

maining two who have not been always with us, we expect will strengthen us soon with their presence and aid. It is not much we have done or can do, but I hope we may always be willing to do the little we can, and that many others may come in and join us, and help support the hands of our sisters who have gone so far from home for the love they have for Christ and his cause. On behalf of the Woman's M. A. Society. MRS. R. McCULLOCH, Secretary.

Sister Belle's Corner.

(For the Little Folks who read this Paper.)

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS,—Away off in India the people who worship idols, instead of the One True God, are not happy. The idol priests teach them to do many cruel things, telling them the idols will be angry if they do not obey. When our preachers tell them of God's way to save sinners, it seems too easy. They want to do some great thing to save themselves. One of their idols is named Juggernaut, and it is dragged from place to place in a heavy car. Many a poor heathen has thrown himself under the wheels of the car and been crushed to death to please this idol. Others walk hundreds of miles on their knees, or with sharp little stones inside their shoes, until their feet are torn and bleeding. Some men have sharp hooks run through their bodies, and are swung around on a pole. Others stand with one arm stretched out, day after day, night after night, until it becomes so stiff they cannot take it down or use it in any way. In a great many other cruel ways they punish themselves that the idols may be pleased to forgive all their sins. Others use what they call a praying machine. They pay a large sum of money to have a paper, with a written prayer on it, turned around on a wheel a great many hundred times. The priests teach them that these prayers are put down to their credit, as if they had said them over so many times. But after these heathen come to the missionaries, and learn what the Bible teaches, they throw aside all these wicked and foolish ways. No one could ever earn forgiveness of sins, or enter Heaven by his own works. Jesus, God's Holy Son, who had never sinned, but who always pleased God, died for us that we might have eternal life. He bore all the punishment for our many sins, and if we believe in Him, our sins are all forgiven for His sake.

A good missionary was telling some poor heathen these glad tidings when others laughed at such an easy way of being saved. They asked to see the Book that taught such things. So the missionary lent them a Bible. They kept the Bible for many days, and when they brought it back no longer laughed at its teaching. The man who was going to walk hundreds of miles on his knees to worship an idol had learned that the True God was close beside him. The one who was going to have sharp hooks put through his body now trusted Jesus who was pierced for our sakes. They forsook their own evil ways and walked in God's way. Each bought a copy of the Bible and begged the missionary to teach him more about Jesus, the Saviour. They loved Him, believed that He had forgiven all their sins, and were there baptized in His name. There are now many thousands in India who have given up their idols for the True God. Yet some people ask what is the use of giving money and sending men and women as missionaries to India. Our boys and girls will be able to tell such folks their reasons for working and praying for foreign missions.

SISTER BELLE.

LORNE PLACE, Ottawa.

Holy Wells of the Hindus.

At Benares, honorific ceremonies and offerings in honor of departed ancestors, called Sradhas, are constantly performed near the Mani-karni kund. This is a well, or small pond, of fetid water, not more than twenty feet long by ten broad, lying at a considerable depth below the surface of

the ground, and declared in the Kasi-khanda of the Skanda-Purana to have been originally created by Vishnu from the perspiration which exuded from his body. Its highly sacred character in the eyes of the orthodox Hindu may therefore be easily understood. It is said to have been named Mani-karnika because Mahadeva on beholding Vishnu's well was so enraptured that his body thrilled with emotion, causing an earring to fall from his ear into the water. It is also called Mukti-kshetra, 'holy place of emancipation,' and Purna-subbakara, 'cause of complete felicity.' This wonderful well is on the ghat, called from it, Mani-karnika, and is resorted to by thousands of pilgrims, who may be seen all day long descending the flight of steps by which the shallow pool is surrounded on all four sides. Eagerly and with earnest faces they crowd into the water, immersing their whole bodies repeatedly, while Brahmins superintend their ablutions, repeat and make them repeat Mantras, and receive handsome fees in return. In a niche upon the steps on the north side are the figures of Vishnu and Siva, to which the pilgrims after bathing, do honour by bowing down and touching the stones underneath with their foreheads. The bathers, though manifestly much dirtier from contact with the foul water, go away under the full conviction that they are inwardly purified, and that all their sins, however heinous, have been washed away for time and for eternity.

There is another well of almost equal sanctity, named the Juana-vapi or 'pool of knowledge,' situated under a handsome colonnade in the interior of the city, between the mosque, built by Aurangzil on the site of the original Visvesvaranath temple and the present Golden Temple. It is a well of some depth, and not a pool, but the water is so abominably offensive, from the offerings of flowers and rice continually thrown into it and left to putrefy, that I found it impossible to do more than take a hasty glance into the interior of the well, or even to remain in the neighbourhood long enough to note all the particulars of its surroundings. All day long a Brahmin stands near this well and ladles out putrid water from a receptacle before him into the hands of pilgrims, who either lave their faces with the fetid liquid, or drink it with the greatest reverence. The supposed sanctity of this well is owing to the circumstance that the idol of Siva was thrown into it when the original temple of Visvesvaranath was destroyed by the Musalmans. Hence the pool is thought to be the habitation of Mahadeva himself, and the water to be permeated by his essence.—*Modern India, by Monier Williams, D.C.L.*

Woman's Work in England.

God's word had declared that in the last days He would pour out His Spirit, not only upon the old men and young men, but also upon His handmaids. The early church employed her women in the furtherance of the gospel, and how manifestly since 1833 have godly women been called into legitimate positions of usefulness! This call began at home. The daughter of a clergyman, Miss Marsh, in writing the life of Captain Hedley Vicars, the intended husband of her niece, who was killed in the Crimea, touched all England in its sympathetic mood with its brave soldiers, and led the way to many useful efforts of other Christian women, which in England had generally been supposed beyond their sphere. By another little book, Mrs. Bayley pointed attention to the "Ragged Homes" of our great cities, and the hope to mend them by mothers' classes. Mrs. Wightman, by example, also taught good women how to "Hasten to the Rescue" of the intemperate, and these books exercised an influence that stirred up very many others. There had arisen also, in 1857, the first Bible-woman's Mission to the poor of low London, as the daughter of the Bible Society, which native agency has since then caused the purchase of the Holy Book, as well as the reading of it, in those back slums and alleys, to the extent of a hundred

and seventy thousand copies, at the cost to themselves of more than £20,000, besides laying the foundation for the work of Bible-women nurses, and eliciting the self-help of the poor, in various directions. These missions, which were also called the "Missing Link," are, after twenty-one years, still employing two hundred and fifty good poor women as paid agents in London, each one voluntarily superintended by a sympathizing lady, which brings the rich and the poor together. The agency has now spread, without direct affiliation, into numerous country districts, and to many foreign mission stations, as it is found peculiarly adapted to the women of the East, in India, Syria, Burmah, and elsewhere. L. N. R.

Forward Strides.

In 1870, or only ten years ago, Central Africa was an unknown country in which Livingstone was supposed to be lost; while now its great lakes and rivers are familiar, and one society alone, the Church Missionary of England, has ten laborers actually on the ground. In 1870 the slave-trade was carried on upon a very large scale, and in a most barbarous manner, upon the eastern coast, while now it is almost broken up. In Japan only ten years ago the one English missionary there read on the public notice-boards: "The evil sect called Christian is strictly prohibited;" while now some 5,000 Japanese have become Christians, and the work is going rapidly forward. And these two countries are specimens of similar changes in other parts of the world in the interest of Christianity, though in most places on a smaller scale. Professor Christlieb gives the whole number of Protestant missionary societies as seventy (twenty-seven in Great Britain, and eighteen in America), with an annual income of about \$5,762,000, half of which comes from Great Britain. The whole number of ordained missionaries from Christian lands he estimates at 2,500 with 23,000 native helpers, and the number of converts from heathenism, 1,650,000. Who says that Protestant Christianity is not making forward strides?—*Selected.*

WOMEN'S BAPT. FOR. MISS. SOCIETY OF WEST. ONT.

Receipts from Feb. 25th, to Mar. 25th, 1880.

Stratford, Ladies Aid Society \$10; Orangeville, Mrs. J. W. Wylie £2; Paris Circle \$10; Ingersoll, \$7.80; Woodstock, \$9; Exbridge, \$5; Yorkville, \$15.25; Toronto-Alexander St., \$8; College St., \$8.86; Parliament St., \$10; Jarvis St. \$6.60. Rochester, N.Y., Mrs. Horace Perry, \$25; Illinois, Miss Ida Fitch, \$5; total \$125.51.

SPECIAL FOR MISSION BOAT.—Paris, Children's Auxiliary, \$7.44; Miss E. Priest, St. Catharines, 50 cents; Willing Workers' Mission Band, Yorkville, \$1.20; proceeds of Mission Quilt Yorkville, to make Mrs. King a life member \$25; Jarvis St. \$3.40; total \$37.54. Total receipts \$163.05.

EMILY LAIRD, Treasurer,
232 Carlton St.

Will the treasurers of the Circles kindly send in all the money they have on hand before the 12th of April, as the half-yearly meeting of the Central Board will be held on the 16th, and it is desired to send the remainder of the money for the Mission Boat as soon as possible.

E. L.

Receipts of the W. B. Missionary Society (Convention East.)

(For the quarter ending March 16th, 1880.)

Perth Circle, \$10; First Baptist Church Society, \$19.35; Ottawa Circle, \$25; Grove Hill, Sawyerville, \$13; Hull Circle, \$6; Clarence, \$20; Olivet, \$23.96; Abbot's Corner, \$3.50; Kingsley Falls, \$8; Mr. O. Clement, special sub. \$5; Mr. E. V. Moseley do. do. \$5; Interest, \$10; Total \$139.62.

NANNIE E. GREEN, Treasurer.

CANADIAN MISSIONARIES IN INDIA.

MARITIME PROVINCES.

Rev. Rufus Sanford, A. M., Bimlipatan.
" George Churchill, Bobbili.
" W. F. Armstrong, Chicacole.
Miss Carrie A. Hammond, Bimlipatan.

ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

Rev. John McLaurin, at home.
" John Craig, Cocanada.
" G. F. Currie, Tuni.
" A. V. Timpany, Cocanada.