the past three has only been able to lie in a bed or chair. She cannot walk at all, and is not able to sit up for one half hour without intense pain, caused by spinal disease of some kind. Four small children are in the home. Many times you would wonder what she finds to give special thanks for, and yet during all her illness I have never heard a murmur against His will. I have often been helped and strengthened by her unwavering faith and implicit trust in the strange dispensations of His providence."

Such gifts are twice blessed,—they bless those who give and also those who receive. A thousand of such givers to missions in these Provinces would be a power for good in our churches. This sister is not alone in her self-sacrifice. There are others. The number is increasing. They ought to be multiplied ten-fold.

Look at these figures for the last eight years and note the giving through the Convention Fund for Foreign Missions, and then note the quarterly statement of the Secretary-Treasurer for the quarter ending November 1, and say whether there ought not to be some changes somewhere.

In 1893	there was contributed by churches in	
N. S.	\$3,041 32	
N. B. and P. E. I.,	1,461 75	
In 1894—N. S.,	\$3,727 80	
N. B. and P. E. I.,	2,000 01	
In 1895—N. S.,	\$3,058 53	
N. B. and P. E. I.,	2,083 29	
In 1896—N. S.,	\$3,311 52	
N. B. and P. E. I.,	1,536 31	
In 1897—N. S.,	\$2,889 92	
N. B. and P. E. I.,	1,762 35	
In 1898—N. S.,	\$2,450 34	
N. B. and P. E. I.,	1,674 57	
In 1899—N. S.,	\$2,517 85	
N. B. and P. E. I.,	1,792 49	
In 1900—N. S.,	\$2,687 14	
N. B. and P. E. I.,	1,524 83	

From which it will be seen that in 1896 the largest amount was received from churches in Nova Scotia—\$3,311 52, and in 1895 the largest amount was received from the churches in N. B. and P. E. I.—\$2,083 29. In 1900 there was a shrinkage from these figures of \$624 38, so far as the offerings from churches in N. S. are concerned and \$558 46 from churches in N. B. and P. E. I.

Were it not for offerings from individuals and other sources our work would be badly crippled. The weak place in our work financially is the income which is received through the offerings as per Convention Plan.

This is clear by a comparison of the above figures. We ought to have a revival of Christian benevolence—Certainly \$4211.97 from our more than 400 churches with a contributing membership of 25,000 is not sufficient for the great and growing needs of our Foreign Mission work.

"Physical wants strike a deeper note of sympathy in many hearts than spiritual destitution. The Missionary Union without making an appeal, received over \$50,000 for the famine sufferers in India, and many urgent appeals for such an addition to missionary funds probably would have been comparatively unheeded. Church after church gave far more for the famine relief than they have given for carrying the gospel to those ignorant of it. We do not mention this fact to condemn in the least this relief of physical suffering. These ought we to have done and not to leave the other undone. What a pity that churches should take the attitude of saying that they must do less for sending the gospel to India because they have done so much in giving bread to India!"

The above is taken from an editorial note in the Watchman of Boston. The same thing might be said of churches and individuals in these Provinces, more than \$3000 were contributed for the India Famine Relief and only a little over \$4000 for the awful spiritual needs of hungry souls. We need some spiritual eye salve that will help us see the worth of a soul in the sight of him with whom we have to do.

Again the Watchman says:—

"We do not believe that any candid mind can survey

the religious life of the closing century without seeing that the most distinctive thing in it, at least so far as the English speaking world is concerned, is the foreign mission enterprise."

That is good testimony. Ponder its import and hold it in memory as a potent factor in your life.

Josiah Strong says: "What are churches for but to make missionaries? What is education for but to train them? What is commerce for but to carry them? What is money for but to send them? What is life itself for but to fulfil the purpose of missions, enthroning Jesus Christ in the hearts of men?"

That man is perfect in faith who can come to God in the utter dearth of his feelings and his desires without a glow or an aspiration, with the weight of low thoughts, failures, neglects and wandering forgetfulness, and say to him: "Thou art my refuge, because thou art my home."—George Macdonald.

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