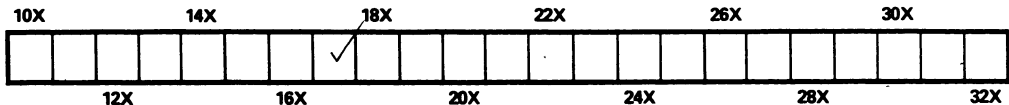


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—*RETROSPECTS.*—

A HISTORY OF THE FORMATION AND PROGRESS

OF THE

Women's Missionary Aid Societies

OF THE

MARITIME PROVINCES.

BY MARY CRAMP.

HALIFAX, N. S.:
HOLLOWAY BROS., PRINTERS, 69 GRANVILLE STREET,
1892.

6412 - July 14/21



RETROSPECTS.

At a meeting of the "CANADIAN WOMAN'S MISSIONARY BOARD," (an undenominational Society), recently held in Montreal, a paper entitled "A Talk about Woman's Boards," was read by one of the ladies, in which the writer sketched the progress of these boards since 1810.

After referring to several American Societies, the following statement was made:—

"To the Baptists belonged the honor of forming the first board in Canada in 1870."

A distinction claimed by the Maritime Provinces. This board was formed in Halifax, and thus originated an auxiliary, that has become wide-spread in usefulness and influence throughout the Dominion.

Beginnings are sometimes crude and uninteresting. We cannot always discern a bud of promise in the tightly-folded, hard, green leaf that may drop off before expanding. Time must pass before its roundness and hint of colour give assurance of beauty and fragrance. Every pioneer has much to contend with that is unknown, and possibly, unimagined, by succeeding workers; but, where success has crowned a long series of hard labour, how re-assuring is the retrospective glance at its humble inauguration!

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The annals of Missions, both Home and Foreign, are replete with illustrations on this point. The story of English Baptist Missions is never complete without presenting the word-picture of Dr. Carey making or mending his unsatisfactory shoes, with the well-worn dictionary within reach, and a reference to the modest £13 2s. 6d. that headed the long list of noble offerings which have since sustained the glorious work.

Women have also largely shared in Christian enterprise: not only as co-workers, for in some instances the initial touch that opened new doors of usefulness has been committed to their hands. We are all familiar with the beautiful history of Madame Feller's timid entrance upon an untried work among the French Roman Catholics.

When she landed on Canadian shores, and began her self-denying labours by gathering the few inclined to listen to her message in a little log hut, the prospect of success looked small. Now the large and flourishing institution that bears her name, at Grande Ligne, many growing churches, and a wide-spreading net-work of Protestant Missionary effort, owe their existence to her "work of faith, and labour of love."

Other fields have also yielded fruit, and "the story of the past" as connected with the work of the "Woman's Baptist Missionary Union" in the Maritime Provinces, has been thought worthy of a simple record.

The societies composing it were originated by a series of events in the life of their beloved founder, Miss Norris, now Mrs. W. F. Armstrong, and we are indebted to her pen for the interesting account contained in the following:

"It must always be a pleasure to recall those days so long

ago when I first was led to ask my sisters to send me to Burmah. An appeal which met with so hearty and generous a response and which was so generally accompanied by prayer that it brought a blessing on all the work attempted. We worked heart to heart and we all were blessed in it. I think the future harvesting will show "our labor was not in vain in the Lord."

"I was teaching in the Seminary in Wolfville till near the close of 1869. It was during that year that the thought first came to me that I was needed in Burmah. It was a still small voice that made itself heard when I prayed alone, and that rose up to disquiet me amid present activities. Not that I wanted a change, I dearly loved the work I had, but I was ready to go wherever the Master pleased. I thought it was merely a fancy at first. But I could not shake it off, and when I found this I began to seriously consider all the improbabilities that it was anything but a temptation to lure me from what I already had to do. As the unrest continued I thought one evening I would go and talk with Mr. and Mrs. A. R. R. Crawley who were then in Wolfville, and who probably would convince me of the undesirability of single ladies going to Burmah. Mrs. Crawley encouraged me to go, when I had expected she would counsel me directly the other way. I then wrote to Dr. Tupper, Secretary of the N. S. Mission Society, asking if there was any probability of the Board sending me. His answer was that they had barely funds enough for the work already undertaken, absolutely nothing for any new enterprise. It was the answer I had expected. Still the pillar of cloud within pointed me to Burmah. So I again laid the matter before the Master. I was not willing that anything

should disturb my peace with Him. I was ready to go wherever he pleased to send me, but there was no money to pay my passage to Burmah. If He provided that then I could go. I then and now firmly believed the Lord was able to provide for His own anywhere. Indeed I much preferred working alone with Him, and independently of any Society."

"Now, when we pray that we may do God's will, we may be sure that the answer is placed within our reach, it only remains to stretch forth the hand and take it. So I rose from my knees wondering where the money was; and acting upon the first thought that crossed my mind I said to myself 'I will go to Mr. — and ask him if he will advance all the money necessary for my passage, provided some friends, known to us both, will give him promissory notes to refund it in two or three years.' It was incredible that he would do this unless the Lord impelled him to it. I put on my hat and went at once to his office. On my way a friend, a relative of mine, overtook me in his sleigh and offered to drive me wherever I wanted to go. When I told him where, and what my errand was, I yet remember distinctly how his laugh rung out loud and clear on the frosty air, though not unkind, as he said 'Well, if you are foolish enough to propose such a thing, it is a comfort to think he is too wise to do it.'"

"I reached the office and made my request, he sat silent for a few moments and then said, yes, he would. It was an overwhelming proof to me that the Lord was indeed calling me to go. It was near our Christmas vacation and I sent in my resignation with my reasons for doing so, and went home to prepare for my journey."

“Another scene indelibly impressed on my memory, is that in which I told my mother how I had been led, and what I proposed to do. She, too, sat silent. I have often since wondered at the magnificent faith of her reply when she spoke. Her only answer was ‘Well, my child, if the Lord has called you, we must all do what we can to get you ready.’ How much I owe to a noble mother’s unswerving faith and loyalty to Christ. I think it was a much easier thing for me to go out into the darkness, than it was for her to sit still and see me go. Many years after she wrote me that when I left her and she saw me passing out of her sight, she had such an overpowering assurance that the Lord went with me, and had given his angels charge over me to keep me in all my ways, that she never dared to feel anxious or repine.”

“The friends at Canso of whom I had thought as probably willing to refund the money, gave their notes without hesitation, and in a few weeks I was ready. I said good bye to my home and went on with the notes to Wolfville for the money.” When I presented them Mr.— said he had changed his mind, he feared he would be blamed for helping me forward in a wild adventure. I had no means of subsistence after arriving there, &c. I thanked him and came away. I felt sure the Lord had used him to get me all ready to go and He wished to provide the means in some other way. I think the result proved that this gentleman was Divinely guided in *both instances*.”

“I returned to Halifax and with private funds in my possession engaged my passage to Boston in pursuance of my previous plan. The steamer was to sail at midnight, and I went on board early in the evening, my friends supposing

I had received the money I expected. During the evening a deputation from the city churches came down to the boat. I cannot recollect distinctly now who they were, but I think Rev. E. M. Saunders, Rev. J. E. Goucher, Mr. Selden and T. H. Rand, were there, with others.

“They had heard that I was going and were anxious that I should not leave so quietly. They thought it was most advisable that I should visit some of the churches before I left, and should be known to them, so that they would feel a bond of union with me afterward. They would promise that I should not be delayed more than a few months. They felt sure it would be helpful to me afterwards to know that there were many at home praying for me.”

“It was my turn to sit silent and wonder if this was the Lord’s way out. They were men whose counsel I ought not lightly to disregard. I was afraid it might be wilful and headstrong not to listen to them, and then there was the fact of the hedge thrown across my way, in that I had no money. So I gave them my ticket which they saw refunded. They secured my trunks and took me back to consult as to what was best to be done. The result was that I went again to the Foreign Mission Board and was accepted as their delegate to go out among the churches and ask my sisters to send me.”

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF FOREIGN MISSIONARY BOARD.

“*Resolved* that provided sister Hannah Maria Norris be willing to acquire the Karen language or any other which the Board may direct, with a view to engage in an independent Mission in the event of such a Mission being established by this body, we receive her; and that, we will

send her out as our Missionary subject to the concurrence of the Convention, so soon as the Board shall be furnished with the funds necessary."

It was further resolved "That an appeal be made to the sisters in these Provinces to supply the funds necessary for the object."

"I then returned home to wait for the coming Associations when the matter could be laid before the churches. Mr. Rand and I at his home formed a constitution for Missionary circles similar to that followed by the Woman's Missionary Society of New York with which Mrs. Doremus was so long connected. The first Circle was formed in my own church in Canso on the 18th June, 1870—Mrs. S. Whitman, President, and Mrs. T. C. Cook, Secretary and Treasurer. I have no minute of these names and trust to memory only, but I have a minute of the other Societies formed and as it may be of interest will copy it for you. I found this entry in a note book of that year—1870."

"Left home June 23rd, returned August 29th. Met 41 appointments with different churches, organized 32 Societies, (Circles), visited seven Sabbath Schools, attended Central and Eastern Associations and Convention."

"The following is the minute I have of of the Circles formed in different places while I was with them:—"

"*Amherst*, Tuesday, July 5th,—about 50 present, 23 members. Mrs. D. A. Steele, President; Mrs. C. Bent, Secretary-Treasurer."

"*Windsor*, July 11th,—about 18 present, 16 members.

Mrs Theo. Harding, President: Miss Eliza Harding Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Falmouth*, July 12,—14 present, 12 members. Miss Mary Young, President: Miss Bessie Harding, Secretary-Treasurer."

"*Hantsport*, July 13th,—11 present, 7 members. Mrs. Silas Rand, President; Miss Irene Elder, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Wolfville*, July 14th,—at Mrs. Morse's—10 members. Mrs. A. R. R. Crawley, President; Miss Mary Cramp, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Gaspereaux*, July 15th,—no meeting arranged."

"*Perceux*, July 16th,—8 members. Mrs. Starr, President; Mrs. John L. Sandford, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Canning*, July 18th,—13 members. Mrs. David Freeman, President: Miss Sarah Cogswell, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Canard*, July 20th,—25 present, 16 members. Mrs. Mayhew Beckwith, President: Miss Annie Lyons, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Berwick*, July 21st,—none met, (rain)."

"*Upper Aylesford*, July 22nd,—11 members. Mrs. J. L. Read, President: Miss Lizzie DeWolfe, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Billtown*, July 25th,—25 present, 15. members. Mrs. J. F. Kempton, President, Mrs. Wm. Bill, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Tremont*, July 26th,—20 present, 17 members. Mrs. Ch. Tupper, President: Miss Marg. Saunders, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Nictaux*, July 27th,—no meeting arranged."

Pine Grove, July 28th,—14 present, 9 members. Mrs. Adiah Dodge, President; Miss Jessie Woodbury, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Paradise*, July 29th,—no meeting arranged."

"*Bridgetown*, July 30th,—1 member. August 1st, 12 present, 9 members. Mrs. Gidney, President; Miss Jessie Chipman, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Granville Ferry*, August 2nd,—General meeting."

"*Clementsvale*, August 3rd,—31 present, 14 members. Mrs. Anthony Potter, President; Miss Julia Potter, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Hillsburg*, August 4th,—60 present, 20 members. Mrs. Thos. Miller, President; Miss Lalia Marshall, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Digby*, August 4th,—no meeting."

"*Weymouth*, August 5th,—about 40 present, 15 members. Mrs. Jas. Randall, President; Mrs. Abram Grant, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Yarmouth*, August 8th,—Public Concert, 30 members. Mrs. John Ryerson, President."

"*Hebron*, August 9th,—24 present, 15 members. Mrs. Stephen Potter, President; Miss Lydia Churchill, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Beaver River*, August 9th,—about 40 present, 19 members. Miss Bertie Raymond, President; Miss Sarah Rose Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Ohio*, August 10th,—30 present, 10 members. Mrs. Jos. Saunders, President; Mrs. R. C. Cann, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Jegoggin*, August 10th,—42 present, 12 members. Mrs. B. Stainwood, President; Mrs. G. Trask, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Portland, St. John*, August 12th,—4 members. Mrs. E. C. Cady, President."

"*Leinster St. Church*, August 14th,—17 present, 15 members. Mrs. W. S. McKenzie, President; Mrs. Lizzie Cunningham, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Germain St. Church*, August 14th,—17 present, 11 members. Mrs. John Harding, President; Miss Hughes, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Carlton*, August 15th,—60 present. Society not organized."

"*Jemseg, Cambridge*, August 16th,—32 present, 8 members. Mrs. Powell, President; Miss R. Dykeman Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Mill Cove*, August 16th,—100 present, 8 members. Mrs. Cameron, President; Miss Clotilda Farris, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Narrows*, August 17th,—90 present, 19 members. Mrs. E. White, President; Miss Huldah Cox, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*McDonald's Corner*, August 17th,—45 present, 19 members. Miss M. Straight, President; S. A. Mullen, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Wickham*, August 17th,—80 present, 15 members. Miss E. McDonald, President; Miss L. McDonald, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Lower Cambridge*, August 18th,—40 present, 10 members. Mrs. G. E. Colwell, President; Miss S. Hendry, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Fredericton*, August 23rd,—150 present, 32 members. Mrs. Spurden, President; Miss E. Phillips, Sec.-Treasurer."

"*Brussel St., St. John*, August 24th,—40 present, 28 members. Mrs. T. Harley, President; Mrs. Allwood, Sec.-Treasurer."

"Two Circles were also formed in Halifax but I was not present, and I do not know the dates or the membership, though they heartily engaged in the work there from the first."

"On the 21st September I left my home finally and started for Burma. All the funds necessary had been provided by those circles with the promise of future supplies.

"Yet the money was the smallest part of the benefit arising from th's endeavor. The regular and liberal giving emphasized by regular and earnest prayer, made us all richer both at home and abroad. I was but the channel—the glad channel—through which prayers and gifts reached those far away. The lesson my Master has been teaching me all through my mission life is *not* the asceticism of which so much has been said of late, but community in all things with His people, in pursuance of His prayer that we 'all may be one.'"

"May I say in closing that when Mary gave the box of ointment, Christ said 'she hath wrought a good work:' so He calls *giving*, working. When the two mites were given it was the Lord Himself who measured their value, and it

was He also who said 'whosoever shall give a cup of cold water only, shall in no wise lose his reward.' How little some of my sisters realize the interest their money is drawing in the Master's bank above! They will find it "after many days.' Then she that 'soweth' as well as she that 'reapeth' will 'gather fruit unto life eternal.'"

"The same is true of prayer. I always look upon my speedy acquisition of Karen as due largely to the prayers of others. Often I have felt the very atmosphere of prayer about me, and that heaven was nearer because of their intercession. Of those that prayed as well as of those that gave it will be true at last that 'She that tarried at home divided the spoil' "

H. M. N. ARMSTRONG.

"Mizpah," Brighton, Eng.

April 24th, 1889.

Many who read Mrs. Armstrong's narrative will recall that summer of 1870, and remember the welcome visitor, who came and went so quietly, from place to place, overcoming difficulties by her gentle yet firm insistence, and creating an enthusiasm that was to continue and increase.

Twenty years have passed since then, and as the progress made and work accomplished, can only be outlined in this brief sketch, we will take our retrospective glance over periods of five years.

The close of 1870 finds a well organized auxiliary, comprising the societies named in Miss Norris's list, with others formed later, representing Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

A Central Board was formed in Halifax, at first, consisting of the following Committees and office-bearers.

GRANVILLE STREET CHURCH.

MRS. TWINING, MRS. A. SMITH.
MRS. SELDEN.

NORTH CHURCH.

MRS. D. ELLIS, MRS. A. W. CLARKE,
MRS. McCULLY.

SECRETARY,—MRS. SELDEN.

TREASURER,—MRS. McCULLY.

Prince Edward Island also soon united in the work, and the Societies there, with those in Nova Scotia, reported progress, and transmitted funds to this Board.

In New Brunswick a similar Executive was constituted in the City of St. John, including the following names:—

MRS. PETTINGELL, PRESIDENT.
“ W. ALLWOOD, TREASURER.
“ CUNNINGHAM, SECRETARY.
“ G. DUNHAM, AUDITOR.
“ G. M. W. CAREY.
“ J. F. MASTERS.
“ CRAFT.
“ GILBERT WHITE.
“ SCOTT.
“ BUCHANAN.

The first report presented by the Secretary of the Central Board of Halifax, at the annual meeting, 1871, contains the following items:—

“ FUNDS—sum total received up to August, 1871, \$1114.20.
The Secretary has received communications from thirty-one

Societies during the past year, and all report progress, with increasing interest in the cause for which they were organized."

MARIA R. SELDEN, *Secretary.*

Taking up the report of the N. B. Central Board a year later, a sentence or two may be given:—

"We have now seventeen Societies, all in a prosperous condition, and becoming increasingly interested in the work. The Treasurer of the Central Board has paid to the Treasurer of the F. M. Board, since last August, the sum of \$695.00."

L. L. CUNNINGHAM, *Secretary.*

Turning from the workers at home, to their representatives abroad, a reference must first be made to Miss M. DeWolf, of Halifax, who went out to India in 1868, supported by funds from Nova Scotia, but working in connection with the American Baptist Mission. In a report presented by Rev. Dr. Tupper at the Convention of 1871. We find her name thus honorably mentioned:—

"It is highly pleasing to your Board, to be able to report, very favorably respecting our dear sister DeWolf, who, with extraordinary fortitude and decision of character, went out at first as our only Missionary from these Provinces, and by divine assistance overcame immense obstacles."

"It is delightful to find these worthy sisters, Misses DeWolf and Norris, as stated in their letters, going out

gether into the Jungles to visit the Sgau Karen Churches, and to instruct the members, particularly the females, in the truths and duties of the Christian religion."

Soon after this date the Societies were enabled to assume Miss DeWolf's support also, and she continued working as their Missionary till failing health compelled a return to her native country in 1872.

Of Miss Norris and her entrance upon the work she had so earnestly desired, we find the following report from the pen of Rev. W. S. McKenzie, then Secretary of the F. M. Board:—

In December, 1871, Miss Norris was about to take work in the female Karen school in Bassein; since that date she has been employed most successfully in that school. In eight months from the time of her arrival on the field she had attained, beside a familiar acquaintance with the Sgau Karen dialect, a sufficient knowledge of the Pwo Karen to be able to take that up at any time with very little trouble. In a letter she remarks 'I cannot tell how it is that I find so little trouble with the languages.'

Thus far, no independent Baptist Mission had been attempted by the Maritime Provinces, the funds raised for this object, having been disbursed chiefly through the American Missionary Union.

But as enlarged benevolence was aroused among the people, increasing desire was felt to widen the sphere of their Foreign Missionary efforts in this way, and the subject was soon under consideration.

Its establishment, after much delay and many perplexi-

ties, was at length secured, and the year 1875, from which date we take our first retrospect, found the infant mission beginning to be in working order.

How have the "Aid" Societies prospered since their planting? Turning to the statistics presented in the reports for 1875, we find the number increased to ninety-two, and funds contributed unitedly, \$2,384.54.

Some changes in the executive Boards had taken place during this period. In 1874, a separate Central Board was formed in Prince Edward Island consisting of the following office-bearers :

MRS. JAS. DESBRISAY, PRESIDENT.
 " JAS. WARREN, VICE-PRESIDENT.
 MISS M. DAVIES, SECRETARY.
 JAS. DESBRISAY, ESQ., TREASURER.

For Nova Scotia the names for this year are:—

MRS. J. F. PARSONS, PRESIDENT.
 " SELDEN, SECRETARY-TREASURER.
 " E. M. SAUNDERS.
 " A. SMITH.
 " G. L. CHIPMAN.
 " R. I. HART.
 " E. D. KING.
 " N. McDONALD.
 MISS M. R. EATON.
 " MEAGHER.

The New Brunswick Board continuing unchanged.

Very soon one and another desired to follow the example of Miss Norris and Miss DeWolf. The first to offer herself for this service was Miss Flora Eaton, of Cornwallis, now Mrs. Boggs, wife of Rev. W. B. Boggs, of Ramapatam, India. At a meeting of the Central Board held in Halifax, Dec. 5, 1871, her letter of application was presented. Miss E. thus speaks of her long cherished wish:—

“From earliest childhood, before my nearest friends suspected that I was interested in religion, or thought me old enough to understand, my prayer has been, ‘Lord what wilt Thou have me to do.’ and the answer has come, ‘Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.’ And I would go.”

“To you, then, dear sisters, I offer myself as the first step towards the accomplishment of this end, should you deem me worthy.”

It was not, however, till the Autumn of 1873, that this desire was fulfilled. By that time the call for workers in connection with the new Missionary Society had been responded to by those whose names are now household words among the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces. *

In October of that year occurred the memorable departure of their first band of Missionaries, consisting of Rev. and Mrs. Churchill, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Sandford, Miss M. E. Armstrong, Miss F. I. Eaton and Rev. W. F. Armstrong.

Miss M. E. Armstrong, now Mrs. Currie, had been a member of the Wolfville “Aid” Society since its formation

Writing after reaching India, she thus refers to the bond of union still existing:—

“One year ago I was with you in your meeting. You meet again to-morrow, but one of your number you sent far away to a heathen land, and now she feels that you are earnestly praying for her.”

“I remember you all with loving gratitude. In preparation I have not been idle. I am studying the Karen with all my heart, and hope soon to be engaged in the work I am longing for. Again, I ask your fervent prayers, dear sisters.”

Remembrance of these days of meeting has often been found cheering by those far away. As an instance the following extract is given from a letter written by Mrs. Arthur Crawley on her return to India in 1874. Mrs. Crawley had been President of the Wolfville Society since 1870:—

“Since we left Liverpool we have had a most varied experience—very pleasant and interesting voyage down by Portugal, and through the Straits of Gibraltar. Then lovely quiet weather—the Mediterranean wearing its sunniest smiles for a few days—then mutterings of the coming storm—and then the storm wind. The terrible Euroclydon caught us in its fearful embrace, and for five long days and nights we struggled through it. I never sympathised with St. Paul before as then. How he must have suffered in that fourteen day’s gale we can form some idea of now, and how God allowed his faith and patience to be tried.”

“Truly God is the hearer and answerer of prayer, but what we went through in all those hours of suspense and doubt it would be hard to describe. Heart and flesh failed. You may imagine how I felt when the time for our prayer-

meeting drew round, and I thought of each dear one, sure to be there, and sure to remember us. My heart went up in prayer for them all."

Did the limits of this brief sketch permit, it would be most interesting to trace the work accomplished in each field by those sent forth, but it must suffice to say that constant information on this point cheered and encouraged the Societies at home.

Miss Norris continued laboring chiefly among the Karens, assisting in the establishment of schools, etc., in Bassein, and Tavoy, till on the arrival of the Missionaries in 1873, she became the wife of Rev. W. F. Armstrong.

For a long time, the location of the new Mission being undecided, much uncertainty and difficulty had to be encountered. but the waiting-time was not unaccompanied by seed-sowing, which has doubtless resulted in many a harvest.

The close of the year 1875, witnessed the final settlement of its destination, the decision being to occupy the Telugu field in unison with the Canadian Mission already established.

After many wanderings, the Missionaries had now to address themselves to the work of acquiring a new language, and the selection of stations best adapted for each mission family.

There was much to discourage both the workers at home and those abroad, during this interval, but that the Societies continued their allegiance most nobly, we gather from the

following reference contained in the general report of the Foreign Mission Board.

“WOMEN’S MISSIONARY AID SOCIETIES.”

“The sisterhood who have banded together in the Mission Aid Societies have continued to display a zeal and perseverance in the prosecution of their work which are most commendable and worthy of imitation by the brotherhood. Their annual reports as subjoined show gratifying and encouraging results. They are worthy of the most earnest and careful perusal.”

W. P. EVERETT, *Home Secretary.*

Passing on, we take our next review in 1880, and find that much has been accomplished during these years.

Some changes on each Board of Management are noted

Central Board for Nova Scotia:—

MRS. J. F. PARSONS, PRESIDENT.

MRS. SELDEN, SECRETARY-TREASURER.

“ E. M. SAUNDERS.

“ J. W. MANNING.

“ R. I. HART.

“ N. McDONALD.

“ A. L. SMITH.

“ G. CHIPMAN.

“ J. FARQUHARSON.

MISS SELDEN.

the *for New Brunswick:*

MRS. G. M. W. CAREY, PRESIDENT.
 " JOHN MARCH, SECRETARY.
 " W. ALLWOOD, TREASURER.
 " JOHN HARDING.
 " GEORGE DUNHAM.
 " W. SCOTT.
 " N. CROFT.
 " J. F. MASTERS.
 MISS ESTEY.

For P. E. Island:—

MRS. E. N. ARCHIBALD, PRESIDENT.
 " I. SCHURMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT
 MISS A. HOOPER, SECRETARY.
 JAS. DESBRISAY, TREASURER.

Increasing in numbers and efficiency the Societies were enabled to extend their operations by including many important agencies.

Assistance was given in school work, erecting chapels, etc., as funds permitted. Several appropriations for these purposes being mentioned in each annual report.

In the early stage of the new Mission much time, work, and money were required for purchasing land, new buildings, etc., at Kimedya, where Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong at first labored, afterwards removing to Chicacole; Bimlipatan, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sanford; and Bobbili, the station occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Churchill. These preliminaries

to settlement called for more funds than were often to be found in the treasury of the F. M. Board, and in this department also, the societies were found a most valuable "Aid." During the period now under consideration from 1875 to 1880, we find the assistance rendered from their united forces for these objects, when summed up, amounts to the following items:—

For schools under the management of lady missionaries, \$2250. For buildings, \$3900.

The following quotation from the report for 1880, of the Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board shows how important was the assistance thus rendered:—

"We have had more than ever, this year, reason to be thankful for the timely aid rendered to the Board by our ever faithful and generous auxiliaries. From the Funds to the credit of the W. M. A. S. department, at our request we were authorized to draw and spend \$1500 to aid in erecting buildings in Bobbili and \$1600 to complete the mission house at Bimlipatam, and \$400 to erect necessary buildings on the Chicacole compound, and in addition to this their Aid Societies have sustained Miss Hammond and her school work as well as largely aided Mrs. Armstrong and Mrs. Sanford in carrying on their schools. A special vote of thanks from the Convention seems due to the W. M. A. Societies."

The money given for the objects named, represents far more than the actual amount in dollars and cents. Self denial and hard work were often needed before each Society could gather up the annual offering, and the careful consideration of each claim by the Central Boards, appears

plainly in all their records—how best to employ the funds committed to their trust.

Mission Bands had by this time been established in many places, forming another auxiliary, and interesting the children in missionary work—while every year witnessed additions to the list of Life members, constituted by paying the sum of \$25.00.

Much discouragement was felt and expressed in the earlier years of this period, because of the want of workers abroad.

After the marriage of Miss Armstrong to Rev. G. F. Currie in 1876, it was not till 1877 that even one representative from the class supported by these Societies offered herself. Then Miss C. Hammond, of New Brunswick, was warmly welcomed, and after spending some time in preparation, left her native land in September, 1878.

From Mrs. March's report of that year we quote the following reference to Miss Hammond:—

“Miss Hammond has spent nearly two years in preparation for the work, during which time ample opportunities have been afforded of judging of her fitness for the life of a missionary; and it is gratifying to know that the opinions formed by the Central Board have been fully endorsed by the Foreign Mission Board and ministering brethren in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Miss Hammond will, therefore, undertake her work encouraged by the love, prayers and contributions of the denomination.”

How well and truly these expectations have been fulfilled during the long years of labor spent in India by Miss

Hammond, now Mrs. Archibald, many written and unwritten records will testify. The earliest is from the pen of Mrs. Selden in 1879, as follows:—

“With feelings of pleasure and gratitude, we can report that our Missionary, Miss Hammond, is still working hard at acquiring the Telugu language, while at the same time superintending the working of the girl’s school, in Bimlipatam, formerly under the care of Mrs. Churchill; this is outside of the assistance she is giving to Mrs. Sanford and other mission work. We have full confidence that her energy and whole-heartedness in the cause will be blest in God’s own time.”

The “*Missionary Link*” a paper published in the interests of the Canadian Baptist Missionary Society in Toronto, had now begun its monthly visits, arousing fresh enthusiasm and re-kindling waning zeal. It was soon warmly welcomed in the Maritime Provinces, and is thus referred to in the annual report:—

“The *Missionary Link* is of great value in stirring up the minds of our sisters on the important subject of the Foreign Mission enterprise. It must be a source of congratulation to its able editor, to know that its widening circulation bespeaks its need, its worth, and its success.

In August, 1880, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong with their children returned home, failing health having made rest and change imperative after many years of faithful service, upon which a blessing continually rested in each field of labor.

At Bassein, Tavoy, Kimedya, and Chicacole many had been

rescued from dark idolatry, but though not wearied of the work, the time to "come apart and rest awhile" could be no longer delayed.

Among the many welcomes that cheered Mrs. Armstrong there was, perhaps, a peculiar sweetness in those tendered by the Societies that owed their existence to her early efforts. Here, also, seed had truly sprung up, and this year of remembrance was a season when many united with her in grateful recollection.

1885—Entering upon another period, and again looking backward, we note many changes, associated with undoubted progress.

Too much can scarcely be said in praise of those, who in the work at home had "borne the burden and heat of the day," through all these earlier years—referring now especially to the Central Boards of the three Provinces. Upon these leaders had rested very grave responsibilities, often increased by distance from each other, and consequent difficulty of united action. It was also felt that the time had come for more independent control and employment of funds than had, thus far, been exercised, and the subject of a general society, under one executive board of management, began to be considered.

The proposed change was commended to the consideration of the Societies. Its accomplishment and the advantages secured thereby, are thus clearly described by Mrs. M. W. Williams, first President of the Union.

"In 1881, some of the members of the N. S. Central Board, believing it to be desirable that the Aid Societies

should have closer relations with their executive, *i. e.* the Central Board, proposed such a change in organization as should secure this, and a motion was made to unite the Aid Societies of N. S. into one General Society, with an Executive chosen by themselves.

“To this motion an amendment was made, proposing that a General Society including the Aid Societies of the three Provinces be organized, and the three Central Boards were appointed a committee to consider it. No progress was made in 1882, and none in 1883 towards the union of the three Provinces. Plans had been presented, and reasons urged, but we had failed to secure unanimity of opinion. In the spring of 1884, Mrs. Churchill returned from her Bobbili field for much needed rest. She, having watched the discussion from her India home, and making herself more fully acquainted with the situation after her arrival among us, saw the necessity of the proposed change and set herself about accomplishing it. She spared neither time nor strength, but went from Board to Board, and from individual to individual. She explained misunderstandings, adjusted difficulties, and plead and prayed away prejudice, so that when the delegates from the Aid Societies, chosen to act upon this question, met at Moncton, after a full presentation of the matter by those who since '81 had felt most deeply its necessity, the union was consummated, and the “Women’s Baptist Missionary Union” came into existence. Those of its features which seem to be especially desirable, are :—

1ST. It secures the united action of the Aid Societies of the three Provinces.

2ND. It is representative—its members consisting of delegates from the Aid Societies.

3RD. It reserves to itself the power to appropriate its own funds, and

4TH. It pledges itself to appropriate to such objects as are undertaken by the Foreign Missionary Board.

As the best explanation of the manner in which these different objects were secured by the re-constructed Society, the report of its first annual meeting is transcribed:—

THE WOMEN'S BAPTIST MISSIONARY UNION.

The Women's Baptist Missionary Union of the Maritime Provinces held its annual meeting in the Presbyterian Church at Amherst, on Monday, Aug. 24th, at 2 p. m.

The President, Mrs. M. W. Williams, occupied the chair. The meeting was opened by singing, reading the Scriptures by Mrs. Selden, and prayer by Mrs. Martell.

The President's address on "Woman's Work, and the Special and Important Position filled by her in all Ages" was instructive and encouraging. The Annual report was read by the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. John March. It reviewed the work done upon the foreign field during the year, and stated that the sum of \$2,525, pledged to the Foreign Mission Board, had been regularly paid, leaving a balance still in the Treasurer's hands of \$1,698.21.

The Provincial reports were then submitted. That of Prince Edward Island, 12 societies, 233 members, by Miss S. A. King, secretary; of Nova Scotia, 71 societies, by Mrs. Stephen Selden, sec'y; New Brunswick, 40 societies, by the

Corresponding Secretary, acting for Mrs. T. S. Simms, deceased.

The Treasurer, Mrs. J. W. Manning, presented her report as follows:

Cash received from Mrs. S. Selden, former Treasurer, balance on hand from last year.....		\$556 01
Received from W. M. A. Societies—		
Nova Scotia,.....	\$1528 07	
New Brunswick,.....	956 28	
Prince Edward Island,.....	258 86	
	<hr/>	2743 21
To constitute life members,		125 00
Mission Bands and Sunday Schools, N. S. and N. B.....		607 89
Donations and Collections.....		250 32
		<hr/>
		\$4282 43
Expended for books and Stationery.....	11 46	
Grant to F. M. B.,.....	2525 00	
Travelling expenses Mrs. Sandford.....	1 06	
Travelling expenses Mrs. Churchill,.....	35 60	
Checks, postage, and discount on notes..	11 10	
	<hr/>	\$2584 22
Balance on hand,.....		\$1698 21

The reports were, on motion, unanimously adopted.

On motion, it was decided to donate \$1,000 from the balance on hand to the Foreign Mission Board, toward replacing the Jacob's fund.

The following resolution was moved by Mrs. Phillips, of Fredericton, and unanimously adopted:

The Executive Board recommend that Article V of the Constitution be amended, to read as follows: The Union shall annually elect a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, three Provincial Secretaries, a Treasurer and an Auditor. These officers, together with 24 other members, six of whom shall retire each year in the order of their appointment, shall constitute an Executive Board. Retiring officers and members of the Board shall be eligible for re-election.

A paper was read by Mrs. Joseph Kempton, of Chester, N. S., on "The need of County Secretaries."

The Treasurer presented the estimates, as selected and recommended by the Executive Board for the coming year, viz.:

Salary Miss Wright.....	\$500
do. Miss Gray.....	500
Scripture portions and tracts.....	130
Schools.....	200
Medicine.....	25
Tent for Chicacole.....	100
Printing and publishing.....	250
Repairing house at Kotspard.....	25
Toward salaries of Male Missionaries.....	770
	<hr/>
	\$2,500

These estimates are exclusive of Sabbath Schools and Mission Band monies, which, for the current year, are to be sent direct to the F. M. B. The following resolution was adopted.

“ Believing that it is of first importance that the children and youth of our denomination be taught the needs of our Home and Foreign Mission fields, and trained to the spirit and practice of Christian benevolence, and believing that the Sunday school possesses better facilities for this work than any other agency ; therefore

Resolved, That the women of the Baptist Missionary Union use every means in their power to induce superintendents and teachers to give to Missions, Home and Foreign, a prominent and permanent place in the schools under their care.

A paper was read by Miss Lyda Jones, of Alexandria, Prince Edward Island, subject “ Claims of Foreign Mission Work upon Women.”

On motion, resolved to appoint a correspondent to the *Missionary Link* for the Maritime Provinces. On motion, Miss Amy Johnston was so appointed.

Mrs. W. N. Clarke, of Toronto, being called upon, expressed the pleasure it gave her to meet with the Union here, and conveyed to them the greetings of the Ontario sisters.

Mrs. Currie, returned missionary (Ontario Board), addressed the meeting ; also Mrs. Sandford and Mrs. Churchill, (Maritime Province Board). A paper was read by Mrs. W. Allwood, of St. John, subject, “ Star of Eternity.” The speeches and papers were excellent, and it is hoped that, together with the President’s address and the reports, they will be published for the benefit of the societies.

The following officers were unanimously elected for the ensuing year : President, Mrs. M. W. Williams V e-

Presidents, Mrs. J. E. Hopper, Mrs. J. F. Parsons, Mrs. A. H. Lavers; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. John March; Treasurer, Mrs. J. W. Manning; Auditor, Mrs. E. M. Saunders; Provincial Secretaries, Mrs. Stephen Selden, Halifax, N. S., Mrs. H. R. Emmerson, Dorchester, N. B., Miss L. A. King, Prince Edward Island. Executive Committee—Mrs. C. Spurden, Mrs. J. F. Masters, Mrs. Jesse Harding, Mrs. A. W. Sawyer, Mrs. M. M. Stewart, Mrs. P. R. Foster, Miss Ada Hooper, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. William Allwood, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Jas. E. Masters, Mrs. C. H. Martell, Miss H. Layton, Mrs. A. S. Murray, Miss Hannah Jones, Mrs. B. Howitt, Mrs. R. Phillips, Mrs. W. J. Stewart, Mrs. Moses Cowan, Miss Amy Johnston, Miss Mary Cramp, Mrs. J. Harding, Mrs. Allison Smith, Mrs. J. F. Kempton.

A collection was taken, and the meeting closed by singing the Doxology.

M. E. MARCH, *Cor. Sec'y.*

These important changes in the work at home seemed to require an unbroken account, bringing this department to a later date than the Foreign history has reached.

Returning therefore to the earlier years of this period we find Miss Hammond sole representative of the societies abroad—working steadily under many difficulties. Left for a time by the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong alone at Chicacole station, many and heavy responsibilities rested upon her.

The strain proved too severe, health gave way, and rest became imperative, though only snatched for a brief period among her Missionary friends at Coconada and Bimli.

Writing under the pressure of failing strength she thus appeals to those at home :

“ The time is fast approaching when your first little band of workers must all leave the field : Unless our people intend their mission to be a failure, the hour for a strong reinforcement has more than come. As I think of this matter in the light of our great need I wish I could speak to the Ladies' Boards. Help is what we want and I feel that it is there for us, only the Lord's people must seek it with full purpose of heart.”

Miss Hammond was soon at work again and the success of her schools is often referred to in the annual reports.

While the special object of the Aid Societies has always been the enlightenment of heathen women and children by means of unmarried female missionaries, so large a share in the work and well being of the entire mission and its families devolved upon them that the interests of all were remembered. Mrs. Churchill and Mrs. Sandford kept the Central Boards constantly supplied with information as to their fields of labor, many of the societies also, being cheered and encouraged by receiving interesting letters from them.

After spending nine years on missionary ground, Mrs. Sandford with her children returned to N. S., in May, 1882, greatly needing the well-earned rest, and two years later Mr. and Mrs. Churchill were also compelled to leave their chosen work, to which they had devoted eleven long years of faithful service,—arriving with their family in 1884. Mrs. Sandford and Mrs. Churchill seemed to enter almost at once upon fresh service in the home field, and by their presence

and earnest words exerted a valuable influence in stimulating the societies to renewed effort and fresh consecration.

The need of workers to fill vacant places abroad was again more pressing than ever. Mrs. Selden thus refers to the satisfaction felt when the prospect brightened, adding some earnest words regarding individual responsibility:—

“In October of last year (1883) our missionary, Miss Hammond, was married to the Rev. I. C. Archibald, leaving us without a representative in the Telugu Mission. But not for long did this sad state of things continue. The Lord put it into the heart of a young sister to offer herself to fill the vacancy. Miss Wright who came before the Nova Scotia Central Board, was subsequently accepted by the Foreign Mission Board, and during the past summer has attended the Associations and visited some societies, thereby creating a deeper interest in missions, and making for herself hosts of friends who will not forget her when she is far away at her chosen life-work.”

“Soon after Convention this dear sister will leave her home and friends, but your responsibilities in connection with her will still remain.”

“The Central Boards of these three Provinces look to the sisters for the means to sustain the work we have undertaken in their name. But beyond and above this, the Lord expects your prayers as well. See to it that your place in the monthly meeting is filled. Come prepared to give as well as to receive a blessing, and if some self-denial is occasioned by this course, so much the better. “Two cents a week and a prayer from each member of our churches would accomplish more than we think. We say *churches*,

not societies, for surely each member of the former should also feel it her duty to become a member of the latter."

In offering her services as a missionary to the Central Board Miss Wright thus refers to the influence by which she had been led to this decision :—

"My dear sisters it is impossible for me to convey to you the deep feelings with which I come before you this afternoon. It is to fulfill a resolution that I made while listening to a very earnest address by Mrs. Armstrong, our returned missionary, in which she presented to us the benighted condition of those among whom she had been laboring."

"Her touching appeal for some one to go into the Master's vineyard, there to work, found lodgment in my heart ; and making it a subject of much prayer and deep consideration, I now sincerely desire to carry glad tidings of good things to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death."

While Miss Wright was completing preparations for entering upon her chosen work, often wishing, doubtless, that the lonely journey might be cheered by companionship, another heart was stirred by the same desire. Miss A. Gray, of New Annan, Pictou Co., had come to study at Wolfville in 1884, but having for many years cherished a wish to engage in missionary work, was led to consider the subject more seriously, and encouraged by the friends whose advice she solicited, presented herself at once to the Board. Animated by a spirit of true devotion to the Master, she thus expressed her desire :

"All I want to do is to work for Him in any way and anywhere He wants me, it makes no difference whether it is in India or here."

It was with gratitude and pleasure that such a helper was accepted, and in November, 1884, Miss Wright and Miss Gray sailed. They had listened not in vain to the "bitter cry" of saddened, oppressed Indian women, and felt that the call had come to them.

"Sorrowful women's faces hungry, yearning
With wild, deep pain, and dark with sin and dread;
Worn with long weeping for the unreturning,
Hopeless, uncomfórted."

"Give us," they cry, "your cup of consolation,
Ne'er to our outstretched hands yet passed;
We long for the desire of every nation,
And oh! we die so fast."

"Does not He love us, too, this glorious Master?
For from your hands alone we can receive
The bounty of His grace, oh! send it faster,
That we may take and live."

"Master," I said, as from a dream awaking,
"Is this the service Thou dost show to me?
Dost thou to me entrust the bread for breaking
To those who cry to Thee?"

"As Thou hast loved me, let me love returning
To these dark souls the grace Thou gavest me,
And oh! to me impart Thy deathless yearning
To draw the lost to Thee."

1890—One more retrospect remains. Although progress and advancement have rendered it fuller in detail and interest than those preceding this period, the publication

of a separate annual record since the formation of the Union renders it unnecessary to give more than a brief glance at its history.

In the Autumn of 1886, Mrs. Churchill and Mrs. Sandford once more left their native land to resume foreign work. Their farewell addresses delivered at the annual meeting held in the Leinster Street Church, St. John, were of special interest.

Mrs. Churchill thus refers to the different aspects of missionary life :—

“Thirteen years ago I first stood upon the public platform as an acknowledged Missionary, or as one desirous of devoting her life to the work of giving the Gospel to the perishing heathen. For ten years previous to this, it had been the most intense desire of my heart to be allowed to devote my life to this work, and now the wish was about to be realized.”

“Well do I remember the thoughts and anticipations that filled my mind then : and you may ask, have they been realized ? Only in part. A real missionary life I find to be somewhat different from an ideal one. In the latter, trials and privations are anticipated, but the expectation of being able to devote all your time to talking about the Saviour and pointing the poor heathen to Him as the One to cleanse from all sin, almost eclipses every other thought, —or so it was in my case. This expectation is never realized ; and the trials and privations are of a different nature from those anticipated. To say that I do not shrink from many things that I see before me would be untrue, but I hear the voice of my Master saying “Go forward,”

“My grace is sufficient for thee,” “As thy day so shall thy strength be.” And taking these promises and relying on them I am ready to go, and in His strength am ready to endure, if by my going some of our poor, perishing Telugu sisters shall be brought to a knowledge of Christ, shall be brought to experience the joys of sins forgiven, and of that blessed hope of a happy home beyond this world, which to them is particularly full of trouble and sorrow.

“I am willing to say farewell to home, and loved ones,—child and native country, if the Lord will accept me and go with me, and I know He will, for has He not in an especial manner given His promise to us, “Lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world?” I can truly say with S. F. Smith—

“Yes, my native land I love thee,
All thy scenes I love them well.”

“Never did I love them better than at the present time, and never did they seem so lovely.”

A few sentences taken from Mrs. Sandford's address describe a pleasing contrast:—

“Under the prospect of an early return to Bimlipatam, I do not feel as I did when we landed at evening on the beach Nov. 4th, nearly eleven years ago. Then the people were strange. Their language seemed a jargon of unmeaning sounds, their customs very disgusting, and there were none whom we could look upon as sisters or brothers in Christ. No one welcomed our coming. None seemed desirous to know why we came. The coolie women and girls, intent on getting a few annas and pice, waded out into the water, eagerly seized boxes and parcels of our

luggage from the boat and carried them on their heads up into the town. Then when they secured their pay, how they clamored and quarrelled one with another respecting it. My first impression of the Telugu women certainly was not a favorable one. But time went on. Our labors brought us into intimate acquaintance with some. The Lord's Spirit made the Gospel effectual in the salvation of souls. Now, if permitted to reach that land for a second term of service we will be greeted by those who love the Lord. They have been waiting and praying for our return. These are our sisters and brothers in Christ, dear to us, because we are acquainted with the way in which they were led to Him. They have become our helpers in the work. We bow together at the throne of grace, and the hearts of all are encouraged."

How different in many ways was the present prospect to these devoted workers! Cheered now by the remembrance that other laborers had entered upon the field prepared by their efforts, and were continuing the seed-sowing. They could think of Mrs. Archibald whose abundant and varied efforts have been bestowed on many departments with marked success. Of Mrs. Hutchinson whose work at Chicago was faithfully performed for six years. Of Miss Wright and Miss Gray, superintending schools and the work of Bible women. The following words taken from Mrs. March's report for 1887, may be suitably quoted here:

"The work done so faithfully and well by our loved missionaries on the foreign field cannot be counted in dollars and cents, neither is there any way by which we may sum it up. He alone who knows the worth of a soul and has seen the heathen, through their instrumentality

bowing at His feet and lifting their heartfelt prayers to Him for life and salvation, can estimate. And He will reward, for He has said, "They who turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever."

It has often been observed that those already hard at work are most willing to assume fresh burdens.

Naturally therefore, when the ever-widening field of Home Missions needed assistance, it was to the Union that application was made.

The suggestion that this object should receive a small annual appropriation was accepted, and such changes made in the constitution as would admit the union of Home with Foreign Missions. Another step in advance.

While the prevailing feeling among all united in this work has always been:—How much more we might do. It is gratifying to observe that steady progress has marked each year, permitting additions to expenditure. The report presented at the last annual meeting gives the following statistics:—

"It showed that there had been raised for the year \$4,244.13, and that the \$3,500 pledged to the F. M. B. had been paid, leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of \$744.13.

The estimates were then submitted, and the following unanimously approved as the work for the ensuing year:

For purchasing property at Vizianagram.....	\$2000 00
“ Miss Hettie Wright’s salary.....	500 00
“ Miss A. C. Gray’s salary.....	500 00
“ Miss Nettie Fitch’s salary.....	500 00
“ “ “ travelling expenses.....	450 00
“ “ “ outfit.....	250 00
“ Female helpers.....	200 00
“ Travelling expenses.....	75 00
“ Books and tracts.....	30 00
“ Schools.....	200 00
“ Literature for home distribution.....	35 00
	<hr/>
	\$4740 00

With regard to general success Mrs. March writes thus:—

“Five years of the union of the societies have proved indeed that union is strength. We have seen most clearly that the divine benediction has rested upon us, and to-day with one heart and one voice we say, ‘Now thanks be unto God, who always causes us to triumph in Christ.’”

The presence of an addition to the Foreign staff of workers rendered this meeting one of special interest. Once more the Wolfville Society sent representatives, to whom we find the following reference:—

“The pleasing announcement was made that one hundred dollars were sent to the Union, from Wolfville, as a thank-offering, that the Lord had called three of their number, and was about sending them forth to preach the gospel to the Telugus in India.”

Mr. and Mrs. W. Higgins and Miss Nettie Fitch were warmly welcomed, their farewell words listened to by many sympathising friends, and soon after, in the month of

October, they were on their way to cheer the hearts of those whose language might often have been thus expressed :

“ Who will go forth for Him ?
 Who will arise ?
 For eyes with tears are dim,
 Severed love's ties.
 Counting all things but loss,
 Earth's highest gain but dross
 And glorying in the cross.
 Who will arise ? ”

At the last election of office-bearers the resignation of Mrs. Williams, who had ably filled the office of President since the formation of the Union, was reluctantly accepted.

The names of the present Directors are as follows :

MRS. J. W. MANNING, PRESIDENT, Halifax.

“ J. PARSONS, Halifax,)
 “ G. O. GATES, St. John, } VICE-PRESIDENTS.
 “ JOHN CLARK, P. E. I. }

“ BOTSFORD SMITH, TREASURER, Amherst.

“ JOHN MARCH, COR.-SECRETARY, St. John.

Miss A. E. JOHNSTON, Dartmouth,)
 Mrs. EMMERSON, Dorchester, N. B., } PROVINCIAL.
 Miss M. E. DAVIES, P. E. I. } SECRETARIES.

But while closing our last review, a shadow falls, as the sad intelligence comes that one associated with this work from the beginning, has “ Entered into rest.”

All who have noted the names of those connected with the Executive Boards will have observed that Mrs. Selden was Secretary of the N. S. Central Board, for many years Treasurer also, and after the Union was formed, Provincial Secretary.

The important duties connected with these offices were often performed under the pressure of delicate health; but sustained by ardent love to the work and an unflinching native energy, our dear sister was enabled to continue them till 1887, when her resignation is thus adverted to:—

“The resignation of Mrs. Selden, who had served the aid societies so faithfully for 18 years as Secretary for Nova Scotia, was read, stating that ill health prevents her from continuing in the work which she so much loves. It was accepted with deep regret,”

A few sentences selected from a beautiful tribute to Mrs. Selden’s memory, written by Miss A. E. Johnston, form the most appropriate record that can be placed on these pages:

“She stood in the glorious shadow
Of the Father’ house of love,
But she saw not the shining threshold
Where the Angel Watchmen move;
She heard not their garments faintly stir
As they opened the golden gates for her.”

How seldom do we view death thus! Instead of “a glorious shadow,” it is midnight darkness; and instead of “Angel Watchmen,” we see only the grim destroyer. And yet the New Testament throws no such gloom around the “going home” of the child of God. “Them that sleep in Jesus;” “He fell on sleep;” “To depart and be with Christ;” She is not dead but sleepeth,” is the only shadow which the Bible casts around the departure of the Christian from this world. It is because these mortal eyes of ours cannot pierce the shadow even that we weep when the angel comes for those we love. And it is because our “Father knows our frame” that He does not chide our weeping.

Many tears have fallen during the last week as the news was borne from one to another that the valued friend and worker, the faithful counsellor to so many, had been suddenly called away, and yet with the tears there was gladness—gladness that the long years of suffering were over; gladness because she had had her wish; and had been called suddenly “into light.”

Early in 1870, if I mistake not, when Miss Norris had come to Halifax prepared to start for India, it was in Mrs. Selden’s parlor that the first meeting was held, and plans discussed, and from that day to this her interest in Foreign Missions has never abated. Her home was always open to our missionaries, her letters cheered them while at their work, and no October came that did not find some little token on its way to India, that our sisters might not feel themselves forgotten at Christmas. Were they returning home, how anxiously she watched and waited lest they might miss a welcome at the first moment of landing. Surely we who are following on may learn a lesson from her life here.

It was the same with regard to the societies’. She watched over and worked for each and all, until her failing health seemed as a message from her Master, telling her to lay it down. In so far as she followed Christ, even so may we follow her.

For us there remains a little while of toiling and of praying and of serving.

For her—

“She took that night,
The one grand step beyond the stars of God,
Into the splendor shadowless and broad,
Into the everlasting joy and light.”

At the annual meeting of the Union in August, the following resolution was passed :

" *Whereas*, It has pleased our heavenly Father to remove from our midst one who for so many years was engaged in this work of extending our Saviour's kingdom in the dark places of the earth, and whose interest and earnest labor never flagged from its inception ;

Therefore resolved, That we as a Union place on record our deep gratitude to our God for the long years of service which He enabled her to give to this work, and for the abundant entrance which we feel He has granted her into His heavenly kingdom. We also desire to place on record our deep sense of our own loss, and our heartfelt sympathy with her family in their irreparable loss."

Much might be said of earnest individual work, and faithful workers.

Scattered through the length and breadth of these Provinces are many whose untiring services have contributed largely to the success of this enterprise. Their names might well be honorably mentioned, but it seems

more fitting to present a view of what has been accomplished by united effort.

These retrospects give but an imperfect sketch of that work with its results, and now we turn our eyes to the fresh future and the fair unwritten page lying before us.

Some inspiring words taken from the last address of Mr. Williams as President of the Union, may well encourage us in entering upon it:

“It has been given to Women’s Foreign Missionary Societies not only to stretch out a hand to rescue the perishing in heathen lands, but also to gather forces that break even now over our favored lands. Hearts that responded years ago to the cry of the prison-bound women of India, now go out towards those upon our own shores, who need this same Jesus, and methods that have proved themselves effective for the one object, are being successfully applied to the other. Every department of Christian effort feels the throb of a quickened life, and the sinning and suffering of every age, grade, and class, are being helped and rescued. Equipped as we are for work, and inspired as we should be by success, shall we not take fresh courage and put on new strength.”

The foregoing Retrospect brings us to 1890. Early in '91, while yet feeling more and more deeply the loss we had sustained in June, 1890, another shadow falls upon us. We quote from Miss Johnston’s tribute published in the *Link*.

“Not more than six months ago, death entered the ranks of the Executive Board of our W. B. M. A. and we mourned

as the tidings reached us that Mrs. Selden had been called away. And now we seem scarcely to have turned from her grave when we are called upon to part with another of our leaders. It all seems so unreal, so impossible, that we can hardly grasp the fact, even though we write the words, "Mrs. Parsons is dead." She looked so well and strong, you would have said she had many years of service here; we needed her so much in the Union, the church needed her so much, her family needed her so much, and yet God called her. One week full of loving service, the next a little cold, and then such agony, that even those who loved her most, prayed "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly."

"Such sad news," we say:

"And the heart sheds forth weak tears,
Our foolish eyes through their own mists dim,
Cannot see the resting joy of Him
Who treads with her the golden way,
Where the star-lamps pale in the passing ray,
And the throne uplifted nears."

We have need indeed to turn our eyes from the agony, the grave, the loss, up to where the "Glory dwelleth in Immanuel's land," else how could we bear, and still live on and work.

Mrs. Parsons was one of the original members of the W. M. A. Society of the North Baptist Church, Halifax, (where she resided), she was also one of the managing committee until 1873, when she was made President, which office she has held most of the time until her death.

How that Aid Society will miss her! She never let anything but illness keep her away. To her that one hour a month of prayer was sacred to the Master. She was always in her place. She was also President of the Nova Scotia Central Board until the Union was formed, since which

time she has been Vice-President for Nova Scotia. She was also chairwoman of the committee on Home Missions, so that in everything she was closely identified with the work. Active, earnest, devoted, cheerful, and faithful; each one of these may be fitly applied to her from the beginning to the end. Even when dying she spoke of the W. M. A. Society meeting held a few days before, asking about it, and speaking of each sister with whom she had been connected in the work, adding that she had never thought of leaving them so soon, but the Lord knows best, and she hoped to meet them all. And so we leave her—her own words “the Lord knows best,” hushing each murmur.

The Union at their Annual Meeting in August 1891, placed on record the following resolution:—

Whereas, since our last annual meeting the Master has seen fit to remove from among us one of our most active workers, Mrs. J. Parsons, calling her suddenly from service here ;

Therefore resolved, that we as a Union place on record our deep sense of our loss, praying that we who remain may hear in this bereavement the call to *work*, for the night cometh.

Thus sadly must terminate this brief sketch of the rise and progress of the Women's Missionary Aid Societies of the Maritime Provinces.

“God buries His workmen but carries on His work.”