

The Canadian Church Magazine AND MISSION NEWS

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MISSION NOTES.

PANDITA RAMABAI has had the pleasure of seeing nearly three hundred of the young widows whom she rescued during the famine admitted into the visible Church by baptism.

OF the sixty-seven recruits forty-seven had been adopted by parishes or individuals as "own missionaries," that is, were to be supported by these parishes or individuals through funds sent in to the C.M.S., except as to the outfit, passage and mission charges, which expenses are borne by the general fund of the C.M.S.

AT THE autumn "dismissals" of the C.M.S. of missionaries for the foreign field in October last, there were 166 men and women going out this year as against 136 in 1897, of whom 99 were returning or had returned to their posts, as against 49 last year. There were 67 recruits as against 87 in the previous year. Of these latter twenty-three were clergymen, three were doctors (two of these ladies fully qualified), six were laymen, twenty-five were lady missionaries, and ten were wives or *fiancées*.

THE Woman's Auxiliary of the Board of Domestic and Foreign Missions, (Canada), adopted the following resolution:

Resolved.—That the Woman's Auxiliary express our sorrow at the sad death of the Rev. Walter Lyon, the Missionary sent by our Domestic and Foreign Mission Board to the miners in the Diocese of Selkirk, whose work gave such promise, but whom God in His Providence has seen fit to call to a higher sphere of labour.

THE *Nur Afshan*, a Christian paper published in North India, in the Hindustani language, tells us that through the exertions of an English officer, high in the service of the government, a good allotment of land (which is to bear his name) has been made to native Christians of trustworthy character, in the area which is being brought under canal irrigation in the Central Punjab, and which is being opened up by a new railway. The area is about 3,125 acres. If the new squatters can bring their allotments under cultivation within five years, they are to gain the tenant right of their holdings. The pastoral care over them is to be entrusted to the C.M.S., and the missionary now in charge is the Rev. E. F. E. Wigram, of the Lahore Divinity School. The name of the new village is to be Montgomery-wala. The affix "wala" is very well known in India as signifying "appertaining to."

THE Rev. J. N. Patterson, of Agra, North West Provinces of India, gives the following interesting account of the baptism of a Mohammedan convert in the C.M.S. mission field for November: he says, "On the evening of July 29th, a large crowd was gathered together on the banks of the Jumna, under the iron railway bridge, to witness the baptism of a Mohammedan convert named Ali Ahmad. For upwards of two years Ali Ahmad has been an enquirer, having been brought in first by Mr. Alexander, himself a Mohammedan convert of the Baptist mission of Agra. During the famine he visited the Baptist Society's missionaries, and afterwards the Rev. W. McLean. After Mr. McLean went to England, he came to me and I made arrangements with my catechists for his instruction and preparation for baptism, having first obtained the consent of the Baptist Society's missionaries. On the morning of the baptism I went down to choose the place, and sent a man in to try the depth of the water, which was simply swarming with enormous river turtles—one of which very nearly upset me afterwards. I also sent down a small tent which was pitched at a convenient place on the sand.

"In the evening of the same day, about 5 p.m. we gathered together on the spot and commenced to sing *bhajans* (Hindustani hymns); a large crowd collected, and chosen speakers explained in short addresses the object and purpose of our gathering together. The usual service for the Baptism of Adults was read, with certain necessary explanations, to make the teaching clear to the minds of the non-Christians present, and the questions and answers in the baptismal vows were specially dwelt upon and made plain to all.

"In order to perform the baptism I removed my stole, and wearing my surplice over a suit