

Foreign Missions.

W. B. M. U.

"We are laborers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please address MRS. J. W. MANNING, 240 Duke Street, St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR MARCH.

For Vizanagram, that every department of the work there may receive the blessing of the Lord. That Miss Blackadar may be fully restored to health. For our Mission Bands and their leaders.

At the recent meeting of the Executive a resolution was moved by Mrs. Alward and seconded by Mrs. Hooper expressing the sympathy of the W. B. M. U. for King Edward the VII and his family upon the much lamented death of his royal and beloved mother, Queen Victoria. This resolution was sent to Lord Minto to be forwarded to the King. Also a resolution to Mrs. G. O. Gates, regretting her removal from St. John and gratefully acknowledging her services as a member of the Executive for so many years.

It was also decided to invite Mr. and Mrs. Morse to St. John for a week's missionary campaign. Meetings will be held in all the Baptist churches. The Foreign Mission Board will have an all day session for prayer and conference. The missionaries come on March 9th, will you not all unite with us in prayer that a great blessing may accompany the words of our missionaries and a revival of mission interest such as has never before been experienced bring lasting results.

The Leinster St. Mission Band held a very enjoyable five o'clock tea last Thursday. They presented their faithful leader, Miss Edith Allen, with a life membership certificate. This Band is doing good work. They meet every Wednesday. The lessons as given in Tidings are taught in a most instructive and interesting manner by Mrs. Gillies. Miss M. Smith has charge of the music. I wonder how many of our Bands are using these valuable lessons. Wherever studied with maps and pictures they are doing good work and the knowledge gained will be invaluable to those whom we hope and expect will soon become our mission workers. A course for next year is under consideration and it will be a serious loss not to have had the information concerning our own mission fields which these lessons are giving in this striking and simple way. We cannot urge too strongly the necessity of every Mission Band taking these lessons this year. This month we shall pray especially for our Bands and their leaders. May a spirit of deep consecration take possession of the leaders that they may be taught of God. The Bands will soon feel the influence. Let us hear from other Mission Bands as to their methods of work. We want a great forward movement in this department of our work among the young people and children at the beginning of this new century.

Missions in the Sunday Schools.

In a recent number of the Sunday School Times, attention was called to the relation of our Sunday Schools to the work of missions. The comparison made between the work of different denominations in this line was not flattering to Baptist pride, nor even consistent with Baptist self-respect. Methodist Sunday Schools, at the head of the column, gave last year to foreign missions nearly two hundred thousand dollars, while Baptist Schools came limping along at the rear with nine thousand dollars; an average of about one dollar per school. The Missionary Union has set itself to remedy this disgraceful showing by providing for systematic training in missionary intelligence and missionary giving through our Sunday Schools. It behooves our whole denomination to rouse itself to consecrated action in this matter, for if our principle of the independence of the local church leaves the hundreds of thousands of children in Baptist schools to come up undisciplined and untouched in respect to the greatest business of the Christian church, then so much the worse for local independence. It is too heavy a price to pay for church autonomy if our children must grow up in the stifling atmosphere and stifled confines of little Christendom for want of intelligent supervision and control. The Sunday School which, consciously or unconsciously, is teaching a child

"To believe for himself, to pray for himself, For himself and none beside, Just as if Jesus had never lived, As if he had never died,"

is not doing its full duty by that child. The denomination, second in numbers, which permits itself to stand lowest in contributions of its Sunday Schools must stand condemned in the sisterhood of the churches.

To remedy this state of affairs, the Missionary Union and our Woman's Missionary Society have joined hands.

The plan is a simple one. Material for six supplementary lessons on missions is provided for every school that will use it. An illustrated card is prepared for each child, containing the gist of the important facts in regard to some one country. The teacher is given a manual containing material for a ten or fifteen minutes' lesson on the topic of the card. A class envelope in which to take the offering is also provided.

The series cards for this year presents a bird's-eye view of the non-Christian world. The entire course, as planned, is to cover at least four years. It is expected that each child will be encouraged to keep his picture cards, and at the end of the year bind them into a pretty booklet. The questions given should be asked by the teacher and answered by the class in ten minutes. It does not seem too much to ask that out of an entire year one hour should be given to the claims of Christ's universal kingdom.

Superintendents and teachers of our Sabbath Schools in the Maritime Provinces, what are you doing for Missions in your school?

Foreign Mission Board.

NOTES BY THE SECRETARY.

How a Sunday was spent on the Chicacole field.— Miss Clark writes:—"Sunday was a busy day with us and I trust our strength was not wasted. Miss Archibald went out to her early morning school in a village, then at 7.30 we all met at the church for our church school. I have the Bible class and Miss A. the women. After school we had service, and went home a little after ten.

At two in the afternoon I had my regular class of High School boys. About forty came. They are getting on nicely and seem to enjoy coming to the Mission House. About four I mounted my wheel and rode out to my village school, and found perhaps twenty little ones sitting under the shade of a tree waiting for me. Miss A. has a school at the same time in the Relli street. Then comes our evening service from six to seven. We had five minute reports from the delegates who attended the Association and their reports were, I think, quite an inspiration. Each one was asked to tell the most helpful thing he had heard, and to do it in five minutes, or I would call them down. It is pleasant to report that they all kept to the time limit.

This certainly was a busy day. We pray that the good seed thus sown may result in a most bountiful harvest. To this end we join in our prayers with the devoted little band at the front.

The following will be read with interest by all who are interested in our Foreign Mission Work. It will be especially interesting to all Sunday School and Mission Band workers.

Enclosed find \$1 for the benefit of some little suffering heathen girl sent by two little girls aged four to six years.

Here is the story.—The eldest was to celebrate the sixth anniversary of her birth day in a very few days. Her parents have already made those anniversaries pleasant with some small gift and a general feasting of nuts and oranges. While looking through a pamphlet on missions with a few illustrations, she came to the picture of a little half-starved, poorly clad heathen girl, underneath were the words, 'I'm hungry.' The little one's heart was touched with pity and she began crying and sobbing as though her little heart would break. On being asked to compare her condition with that of the little heathen girl, she willingly and freely said she would rather do without the present, oranges and nuts, which are so dear to children, and send the money required to buy them to some little heathen girl. Her little sister joins with her in sending it.

May the spirit of giving to the Lord grow in their young hearts and in the hearts of many other children. The Lord will bless the gifts without the names as well as with them. Comment is unnecessary. The Holy Ghost can make the application.

Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me.

A Baseless Report.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MESSENGER AND VISITOR:

I have just learned that a number of Eastern Journals have published a report that I have been called to the pastorate of the 5th Avenue Baptist Church of New York. I need hardly say that I am in absolute ignorance as to the origin of these reports. But in justice both to the church and to myself I wish to say that I have not received such a call. Yours sincerely, CHARLES A. EATON.

The Back-Pew Question.

DEAR EDITOR:—In the MESSENGER AND VISITOR of Jan. 23rd, is an excellent article entitled "Back-pew Education," but I wondered as I read it that the writer had not added one more remedy. I think this back pew evil exists in all churches, both at Sunday and week day services. For years I have wondered that the older people cannot see the remedy, if the fathers and mothers would sit in the back pews themselves, the boys must either sit with them, or go up in front. Why do our church members always want to choose their seats as far up to the front as possible, leaving the back for the poorer class and the boys?

And while we are talking about this, we may as well speak of the gallery nuisance, if a church is unfortunate

enough to own one, cannot it be kept locked up, and only opened when much needed? Few churches are so crowded that there is no room down stairs for the boys who will sit in the gallery and annoy those who in the back of the church are trying to listen to the sermon. If our churches were built without a gallery, and our floors on an inclined plane, perhaps the members would be willing to sit in the back of the church, and so cure the evil of "Back-Pew Education." D.

Literary Notes.

The leading article in McClure's Magazine for March will be a character study of Edward the Seventh, written by George W. Smalley, the American correspondent of the London Times, and illustrated by a remarkable collection of photographers. "Life Portraits of Queen Victoria" will be a feature in the March issue of McClure's Magazine. The series is made up of reproductions from photographs and paintings, and it is of notable historical value. They cover the life of the queen from infancy to old age, and are accompanied by descriptive text. Among the contents of McClure's for March will be also "What We Know About Mars," by Edward S. Holden, formerly director of the Lick Observatory; "Billy's Tearless Woe," a story written and illustrated by Frederic Remington; "The Law of Life," an Alaskan story, by Jack London; "Dan McCarthy," a story of the New York Police, by J. Lincoln Steffens; besides other short stories, an instalment of "Kim," by Rudyard Kipling, and a poem by Josephine Dodge Daskam.

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Some thrilling stories are told in the February number of the Missionary Review of the World relating to the experiences of missionaries who recently suffered martyrdom in China. Dr. John R. Hykes has gathered all the information obtainable, and has told graphically and sympathetically the terrible tale of fire and sword. There are also portraits of some of this "band of martyrs." The well-known Dr. Griffith John also writes on the "Anti-foreign Crusades in China," with special reference to their cause and outcome. His is an especially able treatise on this much discussed subject. Rev. W. P. Sprague tells the interesting narrative of his experiences while fleeing from the "Boxers" through the desert of Gobi and across Siberia. Another article of unusual interest is a "Miracle of Missions" by the editor, Dr. Pierson, who tells of "Khamas, the Christian Chief of Africa" who not long ago visited England. Among other subjects treated are "Samuel Wells Williams," "The Influence of Missions on the Church," "The Arabs of Arabia," "Inadud-din of India," and "The Training of Missionaries."

Some of the Editorials and Book Reviews in this number of the Review are especially noteworthy, and no one can fail to find much to interest him in the varied and valuable contents.

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Two contributions of immediate interest in Ainslee's for March are "The Miles-Corbin Feud," by L. A. Coolidge, and "Yellow Journals," by Allen Sangree. The first of these is a remarkably frank account of the long-continued friction in the War Department. The article on "Yellow Journals" tells how these papers are made, and aims to explain why they are made as they are. "Uruguay's Progressive Ruler," by Douglas White, is a portrait study of Cuestas, who is a unique exception among South American presidents. "The Decay of Manners," by John Gilmer Speed, is an earnest protest in exceedingly readable form against the decline of American politeness. "Some After-Dinner Humors," by George Barry Mallon, is an anecdotal sketch of the best after-dinner speakers, with enjoyable examples from their speeches. "Traffic and the country," by Arthur I. Street, is a dramatic study of the revolution of traffic conditions that has resulted in the astonishing development of the entire middle section of the United States. Besides, there are several excellent short stories, among which mention should be made of "S'wash," by Jack London; "The Lottery Ticket," by Rafael Sabatini, and "The Making of a Bandit," by C. A. Bonfils. "Topics of the Theatre," with many interesting pictures, closes the number.—(Street & Smith, Publishers, New York.)

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