

## MRS. DRAKE'S DEATH.

The death blow fell like a bolt out of a clear sky. At four o'clock Sunday afternoon of Sept. 30th, I sat down to an early dinner with her and Mr. Drake. - At 4.30 Monday afternoon we were following her lifeless body to the cold grave.

She had no regrets in her death. In the early stages of the attack she expressed a wish that she might be spared to serve the Lord longer here on earth, but her resignation was perfect. Then her thought seemed to turn toward the dear home ones, and between the awful spasms, as she lay gasping for breath, she repeatedly said, "Father and Grace will be so sorry." Mr. Alexander and his daughter Grace had contemplated a visit to her in India this winter, and we all were looking forward to welcome them and Mrs. Drake to a protracted visit in our Canadian Mission. That expected visit seemed seldom absent from her mind, and occupied her last expressed thoughts. She had looked forward to it as a time in which to snatch a few months' rest. "I am so tired, so very tired," she said repeatedly, but never complainingly.

Her life was a round of ceaseless activities. Owing to the continued illness of the Hadley's, she still felt the burden of her portion of the Telugu work at Perambur. The two caste girls' schools, and the teachers of some of the other schools, were still her special care. In the English church in Vepory, where Mr. Drake has been pastor since February last, she presided at the organ, drilled the choir for two services on Sunday, taught two Bible classes—one in the Sabbath school and one for young women some time in each week. She performed all the duties devolving on a pastor's wife, in active visitation of the flock, in cheerful help to the poor and fallen (and the indigent Eurasians are numerous in Madras), and in ministering to the sick and sorrowing. At such a time as this, with cholera raging in all parts, and 279 dying in one week, such ministrations was not light. Mr. Drake has been called to one, two, and even three funerals a day for some days when the plague was at its worst during the last month, in his own congregation.

But her truly catholic spirit refused to confine her effort to the local church. She was an active worker in the W. C. T. U. of the city, in which she was for some time Vice-President, and had recently been honored with the Presidency in this week's programme of the Women's Mission Prayer Union; her part is left to another.

She worked to the very end. At six o'clock Sabbath evening she was dismissing her class of lads in the Sunday school; at six Monday morning loving hands were closing her eyes in death. At six o'clock Monday night her worn body lay near the crumbled dust of Brother Waterbury, under the lengthening shadows of the cocoa nut palms in St. Andrew's Cemetery.

Her life was Christ-like in helpful kindness to others. She won the hearts of utter strangers in a moment by her cheery brightness. An English lady, lying sick in the next room of the hospital to Mrs. Laffamme's, and to whom Mrs. Drake had shown some little passing kindness, while visiting Mrs. Laffamme, wept bitterly on learning of her sudden death, and said she "never could forget how kind that little lady was." "We can never, never forget her, and so she lived that when she died she left to each who knew her the legacy of a heart memory rich in loving-kindnesses.

A large procession of friends, English, Eurasian and natives, in carriages and on foot, and representing all

the evangelical missions in the city, and all classes and ranks in her division of the city, followed her body to the last resting-place on earth. The Rev. Henry Rice, of the Old Kirk of Scotland, conducted the service at the grave. All was solemn and impressive. Next Sunday evening a memorial service will be held in the Vepory Baptist church. What can we say now but that "He giveth His beloved sleep."

H. F. LAFFAMME.

Vepory, Madras, Sept. 24th, 1891.

## Address

By Mrs. BOOKER, President of the W. B. F. Missionary Society of Ontario.

*Dear Fellow-workers*,—Again we are permitted to gather in our annual missionary meeting, and I trust the Lord has come up with us and that He will abide with His loving presence and spirit during every hour we remain together.

Many of you will remember that it was not without some fear and anxiety we undertook the enlargement of our work last October. But through the faithful efforts of many and a continual looking to our Father in heaven, with grateful hearts we acknowledge it has been a year of progress and prosperity.

The Circles and Bands have responded generously, so the increased burdens have been easily lifted, and we desire to thank you for all the help so cheerfully given.

The Board is absolutely dependant on you for the means of carrying out the plans formed at our annual meeting, and we hope every member will realize that her help is needed, in everything we undertake. Let us ever keep in mind that individual responsibility is needed in this as in all Christian work.

Through the influence of one noble Christian man, Lord Lawrencia, the people of both India and England were brought to see that the best way to insure India's welfare was by educating its sons and daughters. As Viceroy, his opinion had great power in both countries, and though it required long and tedious years to bring it about, yet the result has been the establishing of girls' schools. At first the outlook was very dark, girls would not be allowed to go to school, and even if they had, a teacher (which must necessarily be a woman) was not available.

Woman's Missionary Societies were not in existence in those days, and girls' schools seemed impossible. But at this very time the Lord was preparing the way, through means His people knew not of. A terrible famine visited India, thousands of people died and numbers of children were left orphans. Missionaries, feeling this to be God's opportunity, gathered them into schools and called upon the Christian people of England and America to support them. Thus Christians at home, influenced by missionaries abroad, united their efforts in the formation of Woman's Missionary Societies.

Soon after, devoted Christian women came forward, and, with loving hearts and willing hands, gave themselves to a work no other agency could accomplish. From that time till the present girls have been gathered into both boarding and day schools by nearly all missionary societies; until now a large company of Christian women, trained and educated by our representatives in heathen lands, are working for Jesus.

Many here to-day must acknowledge that the blessing did not all go with those we sent to India. How much