

MISSIONARY TRIALS.



MRS. WILLIAMS.

First] President of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Maritime Provinces.

In 1885, when the Union was consummated, Mrs. Williams was elected President, and continued in office until 1888; failing health compelled her to resign.



MRS. J. W. MANNING.

Mrs. J. W. Manning, who was elected President when Mrs. Williams resigned, has held the office ever since. She is the wife of the Sec. of the Foreign Mission Board.

The evangelical outlook in Mexico is full of hope. A recent writer says: "Every year the demand for the Bible increases. In 1894 the American Bible Society employed 50 colporteurs, who traversed Mexico in every direction."

No thought connected with the long farewell of missionaries leaving for India so strains the grief cords of the heart, as that they may never again look into the loved faces of some in the dear home circle on earth, or again grasp the hands of other precious ones on this side the border land. At present a number of our own missionaries are passing through the deep waters and are much in need of our prayerful sympathy, as they mourn in distant loneliness, the death of home friends. On Nov. 8th one of Miss Stovel's brothers, a young man in the midst of his days, was cut off by typhoid fever in a Boston hospital, far from home. But in the last sad hours his parents sat by him and closed the dear eyes in death. In the letter containing this news, to the afflicted sister in distant India, was the additional mournful message of the death of a very dear aunt, whose regular letters will be greatly missed.

Miss Baskerville mourns under the shadow of a great grief, cast by the death, in succession, of a younger sister, a grandmother, an aunt, and of her own father and mother. What of woe, darkness and a great sorrow these have been to her, only she can know who has passed under the rod, and looks forward now to a home coming, when the time for furlough arrives, as no home coming at all.

None who have for a long time resided in distant climes escape the black-bordered missive with its death message, or the ominous cablegram with its great burden of grief. But to recount now in detail would open afresh old wounds, now healing. The personal references made above are not for the purpose of drawing the curtain from scenes of private mourning, nor even to elicit expressions of sympathy from any but personal friends, but in order to secure that sympathy in the blessed fellowship of prayer, which alone can comfort the bereaved, and also to help to a right understanding of the real conditions of missionary life which is by no means "a beautiful romance."

All readers of the LINK will join in this expression of our sincere sympathy with these, our sisters, who have left so much for us as our substitutes in far-off India.

A missionary friend in writing from Southern India says: "My wife feels the weather a good deal. She suffers with her head and is very tired of life in India and would like to go home. But we must hold on as long as possible. I am rather dubious of our ever returning in case we reach home; we hope, therefore, to stay till '98. Our times are in His hands, and He must dispose of all according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace. My wife is satisfied that India is no place for her, and that years of suffering have settled her against ever returning. But of course you know

All the years I want,
Each month is various to present
The world with some development.