

## Foreign Missions.

W. B. M. U.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR:

"We are laborers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. J. W. MANNING, 178 Wentworth Street, St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR MAY.

To Mr. Sanford and Mr. and Mrs. Gullison that their hearts may be made to rejoice by seeing the heathen brought to Christ.

The last missionary meeting of the season in connection with the W. M. A. S. of St. John was held in Carleton on Tuesday. The occasion was one of special interest, good attendance at both sessions. A most interesting programme. The tea and social hour very enjoyable, the collection over \$13. These meetings have been held in all the Baptist churches during the winter and we are so glad to report an increased interest in the subject of missions. They have all proved both profitable and interesting. New workers are coming in and this greatly encourages us. We have introduced our Mission Bands into these meetings and find it a great success. Helpful and stimulating to both old and young. It is quite evident that the parents must be reached through the children. The Mission Bands in connection with each church have had special services of various kinds and are raising money to support Native preachers, Bible women, or children in the Mission Schools. During the months to come, while the members are scattered and meetings postponed, may the work not be forgotten in thought or prayers; but the vacation be wisely used in gaining knowledge that shall make us more efficient workers in the future.

## A Message.

## I. TO DOUBTING CHRISTIANS.

"Wherefore do ye doubt?" Are missions a failure? What constitutes success? Surely not the largest ingathering in the shortest period for the world is full of religious wrecks of structures built with untempered mortar on the sand; nor in conversions at the cheapest cost per capita. Getting a flock is important, feeding them equally so. Evangelization without edification often results in evaporation, hence Christian education has a larger place than formerly in missions, in order to produce capable leaders from and for every people.

Is there doubt and misgiving because highest expectations have not always been realized? Yet in many cases have they not been exceeded?

## 2. TO UNCONCERNED CHRISTIANS.

Whose business is it if not yours to give and live for the extension of Christ's kingdom? By what law is any redeemed soul exempt? You have ability; with it goes responsibility, now and at the day of judgment. Have you no heart for that for which our Lord agonized in Gethsemane, and on the cross died literally broken-hearted? The epitaph of many a defunct church composed of such members might properly be "Died of heart failure."

Non-participation, particularly in times of stress, is dishonorable and punishable. Inexcusable sins of omission are serious matters. For not coming up to the help of the Lord, Meroz was cursed bitterly—for doing nothing. For not using his Lord's talent the slothful servant was denounced and punished as a "wicked man"—for doing nothing. For their benevolent inactivity on earth when they had ability and opportunity to do good, men of judgment will be startled by the Master's words: "Because ye did it not, depart from me"—for doing nothing!

What saith the Scriptures? "See that this grace"—the grace of liberality—"abound in you also." If liberality is a Christian grace, is not Christian illiberality—a disgrace? Is not the name of Christ dishonored by the vast mass of believers who have money for everything else but none for missions?

## 3. TO THE OLD GUARD.

These are they who for long and strenuous years, generously, self-sacrificingly, unflinchingly, heroically, have borne the brunt of the battle; who through many a dark day stood by the standard lovingly, loyally, right loyally. We revere you. Words fail to express our appreciation, our admiration of you. From foreign lands, the redeemed will rise up to call you blessed; will gather to greet you in glory; best of all, reward above all, will be the Master's words: "Well done, good and faithful servants, enter into the joy of your Lord."

## 4. TO THE BAPTIST YOUNG PEOPLE.

All hail! The veterans are waiting for you; the places of the fallen worthies are waiting for you; the world wants you, your youthful buoyancy, energy, hope; the consecration of your powers and possessions to the Master's service. We greet your coming into the kingdom for such a time as this. Verily God's hand is in it. We

expect much from you. Gird yourselves for the conflict Great as are the achievements of the nineteenth century, through the power of the Divine Spirit greater things shall ye do in the twentieth. To the task then, knowing that it is "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord."

## 5. TO ALL:

Then, even now, O people of the living God, to your knees! For a great refreshing from on high, let there be such a bowing of Maritime Baptists before the Throne as they have never known! Let us then to our knees—officers of Societies, heads of Christian institutions, Boards of managers, pastors, and all members of churches, men and women, old and young, in fervent supplication for, "Unless the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it."

In this crisis, at this very moment, when at our wits' end, to Him "who is able to make all things abundant toward you, that ye always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" to Him unitedly let our message of fervent supplication arise: "God be merciful unto us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations."

## Foreign Mission Board.

NOTES BY THE SECRETARY.

All power is given unto me. "Go—Preach my Gospel—to every creature." In these words of our Lord spoken with the freshness of the resurrection morn upon Him and the might of the risen God within, He bids His followers look out upon the world—the whole world as the field for conquest. "Into all the world," no limitation is prescribed or permitted—no place is given to prudential considerations of distance or difficulty—there are no favored nations. The whole field is to be covered with the seed of the Kingdom, every rod is to wave with a golden harvest. "Into all the world." This is the command of the risen Lord uttered in the night which He won by His cross. It forever determines the duty of the church. When the King shakes a decree He waits but for our obedience.

Our mission then is one of evangelization. We are not called upon to convert everybody or anybody for that matter. We give the people in our land free schools, though not everybody that goes to school will turn out a scholar. We are to give the community a free gospel though not every hearer becomes a convert. While it is nowhere promised in the Word that everybody who hears the gospel shall be converted—yet it is true that great results will follow the missionary efforts of the church of God.

Already results that rival Pentecostal wonders have been realized. McKay at Formosa gathered 1200 converts at the Lord's table on the 12th anniversary of his advent to that island. William Johnstone saw Sierra Leone transformed into a Christian state within 7 years. Dr. Clough at Ongole baptized 10,000 converts in 3 months in 1878. The South Seas were christianized in 40 years from Tahiti to New Guinea. A 1000 spires displaced cannibal ovens in the Fiji group in less than one-half century.

The time for trifling is past; we must go to work in dead earnest. The time for defensive movements is past; we have something better to do than to use spades and throw up earth-works and trenches. Out from behind all walls where we have sought shelter from the fire of the foe, let us move with all the weapons of aggressive warfare and drive back the enemy by the boldness and promptness and unity of one combined movement. The best defence of missions is an energetic prosecution of missions. Let the Word of God be scattered in every part of the field, let the children of the kingdom sow themselves side by side with the Word of God that dying, if need be, the good seed may spring up and bear fruit, some thirty, some sixty and some a hundred fold. Let no part of the world be left without the gospel with its life-giving message, let money be poured out in rich abundance that all whom God makes willing may be sent forth into the harvest field. But above all let there be such a coming together on the part of God's people, such a prayerful devotion to Him and such consecration to His service, that heaven's windows shall be opened and a new outpour of the Holy Ghost shall descend upon the churches of Jesus Christ. Oh, how much need there is of this all over our land!

The whole world lies before us discovered. There remain but few lands to be explored. The wastes of heathenism have been traversed. Even the dark continent has been penetrated and its secrets disclosed. There is scarcely a region that is inaccessible to the gospel. The keels of our ships can touch scarcely a strand where the missionary's foot may not tread. When our Protestant mission began, writes Mr. Johnston, "China was hermetically sealed. It was death to preach the gospel in Japan. India was closed against all missionaries. Carey had to seek shelter in a little plot of ground, owned by a oreign power. South America was tabooed by the church of Rome. The difficulties experienced by African travellers were enough to deter the most

adventurous, and Asia Minor was inaccessible, while Mohammedanism stood in its pride and independence." Now all this is changed. God has wrought revolutions. The empires of the world are now under the sway or amenable to the influences of Christian powers. To Him be all the praise. Brethren let us fall into line—let all of us do so, and see the day-star arise.

"The Spaniard in History" is the title of a book now in preparation and soon to be issued by the Funk & Wagnalls company, New York. The book is written by Rev. James C. Fernald, of the editorial staff of the "Columbian Cyclopaedia," author of "A Study of the Inquisition," and numerous other important books. Mr. Fernald is well known also, as Editor of the Student's Standard Dictionary, and associate editor of the great Funk & Wagnalls Standard Dictionary. He has made the history of Spain and her colonies a special study for many years, and will give a brief resume, in this work, a sketch of the origin and character of the Spanish race, the rise of the modern Spanish monarchy, the conquests methods of warfare and diplomacy, the settlement government, and treatment of colonies and colonists of Spain from the discovery of America to the present time. His work shows conclusively that the long series of oppressions and cruelties in Cuba are but the consistent development and outcome of Spanish policy, and in accordance with the character of the Spanish nation, as manifested in its history for more than four hundred years, and especially in the oppressions and massacres in the Netherlands, and the devastating and well-nigh exterminating conquests of the West Indies, Mexico and Peru. The book will be attractively bound in cloth with a cover design by George Wharton Edwards, and will contain two large maps, each 14x21, printed in five colors, one of Spain and the other of Cuba. The book will be published about May 1, and will sell for 75 cents.

King Humbert of Italy has decided to gather together all the artistic furniture of the various palatine chapels of the Kingdom of Italy—that is to say, of Turin, Monza, Mantua, Florence, Naples and Palermo. There are invaluable pieces in them, many of which are little known to amateurs, especially in the gold and silver smith's art—original pieces by Benvenuto Cellini and John of Bologna. The King will have them exhibited in the exposition of sacred art which is to be opened soon in Turin.

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## Denominational

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