

## Sister Belle's Corner.

For the Little Folks who Read this Paper.

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS.—The last copy of our LINK told us of a Mission Band organized in Yorkville, near Toronto, named—"The Willing Workers."

This made me very glad, and these Mission Bands all over our land seem to me like a strong army. But unlike other armies, their mission is one of peace instead of war. They are little soldiers under Jesus Christ, the Captain of our salvation. And their mission is helping to spread the glad tidings of great joy so that the whole world may hear of a Saviour's love. God bless these Mission Bands, and give them much success in their work for Him!

In my missionary scrap book, there is a little poem about such willing workers. Perhaps one of you would like to learn it to recite it at your meeting next month, so I will copy it for you:

We are a little gleaner band,  
We cannot bind the sheaves;  
But we can follow those who reap,  
And gather what each leaves.  
We are not strong; but Jesus loves  
The weakest of His fold,  
And in our feeble efforts, prove  
His tenderness untold.

We are not rich; but we can give  
As we are passing on,  
A cup of water in His name  
To some poor faltering one.  
We are not wise; but Christ, our Lord,  
Revealed to babes His will,  
And we are sure from His dear word  
That he loves children still.

We know that with our gathered grain  
Briars and leaves we bring,  
Yet, since we tried, He smiles the same  
And takes our offering.  
Dear children still hosannas sing,  
As Christ doth conquering come,  
Casting your treasure as He brings  
The heathen nations home.

During the past year I have talked with you about India and her heathen. But that is not the only country where the people have not heard about God. In the great, rich China, where our tea comes from, there are thousands of men and women with their little children, who, like the people of India, worship idols instead of the one true God.

Some of these Chinese are very fond of money, and will do almost anything if they are paid for it. When the good missionaries have taught one of them about Jesus, and he has learned to love Him, the rest think that he has been hired to join the church.

Not very long ago, one of these new converts met an old man who still worshipped idols. They had a talk about it something like this:

"How much did those strangers give you to take their religion? Twenty dollars?"

"More than that," said the Christian.

"A hundred dollars?"

"More than that."

"A thousand dollars?"

"More than that."

"How much then?"

"More than the value of the weight of a mountain in gold and silver."

"What can it be?" cried the heathen man.

"This precious book," said the Christian, holding up his Bible, "which told me of a God, of Christ dying for my sins, of everlasting life in heaven for me!"

And if this Bible was so precious to one who had never seen it a month before, how much more we should love it! Our mothers have told us of its truths before we could read. In it we find the good news that the poor man in China found. May we each study its pages for ourselves and get these blessings.

SISTER BELLE

Ottawa, Dec. 14th, 1979.

## Mission Fruits in the Fiji Islands.

The testimony of the Hon. Sir Arthur Gordon, Governor of Fiji, to the nature and value, of the results achieved by Christian missions in the islands of the Pacific is full of interest. It was given by Sir Arthur at the May Anniversary meeting of the Wesleyan Missionary Society in Exeter Hall, and is, as he remarked, "the evidence of a man who is not a member of the Wesleyan body, and who, in the course of a varied life, has had opportunities of observation which, if he has not wholly thrown them away, must enable him, more or less, to form some judgment upon what is put before him." He summarised what he had to say by stating that in his opinion it was impossible to use exaggerated language, or to speak in two strong terms, of the wonderful results, both social and religious, which have attended the Wesleyan Missions in the Pacific. He substantiated his assertion by giving many profoundly impressive facts and thrilling details. Speaking of the general results in the islands of Fiji he said:

"You all know what, within the memory of living men, the condition of those islands was—perpetual tribal wars, cannibalism, infanticide, murder of widows, every kind of evil and wickedness perpetrated universally. Those were the characteristics of the people of the Fiji Islands. What is their condition now? Their condition now is as different from what it was then as can possibly be conceived. Out of a population of something like 120,000, more than 102,000 are regular attendants at Wesleyan churches, and the remaining 18,000 are not heathens, but for the most part members of other Christian churches. Those who have not made open profession of Christianity are but a few old men here and there, who are not to be considered or thought of when speaking of the Fijians as a people. Not to mention smaller and inferior places of worship, about 800 churches have been built. Of course, there are some persons who will say that this conversion to Christianity is often but external and unreal. These statements I am prepared emphatically to deny. No doubt in some cases, where you come to a population of these numbers, the profession of Christianity will be but slight and external. No doubt also, in many cases, their ideas of theology may be different from our own; but still I am quite sure that the lives and hearts of thousands among them are really swayed and guided by Christian principles, and that Christian doctrine does exercise a real and true influence over their lives and actions. Out of 62 ordained ministers now employed in those islands, over 50 are natives, and nearly all the lesser teachers, such for instance as school teachers, number over 3,000, and these are natives also."

The speaker paid a high tribute to the eloquence and devotion of many of the native preachers, whom he had always heard when he had the opportunity, and quoted some touching instances of the spirit and tenor of their discourses. Religion had greatly elevated the daily life of the people. Sir Arthur Gordon stated that he believed there was not a house in Fiji in which there was not morning and evening prayer. He had been in hundreds of Fijian houses, but he had never yet been in one in which he had not heard family worship carried on. Turning to the secular results of missions among the Fijians, Sir Arthur gave an equally explicit, and, in its way, equally pleasing testimony. Elementary education is spreading and improving, and there are 1,500 common day schools. There are also higher schools, and one central college, in which a really good education is given."—*Sunday Magazine*.

## The End Not Yet.

Rev. Mr. Downie, one of the missionaries of the A. B. M. Union among the Telugus, prepared and published an historical sketch of the Baptist mission among that people, for the information of the Missionary Conference held last June at Bangalore, Southern India. Mr. Downie says, "If we know any thing of the signs of the times, we recognize

in this and all similar movements but the foreshadowing of the time when God will fulfil the promise to his Son that he will give the heathen to him for his inheritance. We believe in God, and have faith in the means he has appointed for the conversion of the world. God's people, as never before, are making use of his chosen and appointed instrumentalities and agencies. God's word is preached, the leaves of truth that are for the healing of the nations are being scattered broadcast over the land. The heathen acknowledge by word and act that their effete systems are losing their hold on the people. Hinduism and Buddhism are tottering, as is clearly seen in recent attempts to bolster them up. God rules in heaven, Christ reigns in the hearts of his people. To him all power has been committed in heaven and earth. He has commissioned his Church to conquer the world for himself. If we go forth in his name, and earnestly seek to honor and obey him, we shall speedily see greater things than these."

"Throwing One's-self from a Precipice"—  
A Hindu Rite.

There are some sand-hills in the Satpura range dedicated to Mahadeva—supposed as Mahakala, to preside over destruction—from a rock on which many youths have precipitated themselves, because their mothers being childless, have dedicated their first-born sons to the god.

According to Col. Sleeman, when a woman is without children, she makes votive offerings to all the gods who can, she thinks, assist her; and promises of still greater offerings in case they should grant what she wants. Smaller promises being found of no avail, she at last promises her first-born, if a male, to the god of destruction, Mahadeva (Siva). If she gets a son, she conceals from him her son till he has attained the age of puberty; she then communicates it to him, and enjoins him to fulfil it. He believes it to be his paramount duty to obey his mother's call; and from that moment considers himself devoted to the god. Without breathing to any living soul a syllable of what she has told him, he puts on the habit of a pilgrim or religious mendicant, visits all the celebrated temples to this god, in different parts of India; and at the annual fair on the Mahadeva hills, throws himself from a perpendicular height of four or five hundred feet, and is dashed to pieces on the rocks below. If the youth does not feel himself quite prepared for the sacrifice on the first visit, he spends another year in pilgrimages, and returns to fulfil his mother's vow at the next fair. Some have, I believe, been known to postpone the sacrifice to a third fair; but the interval is always spent in painful pilgrimages to the celebrated temples of the god.—*Modern India, by Monier Williams, D. C. L.*

WOMEN'S BAPT. FOR. MISS. SOCIETY OF  
THE CONVENTION WEST, ONT.

Receipts from Nov. 27th to Dec. 24th.

Toronto, Jarvis St. Circle, \$11 75; Alexander St. Circle, \$11.40; Cheltenham, Circle, \$3.50; Rev. J. McLaurin, profit on Indian goods sold, \$50; Mrs. T. Crotty, for mission boat, 50 cents.—Total, \$77.15.

EMILY LAIRD, Treasurer,

232 Carlton Street.

## CANADIAN MISSIONARIES IN INDIA.

## MARITIME PROVINCES.

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

## ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

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