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„The World for Christ.”



Monthly Letter Leaflet.

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
(WESTERN DIVISION).

VOL VI.

TORONTO, MAY, 1889.

No. 1.

SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER:

The French Canadians; The Indians in Canada; The Chinese in America.

Thirteenth Annual Meeting.

A full account of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting will be found in the Annual Report to be issued very soon.

North-West Supplies.

The various Auxiliaries and Mission Bands may now be forwarding their arrangements for sending supplies to the North-West, full directions for which will be issued shortly, and will also appear in the LEAFLET for June. Children's boots and shoes, as well as moccasins, are urgently needed.

MISSIONARY LETTERS.

INDIA.

Work in Rutlam, Mhow and Indore:

INDORE, MARCH 7TH, 1889.

MRS. J. F. CAMPBELL.—I have not much to tell you about my own work. I have done a little in Indore city in the way o

visiting the Zenanas, where they speak and understand Hindi. Most of those so visited were houses opened up by Miss Ross. Her Marathi houses, comprising generally the better class of people, I have not attempted to overtake, as I do not understand Marathi. One of my old Rutlam pupils has been living in the city and I have visited her mother occasionally. Her father is the Sanscrit Master in the Rajkomar College. On the whole, I have found the women listen attentively, generally urging me to come again. I had one unpleasantness, the man of the house coming in in a great rage and forbidding his wife to go on with her reading (she had been taught in Delhi, and had some good books and knew something of the truth, and seemed anxious to have me come). I think he had evidently been using some intoxicant.

In Rutlam our native Christian women keep up visiting in the houses and seem to be well received, especially by the Bohra women. During the Christmas holidays, when we were up in Rutlam, I had an opportunity of visiting some of our old friends among the Jains, and of introducing one of the native sisters to their houses.

What a beautiful supply of dolls, etc., was sent out there this year! I have no doubt many of the children were made happy by them. Of the large gathering here in Indore of children, with some of the mothers, of course, you have heard. By our being in Rutlam I missed seeing it, as well as the large gathering in Mhow, of which I hope the Misses Stockbridge will write you.

But we had a pleasant, quiet fortnight in Rutlam; on Christmas day a dinner for the native Christians, of which we partook with them, according to native custom, sitting on the ground and eating with our fingers. After the dinner presents were given, most of them being from the Canadian box, supplemented by a few things in the way of clothing from ourselves. Then one of the brethren made a little speech, asking us to convey to the Canadian people their thanks for the gifts. After some hymn singing and prayer the gathering broke up. The greater part of the things allotted to Rutlam I still have. Some I added to the Mhow share. It would have saved the Mhow friends a good deal of trouble had they known earlier of things coming from Canada. Your letter reached me some time in December, after the Misses Stockbridge had collected money from their friends, bought material, made it up into jackets and bought various other little things, including dolls.

However, the making up of the garments was good practice

for the native Christian women, and made them have more of a personal interest in the school treat.

I am writing in great haste to catch this mail. I have not said a word as to our great joy in the arrival of the new Missionaries.

Dr. Buchanan and Mr. Campbell have just been out on a two weeks' tour in the districts.

TRINIDAD.

New Schools at St. Helena Estate and at Chandanagon.

TUNAPUNA, MARCH 15TH, 1889.

MRS. MORTON.—We received the lovely cards sent by you, through Mr. Grant. There were a few articles of clothing along with them. I was not sure whether they were sent by you or not. Thanks to all who contributed cards, and please to assure them that they are of very great use to us in rewarding and encouraging the children. As Mr. Morton wrote you about money matters, there is not very much for me to add on that score as to the past, but I will tell you something of what we propose for this year. It is now several years since our Mission Council decided that there should be a school at St. Helena Estate, about eight miles from Tunapuna. A very suitable spot was granted for the erection of a school house, but other demands were pressing and nothing had been done up to January of the present year. Mr. Morton then arranged with the master of a wretched little private school (the only school in a wide stretch of country) to take over him and his school, work it up, and then apply to the Government to make it an assisted school; this requires an average of twenty-five pupils with regulated accommodation, etc. We have employed an assistant teacher to gather in and teach the E. Indians; we will be obliged to admit Creoles there, as there is no other opportunity for them. In April (D.V.), Mr. Morton will lay it before the Governor, and there is little doubt that the assistance will be granted, the district being such a needy one. It will then be ours to provide a suitable school house, and a teacher's house, after which the school will not cost very much, and we will be able to have Sabbath meetings there. It was just in this way that, with your assistance, we established the Mausiqua Settlement School last year, which is doing well and only costing our funds three dollars a month, including the catechist work that is done by the school master. Now you see

I have arrived at the point. If you judge us worthy of being entrusted with another donation this year, will you give it to this school? If you do not object to your money being put into the building, it is better and simpler for us to use it in that way, and you will see that it is substantially the same thing, for if you said "No, we will pay the teacher," then we would let the Government allowance go for the building.

Partly owing to our absence in Barbados at the Christmas holidays, and partly to other causes, we did not get any share of an extra Government grant of £250 per annum, made at that time for Coolie Schools. Mr. Grant, in the San Fernando district, secured fifty-eight dollars a month, and Mr. Macrae, at Princetown, thirty-two. This is a yearly grant. Mr. Morton secured the last twelve dollars of this grant for the Couva district at a village called Chandanagon, where there was a pressing necessity for beginning at once.

We have a Roman Catholic Colonial Secretary for Trinidad now, and that denomination, strong and wealthy as it is here, is unusually active in trying to get hold of the schools of the country. Not that they trouble with opening up new schools; this is not their policy; nor have they as yet given us much trouble in connection with our schools. It is too hard work to keep Coolies in school for them to be very envious of our opportunities; they take the world easily, and prefer to leave the people in ignorance. They have just finished a chapel in Tunapuna village, where, if the Coolie church had not gone up, neither the Church of England nor they themselves would have entered in; they have sent in a petition to have the Tunapuna Government School handed over to them as an assisted school; this petition, with a counter one, helped on by Mr. Morton, has gone home to the Secretary of States for the Colonies, and meanwhile the building of the new Government School House is in suspension, though tenders had actually been advertised for. This is an additional reason for our entering in without delay when there is an important opening; in the case of assisted schools the first applicant gets the grant. A second will not be allowed within a certain distance. Want of money has kept the Protestant denominations out. To get the assistance you must have buildings. But we have often wondered at the Roman Catholics not going in for Coolie Schools. The reasons are, I believe, what I have referred to above—too much toil and not enough money in the undertaking; but we cannot tell at what moment their jealousy may be aroused and may set them to

work to oppose us, so let us be up and doing, lighting up the dark corners, preparing the way of the Lord. Your school at Red Hill is smaller just now; very little people are sent to work on the estates in crop time, but we have got some footing there, three baptized, as I told you in a previous letter, and we must persevere. The cost, too, is small, being only \$66.18 for last year.

CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

A Dark and a Bright Picture.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MARCH 5TH, 1889.

MISS WALKER.--Your kind letter of February 20th I received last week. It is indeed a pleasure to receive your letters. They are always full of encouragement. It is easy to feel cast down in the work among the Indians. Some days and even weeks, we feel as if we were doing a little; then again, we seem to lose what hold we *thought* we had, and often wonder if any others feel as down-hearted as we do about the little we do among the Indians. I am glad you express the hope that Miss Fraser will remain. All interested in the school, in and near the Portage, express the hope that Miss Fraser will remain. They all think it is a relief to have two of us together in the work here. However, I trust the time is now past when any one will be left alone in charge of an Indian School. Sometimes I think that being alone in the building at night would be less difficult to bear than being with the children, for the care is then constant and seems to be no relief or rest. The difficulties can be looked upon so differently with a companion to share them, and one to consult with. Topsey is very much pleased about receiving a letter "all her own." She says she was almost afraid to open the letter for fear of not getting anything in the envelope. It is her first letter and a great prize to her. She keeps it in her treasure box and says she will write a letter to you when she can spell more words. Louisa is our most advanced pupil and a nice girl. Perhaps when you write again you would write her and she will take pride in answering your letter. We often look at Louisa and think that if nothing more is done than teaching her, our work is not in vain. Indeed many white children might be put to shame with seeing Louisa's house-keeping (of course Louisa is not always careful about her work). It is no difficulty for her to learn and repeat questions in the Shorter Catechism and verses from the Bible. We hope, in time, to have Louisa taught dress-

making, for which she has good ideas, so that she may be able to make a living for herself, and be less apt then to return to tepee life.

We have four boys, from fourteen to eighteen years of age, who have been with us all winter. One of these lads is anxious to go to the Industrial School in Birtle, that he may learn carpentering. It has been arranged for him to go, but the other three are not willing to leave. They say they are going to work on farms in the summer. The Indians are, as a rule, very easily offended, and so very suspicious that one has always to be on her guard. Often we are perplexed to know what we have done to offend. It is hard to train an Indian child the way he should go, and keep from offending the parents. The parents teach the children to tell tales, consequently, everything done or heard at school is reported; indeed not only the children tell all, the grown up Indian is as ready to tell how many were at school, what lesson he had, what kind of a dinner, even what the teacher says to every little one is reported. If correctly told it would not be so bad, but their knowledge of our language being imperfect, a false idea is often taken. But in spite of many difficulties and much that is unpleasant, there is a bright side to look at, and there is pleasure enough to cover all that is hard to bear. You get very much attached to the children in a short time, and when you have won the confidence of the children you are liked by the parents. Then we must watch so as not to offend again. I wish I could describe a visit to the tepees which I took yesterday. A number of the school children are ill—two little girls dying—one with consumption. The look and smile from the little wasted face paid for the long hard walk we had to reach the tepee; but the misery of the surroundings and want of comfort that these poor little sick children have to live in is heartrending. You can understand, then, that it is a pleasure to relieve these little ones if only for a short time, and by giving them clean clothing and something to eat, we can cheer them a little. Little Annie held in her small feeble hands one of the picture books sent from Owen Sound. She seemed afraid the book would be taken from her. We are often asked by friends if the clothing and picture books sent from Ontario are appreciated. They are, and the boxes of clothing are eagerly looked for. Topsy is taken as interpreter when we visit through the week at the tepees; although only a child and bashful, yet she is very useful, and if she grows up improving, she will be a great help in the work. The Indians and squaws all have a warm greeting for Topsy, and

'f not glad to see the teacher, they are pleased to see one of the pupils. We have not been able to hold the Sabbath service for some time. Mr. McKay has been obliged to give up going, and no one yet has been found to take his place. From what we are told, many are missing our usual Sabbath afternoon meetings. This we think a very good sign.

Extract from local newspaper.—"A few days ago a friend and I paid a visit to the Indian School near Portage la Prairie. We were much pleased to see things so neat and orderly.

"Miss Walker and her assistant, Miss Fraser, deserve the respect of the citizens in carrying on this good work. It is wonderful how some of the pupils can sing and play."

The Prince Albert Sioux Indians.

PRINCE ALBERT, MARCH 5TH, 1889.

MISS BAKER. - Thanks for your kind letter which reached me a few days ago. I intended writing you ever since the New Year, but have been very busy, and so deferred from time to time, hoping for more time, that I might be able to write you at length. I received your letter saying clothing had been sent, but it was so long reaching me that I began to fear it had gone astray. I wrote to Qu'Appelle asking if it had reached there.

The box from the London Mission Band arrived about 1st September. There is an advantage in getting freight through early, as the summer rates over prairie are less than the winter. I was so glad to get the things for Christmas. I invited all the Indians to come on Christmas Day. Cooked all day Monday and unpacked and sorted articles Monday eve. Did not go to bed until 5 a.m.

Although the Indian encampment is three miles away, they were on hand—at least the first detachment—about 8 a.m. I fed and distributed until 4 p.m. So you may fancy I had a busy Christmas. A kind friend then sent me in a Christmas dinner, and I enjoyed it. I was busy in school until Friday, so could do nothing before. Thanks to all the ladies who so kindly contributed the clothing and many useful articles in boxes. Everything was so nice, new, or quite as good as new; the quilts were greatly admired, and well they deserved to be. They were given to the old, the sick, the widows and orphans, and in justice to the Indians I was glad to see they quite appreciated the distinction made in their distribution. The pretty quilt, pieced by the Parkhill Sunday School girls, was given to a

motherless little girl ; the father is blind. Although there is a large family, an aunt, who is very poor and delicate, has taken them all to live with her. I dressed the little girl up and threw the quilt around her, and told her she was to have it. I am sure the little girls would have felt repaid for their work if they had caught a glimpse of her, saying " Now I will sleep warm. " The London box contained so many articles, so tastefully made, and so many articles to please—the first dolls the little squaws ever had—it was a pleasure to see them enjoy them so much. And for the fancy soaps there was a general begging ; nothing pleased them more. The Indians said I was to thank you and say to you that you were good—good—good.

They are Sioux and heathen, about 150 in all ; children, 40. Nothing has been done as yet towards educating them. They have never expressed any desire to be taught. Maybe by ministering to their temporal wants we may yet reach them spiritually. Should you send this year, I would advise mostly women's and children's clothing. The clothing for men, especially large coats, weigh so heavily, and then the men are generally dressed better than the squaws. You might, however, put in pants and shirts and socks. For the squaws, dresses made with plain skirts, and large warm sacques lined ; not many cloaks—the old squaws prefer blankets. Before referring to other matters allow me to thank you all kindly for giving the Indians so great a Christmas treat, and also for affording me the means of contributing to their comfort and happiness. I must not forget to tell you I was also kindly remembered. I appreciated the gift, which could not have been more fitly chosen, but above all, the kindness of heart which prompted it.

The Nesbit Academy was opened after the New Year. It is very warm and comfortable, and a great ornament to Prince Albert. The people of this place owe a great debt of gratitude to the Eastern people for their generosity, and thanksgiving to the Author of all good, who inclined their hearts to give. I will send you a prospectus which will enable you to see what is being done. If the people are true to themselves there is no reason why the schools should not prosper.

In writing you last week I am so sorry that in my haste I quite neglected to thank you for the MONTHLY LEAFLET. I am always so delighted to receive it. Being so isolated, I doubly prize it, as it is about the only means I have of knowing what is going on at the different Mission Stations. No matter what hour it arrives, it is read before I go to bed. I am sorry that I

have not been able to contribute a little to its pages, but as we only entered our new building after the holidays, and everything here was so unsettled, I scarcely knew what to tell you. The Academy is about half a mile back on a nice rise of ground; it commands a fine view. I go in the morning, generally take lunch with me, and remain until close of school; then come home heat up house and cook my dinner.

We have had a charming winter, the finest I have ever seen here.

Good Work at Stony Plains Reserve.

EDMONTON, N.W.T., MARCH 13TH, 1889.

MR. AND MRS. ANDERSON. - Your kind and welcome letter of date February 6th, was duly received by us in what you rightly term, our "far North-Western home." It is indeed an encouragement to us in our work to know that you are thinking of and praying for us, as well as lending us from time to time material assistance, as an evidence of your interest in the work in which we are engaged.

We have had, up to the present, an exceptionally mild winter. There has been scarcely any snow, and cattle have fed out on the prairies during the whole winter. It is a contrast to last winter, when the snow was about three feet deep, and the thermometer ranging from -20° to -42° for the greater part of the winter months. Consequently during this season the Indians, scantily clad and poorly fed at the best, have not suffered so much as during last winter, when the scarcity of game and their ever improvident nature added to their misery.

Here are some items in reference to the school and the work carried on in it, that may be of interest to you.

As you are well aware, there is a Roman Catholic mission school on the Reserve that threatened the usefulness of our mission at one time in its history. But I think the danger, for the present at least, is past. There are Government inspectors appointed for all mission schools, one for the Roman Catholic schools and another for the Protestant. During the inspection of the Roman Catholic mission school there was not a single pupil present, while during the inspection of ours there were 26 present. If the facts were the opposite we know how quickly our school would be wiped out of existence. At present there are the names of 26 pupils on the register, and 18 are in attendance. The average attendance for the last quarter was about 22. This quarter's average will not be so large. Satisfactory

progress is being made by nearly all of the pupils, but necessarily the improvement is slow. The work of the school is to a great extent nullified by the influences of the home—if such it can be called. But even in these homes there is a vast improvement since the mission school became a reality amongst them. In consequence of this evil influence of the home life, the Home Mission Committee decided to erect a boarding school house in connection with the mission. Work has already been begun on the building, which will accommodate about 12 pupils, and we expect it to be ready for occupation before next winter. This will bring the children more immediately and permanently under our care and supervision, and more good may be expected to be done.

The warm quilts, blankets and clothing you sent were very much needed, and just as much appreciated by the Indians. In fact I may say that it is largely due to these gifts of clothing that our school keeps its hold upon the pupils. I hope I may be permitted to make a few suggestions in reference to future donations. Although the moccasin is the natural foot gear of the Indian, yet shoes are very acceptable. Those most desirable would be for children of from 8 to 15 years of age, or even older than that.

Books and papers are practically of no use to the school at present, whatever they may be in the future.

We have an abundant supply of yarn on hand that is sufficient for all purposes, but web cloth of good warm material would be very acceptable, to be made up mostly by the pupils themselves for their own use. Some of the girls are comparatively good knitters and sewers, and take pleasure in making their own clothes.

Your LEAFLET, with its missionary letters, etc., is a very welcome monthly visitor. It lets us know that we are not alone in the work. We must thank you for the expression of your kind regards and good wishes on our behalf, and for the fact that we have an interest in your prayers.

Note.

By telegraph from Edmonton we learn that all the mission buildings except Mr. Anderson's house, have been destroyed by a prairie fire. It is likely Mr. Anderson's personal loss will be heavy and the work much hindered.

CERTIFICATES OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

Those desiring Life Members' Certificates will please apply to Mrs. G. H. Robinson, 625 Ontario Street, Toronto.

INCREASE.

In Barrie Presbyterial Society—North Bay Auxiliary, by Mrs. Irving, and a Mission Band in connection with Collingwood Auxiliary, by Mrs. Robertson, March 26th, 1889.

In Brockville Presbyterial Society—St John's Mission Band, by Mrs. Dowsley, March 12th, 1889. The Brockville Juveniles Mission Band, First Presbyterian Church, Brockville, March, 29th, 1889.

In Guelph Presbyterial Society—Central Church Auxiliary, Galt, by Miss H. Coulthard.

In Hamilton Presbyterial Society—Welland Auxiliary and Thorold Auxiliary, by Mrs. McCuaig.

In Huron Presbyterial Society—The Ewart Temperance Mission Band, Egmondville, by Mrs. McCoy.

In Ottawa Presbyterial Society—Erskine Church Auxiliary, Rochesterville, by Mrs. Thorburn. *Omitted from April Letter Leaflet.*

In Peterborough Presbyterial Society—St. Andrew's Church Auxiliary, by Rev. A. Bell, March 14th, 1889.

In Toronto Presbyterial Society—Milton Auxiliary, by Mrs. Gordon, Harrington, April 8th, 1889.

In Winnipeg Presbyterial Society—North Plympton Auxiliary, April 3rd, 1889, and South Plympton Auxiliary, April 4th, 1889, by Mrs. Watt.

Letters containing remittances of money for the W. F. M. S. may be addressed to Mrs. James MacLennan, Treasurer, 10 Murray Street, Toronto.

All requests for literature may be sent to Mrs. Telfer, 72 S. Albans Street, Toronto.

LITERATURE.

NEW LEAFLETS.—Nos. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28.

OUT OF PRINT AT PRESENT.—Nos. 16, 12, 11, 9, 8, 6.

15 cents per doz., or 2 cents each.

No. 22. The Beginning of It.

“ 21. A Study in Proportion.

12 cents per doz.

No. 26. Po-Heng and the Idols.

“ 25. A Plea for our Envelopes.

“ 24. The History of a Day.

“ 23. A Partnership.

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“ 18. Five Cents in a Tea-cup.

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“ 7. Mrs. Pickett's Missionary Box.

“ 3. Voices of the Women.

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No. 28. Bringing up the Ranks to the Standard.

“ 27. A Lesson in Stewardship.

“ 17. Why we should keep up our Auxiliaries.

“ 4. The Importance of Prayer.

“ 2. Giving, and Giving up.

Free.

No. 19. Our Plan of Work.

“ 15. The Missionary Mite Box.

“ 14. Suggestions for holding Missionary Meetings.

“ 5. Questions Answered.

“ 1. Self-Questioning.

Prayer Cards.

Envelopes to Auxiliaries formed since Annual Meeting.

Mite Boxes, 1 cent each.

Envelopes, one large, containing 12 small, 1½ cents each.

Map of North-West, with Indian Reserves marked, \$1.

All postage prepaid.

For above apply to Mrs. Telfer, 72 St. Albans Street, Toronto.

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