

## The Presbyterian Review.

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Toronto, April 30, 1896.

### Woman's Foreign Mission Society.

FROM the extended report furnished in this week's issue it will be seen that the Annual meeting of the Woman's Foreign Mission Society held last week at Peterborough, was a decided success. The church cannot be too mindful of what she owes to this most earnest band of workers in the vineyard, whose labors have been so signally blessed and whose constancy in the work has been so remarkable. In this chosen field woman has found a true sphere in which to serve the Master. There are many doors open to woman in establishing the Kingdom, but that to which the energies of this Society are devoted seems, in its variety and suitability, singularly appropriate. The reports of their sessions make refreshing reading, and they are warmly commended to the careful and prayerful perusal of our readers.

A glance at the officers' reports reveals the volume of business attended to and brought within the control of the Board of Management by an admirably fitted systematization of routine. How carefully, methodically, and ably the affairs of the Society are conducted, can be seen by the manner in which the work of the various departments is handled in the reports. It would be difficult to choose one report from the others as the most interesting, each containing facts of the greatest possible value, set concisely in clear, expressive language which arrests and interests the reader greatly. Indeed the excellent manner in which the reports are compiled may well be commended to the attention of some of the committees of the General Assembly, and should the example set be followed the venerable court will not be the loser by the saving of time and space which will thereby be effected.

The Foreign Secretary's report is the longest of those presented. But what a glorious story it has to tell. Central India—Indore, Mhow, Neemuch, Ujjain, Dhar; China—Formosa, Honan. Canada—The Indians and British Columbia; Trinidad and the New Hebrides, come under an able review; and the Home Secretary's report is also of abiding importance and interest. In short each department has its special needs, its special claims and its special appeal which go straight to the heart.

The Society's finances show a falling off in the Contribution Envelopes, 792 short of last year, and in this connection the following passage in the report on publications is earnestly commended to the Church:—"We are sorry to record a large falling off in our Contribution Envelopes; they are 792 short of last year. This means something to our Society. We had hoped last year that we were entering on an era of more systematic giving, but this year would indicate that we were, perhaps, too sanguine. We would like again to recommend this mode of giving, for we have always felt that

where the Sabbath evening hour of prayer was enjoyed and felt to be a privilege, the offering however small would not be forgotten. What the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society has always wished to impress on its many givers is a conscientious setting apart of God's portion, and where this is done we have no fear but a corner will readily be given for the work of telling our less favored sisters of that love which has done so much in uplifting woman, and placing her in her proper sphere." This is a practical as well as a noble utterance. The key note of success is struck in the words "systematic giving," and by impressing that principle on the people the offerings will be both an indication, of the feelings of the Church as a whole and will increase in amount to a figure more in accord with the requirements of the great work helped on by the Society.

On this subject an extract from the Home Secretary's report is directly to the point:—"A feeling of disappointment comes to us, as we report the fact that the twentieth year of our existence as a Society marks the first appearance of decrease in our ordinary contributions. Continued depression in commercial affairs may have had some slight effect in bringing about this result, but judging from the reports we believe that it can be accounted for in other ways. Our members, on the whole, have not given less, but sympathy with our supply department has led some of them to divert part of their ordinary funds to aid it. All that is possible should be done for that department, but care must be exercised not to strengthen it at the expense of any other part of our work. Another cause of the apparent decrease is, that a few of our branches were tardy in sending their funds to the Presbyterian Treasurers and their contributions do not appear in the total for the past year. This has been a disappointment to the Board of Management and will, we are sure, be such to the members of those branches when they find that their contributions do not appear in our Annual Report. We would earnestly urge our Treasurers to be more prompt in future." There is the kernel of an eloquent sermon in that paragraph and we can only earnestly hope its pointed advice will not be lost on all concerned.

The Society has been blessed with wise, disinterested officers and counsellors and their great services have been given cheerfully in their various capacities. To them the Church owes thanks, but that they have been privileged on their part to so serve, as they have done, to have been honored and owned in that service are above earthly ecomiums and rewards.

### A Noted Jubilee.

Great interest is being manifested in theological circles in the United States by the approaching celebration of the professional Jubilee of Dr. W. H. Green of Princeton which will take place next week. The Committee has adopted a general outline of a programme for the anniversary celebration, and has chosen a long list of eminent speakers to carry out the exercises set down on the programme. The committee has also prepared an elaborate and dignified invitation, which has already been sent out to friends and alumni of the seminary to the number of over 3,000. A large number of acceptances have been received by the Committee, a large and distinguished gathering of eminent divines is expected to be present and participate in Prof. Green's semi-centennial celebration.

It was the original intention of the Committee to ask the distinguished divine Dr. Talbot W. Chambers of New York to preside at the ceremonies. His death, however, has made a vacancy in the programme which