

visiting among the Societies. The first place visited was Belmont where the County Convention for Colchester was held. Then to Lower Economy and Five Islands where we held our meeting on Sunday morning. Meetings were also held with the sisters at Acadia Mines, Parrsboro and Port Greenville. Amid some difficulties the sisters in these places are doing good work. Some new members were added, and we trust good done by these services. At Oxford, Cumberland Co., a Mission Band was formed with twenty-one members. Pres. Miss Robb; Vice-Pres. Mrs. Tait; Sec'y Miss Gussie Hunter; Treasurer Roy Brown. The name of this Band is "Honest and Earnest."

Meetings were also held in Annapolis County. The first with the Aid Society at Nictaux, and in the evening a public meeting at the same place. This meeting was conducted by the two Mission Bands, "Sunbeam" and "Co-Workers," the one working at Nictaux, the other at Nictaux Falls, and presided over by Miss A. Cahoon and Miss Hattie Morse. The exercises of both Bands showed careful training. Our sisters are engaged in a good work and the reward is sure.

Two meetings were also held at Torbrook, one in the afternoon with the sisters of the Aid Society and a public meeting in the evening. Although they have as yet no Band here, the children had a large part of the exercises and the result must be an increased interest in the work of missions.

On Sunday afternoon a meeting was held with the Band at Lawrence town, when Miss Edith Phinney was elected President and Miss Alice Y. President. That same evening I was privileged to attend and address a meeting of the B. Y. P. U. at South Williamsburg. This service commenced with the young people singing. The Rev. Mr. [unclear] was the speaker. Four of the sisters saved their names to join the Aid Society at Lawrence town.

The next week the County Convention for Lunenburg County was held at Bridgewater. Mrs. Reid, our Sec'y, is the right woman in the right place. Miss Archibald was with us, and we had excellent papers from Miss Lenotte and Mrs. D. W. Crandall.

On Wednesday afternoon a Mission Band was organized in Dartmouth with fifty members. Miss Johnston, Pres.;

Miss Hume, V. Pres.; Miss Nellie Keelor, Sec'y; Mr. Harry Eisener, Treas.

Dartmouth has lately for some years had its Mission Band in the Sunday School, but this not succeeded very well so we have returned to the old order of things. The name of the Band is "Willing Workers."

A. E. JOHNSTON,
Prov. Sec'y.

For Tidings

Bobbili, Oct. 16, 1897.

My Dear Sisters:—

The programme for "Tidings" for the coming year arrived last mail, and as I see that I am down for December's letter, it behooves me to get it off this week.

What shall I tell you? Many things come to my mind to write, and it is hard to choose, but as the beggars seem to absorb more of my time and strength now, than most any other one thing, perhaps a few words about them may not be amiss.

However, I must begin my letter with thanksgiving to our dear people at home who have made it possible by their gifts, for us to do something to alleviate the great distress around us though we often feel that all we do is but "as a drop in the bucket" compared with what is needed to be done for them.

In July and August, our first months on the plains, after being to the cool and quiet of the hills during our greatest heat, the government had a relief camp at Bobbili where hundreds were daily fed, and other camps at towns and villages in the vicinity, in all of which thousands were fed daily. Also relief works established at which thousands could obtain work and pay. Then the numbers came to us to beg, and as we

could not do more for them, we had to let them go for beggars to come and bear the gospel, and afterwards get rice, we concluded to continue this for people who would not go to the relief camps on account of their caste prejudices. But in September these camps were shut and the relief work stopped, which turned an increasing number of beggars on to the public, or upon private charity. We have not felt, with the means at our disposal, that we could have more than one day a week, in which we could have the whole army of beggars come to us, for there are still three months

of great scarcity ahead of us, if not more. So we have an extra quantity of rice prepared for that day, and when the rice runs out in the distribution, we go on with small pieces of money. Often 300 come and when we are through with the distributions we are about tired out.

Such loathsome sights come before our eyes and make the air redolent with impurities, as we pass around among the people, for many are literally decaying with leprosy and other diseases. And such clamoring for more! More! that we are often sick at heart as well as tired out when we get through the ordeal, for we are painfully conscious that the supply falls far short of the necessity.

But do you think we are done with beggars for the week after this distribution is over? No; not even for the rest of that day. Often many of these will come around the house afterwards clamoring and shouting that they were not present when the rice was given out. And as soon as one succeeds in getting a small piece of money from us, others will rush in calling out that they too have received nothing yet, and it is impossible to remember the faces of those to whom you have already given; and this they keep up for hours. Next day and the next, and every day, they are coming round calling out and showing their sunken stomachs and crying for food; and some are almost walking skeletons. And so you keep giving a kance to this one, an anna to another, and a cloth to another, and so on. I have been surprised to see women of very respectable families in Bobbili coming to beg, and some with scarcely rags enough on to cover their persons.

One will come to the front verandah and call Ummah, Ummah! till you have to go and get something for her. And you go, and get it, and when you return and another voice comes ringing from the back verandah, and there is a mother with three children and no support. You give them something, but before they are out at the gate another call Ummah! Umma-ah! comes and you find a little girl who says both parents are dead and she is starving, or it may be an old woman who has thrown herself down on the verandah crying because she is so hungry, or a woman in dirty rags with a wailing emaciated babe guiltless of even a rag. These we