

Samulcotta.—

Bible Women	\$50 00
Books and Tracts	10 00
Miscellaneous	25 00
	85 00
Miss Hatch	500 00
Books for Samulcotta Seminary	120 00
Miss Rogers	250 00
Manahi	70 00
Total	\$695 00

The Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the W. B. F. M. Society of Ontario.

Held in Brantford, Oct. 22nd.

The first session of the annual meeting of the Baptist Women's Missionary Societies of Ontario, opened in the Park Baptist church at 9.30. The first half-hour of the meeting was conducted by Mrs. J. C. Yule of Brantford, and partook of the nature of a consecration service, in which a large number of ladies took part.

At ten o'clock the President, Mrs. Booker, of Hamilton, took the chair and opened the meeting.

Mrs. J. L. Barber, of Boston, read the scriptures, taking the lesson from Romans.

Miss Moyle, on behalf of the ladies of Brantford, then gave a short welcoming address. She said on looking over the programme one always found an address of welcome. She thought probably it could be dispensed with, and the time spent more profitably. They welcomed them as Christian women who had gathered there to do the Master's work, and of whom much was required. They had two days work on the programme, the first was that of Foreign Missions, that would be taken up to-day, and the second day was to be devoted to the work of Home Missions, but both were the causes of Christ and needed their earnest prayers and consideration. To the workers of the small country Circles they would give a hearty welcome. They had worked hard and given up many comforts to further the cause of Christ. They might seem discouraged, but when they had done their best they could safely leave the rest with the Lord. There was some familiar faces absent this morning, whom they would like to welcome. They had a brighter welcome, that of the Master. It seemed as if they could ill afford to lose them, but it was the Master's will. She heartily welcomed them to the homes and churches of Brantford and hoped that this would be the most successful Convention yet held.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Mrs. Booker, in responding to the address said she had listened to the address of welcome with much pleasure, and had felt a pleasure in coming to Brantford, as the people of this city had always shown a warm and deep interest in the work.

Mrs. Booker then gave the Presidents annual address. She said that since the first honored President of our Society had to leave us, called by sickness to the far west, no one has been missed more than Mrs. Castle, who for so many years cheerfully and ably led our meetings. Her going left a great blank, and all who attend these anniversaries miss her bright face and helpful words. And later, when called upon to endure one of the severest trials a woman ever has to bear, the loss of a loving husband, our hearts went out in deep sympathy to her. Hundreds of women in our Societies mourned with her and for her.

Again we gather in our annual meeting to look back over the work of the past year, to discuss plans for that upon which we are entering, and, above all, to acknowledge with grateful hearts our Master's help, and thank Him for what He has enabled us to accomplish. But a word about our late President should be spoken here.

Ah! there is a band of love in the heart of God's children that knits us more closely together than those outside of His family realize. And though Mrs. Castle is not with us now, we are assured of her continued interest and sympathy in our work.

We shall have very interesting reports from our Secretary and Treasurer. They are so full that it seems hardly necessary for me to refer to the past year except to say that it has been fairly successful. The lives and health of our missionaries have been precious in the Lord's sight, and we begin a new year with a larger force in the field than ever before. Gratitude and hope fill our hearts to-day, gratitude for the past, and hope for the future. That sometimes there are difficulties to overcome, only needs greater earnestness and devotion on our part.

It is now about 30 or 40 years, since the Lord laid out the hearts of Christian women to carry the gospel to their heathen sisters. At first it was considered the wildest of schemes, and many wise and good men looked upon it as impracticable. Indeed, 14 years ago (1876) when our own W. F. B. M. Societies were first organized, some of our most honored ministers thought we were moving too fast. But the Lord was leading us and He has most remarkably guided and blessed the work from its beginning. While preparing this work for Canadian women our pastor was fitting us for it. In this God's hand can be traced and His divine purpose seen. We were utterly dead to a sense of debt or love to our heathen sisters and would have been so still had He not roused us from our sinful indifference.

The desire and power to do this work comes from Him. "All power is given unto me," saith Jesus, and He has promised, "to will and to do in us of His good pleasure." And to-day we acknowledge, not unto us, but unto God be all the glory. It is estimated, that in India alone there are one hundred millions of women and girls in utter ignorance, one sixth of whom are widows, and of these 80 thousand under ten years of age.

We cannot in any true sense realize the deplorable condition of these poor women. Let us again thank God that He has given us a part in this grand work. The barriers that so long prevented us entering their houses are broken down, the doors are now open, let us enter with the love of Jesus in our hearts and the Bible in our hands and precious souls for our Master.

Nor is it strange that in this enlightened age women should wish to help in carrying out our Saviour's command to "go into all the world and preach the gospel," when we remember that Jesus sent a woman to the Samaritans with the message, "Come see a man who told me all things that ever I did, is not this the Christ?" And we have another example in Mary, who was the first to carry news of the resurrection to the mourning disciples, when Jesus said unto her, "go quickly and tell My disciples that I am risen." Christ began the work of saving souls lost in the darkness of sin, and, at what cost. He opened up the way of salvation for us, even to the giving of His life's blood that a lost child might be saved.

And shall it cost us nothing to carry on this work? Usually, that which costs most we prize most highly. In all our efforts as Mission Circles to enlarge our work, increase interest and gather means, we should ever keep before us the idea of self-denying giving. The close of this year finds us with six young ladies on the field, four of whom, Misses Hatch, Stovel, Baskerville, and Simpson, being fully prepared in the language, are now occupied with their special work. Miss Rogers and Miss Booker, are patiently and hopefully plodding at the Telugu. In sustaining these our representatives we feel honored, and rejoice that through them a wider door of usefulness is opening to us. We regret that a medical lady is not ready to answer the repeated calls from India, and to say, "Lord, here am I, send me!"

We hope you all pray for our missionary sisters by name, thus becoming acquainted with them and their work individually. They need our prayerful sympathy while acquiring that difficult language, and becoming accustomed to the intense heat of India. And they need our help none the less