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W. B. M. U. TIDINGS

TWENTY FIVE CENTS PER YEAR.

Vol. 5

Amherst, N. S., October 1898

No. 56

Motto for the Year.

“Workers together with Him.”

Prayer Topic.

For a revival of Missionary zeal among our pastors and churches in the home land and a great outpouring of God's Spirit upon our missionaries and native helpers, that this year may witness many won to Christ.

Suggested Programme for October.

Hymn,

Prayer, by several, asking for a great blessing to come upon our societies this year,

Scripture, 1 John 1 : 1—10,

Remarks by President,

Hymn,

Reading President's message,

Prayer,

Reading letter from missionary and synopsis Sec. Bar. Lit,

Minutes of last meeting,

Doxology

President's Message.

-To my fellow laborers in the mission work.

Dear Sisters :—

Songs of praise and thanksgiving should fill our hearts and find expression on our lips. “Whoso offereth praise

glorifieth God”. We cannot fail to recognize the Lord's help and blessing in the past. Let us trust him for the future. What of the past year's work? Has each one of you been faithful in attending the monthly meetings of your society, offering daily prayers for our missionaries, observing the Saturday “evening hour”, giving as the Lord has prospered? How many know more about mission work and the needs of the great heathen world than they did last year? How many have striven to interest some others and enlist their sympathies and help in this mission work? God knows and cares, do not grieve Him by indifference or neglect in the work He has given you to do. His watchful eye notes every act done for Him. May it not be said of any one of us, “Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of us, Inasmuch as ye did it not to me”. The Annual Reports given at Convention in

Truro show an increase of funds and steady growth of the W. M. A. S. This is truly encouraging. The appropriation for Foreign Mission was raised to \$7,500.00. Home Missions \$2,000.00 as last year. There was a deficit on Home Missions of about \$60.00 which was made up at Convention. We must strive to increase our contributions to Home Missions this year as the North West and British Columbia are crying out for help. Each society should adopt some systematic method for raising this money, either by mite boxes or collectors or in some other way.

MISSIONARIES.

We regret that no new missionaries are going to India this year, Miss Helena Blackadar has been accepted by the Board and expects to go next autumn. Miss Grey's health is not sufficiently restored to return but she also hopes by next year to resume her loved work in India. Remember these dear sisters in your prayers. Let us ask that a suitable young man may be called of God to this work and we be prepared to send him. We need another mission family and two lady missionaries. The young ladies sent out recently have made grand progress with the language and are now ready to enter upon active service. Their health continues good and we should bear them all daily before God in prayer. Their difficulties are many and they need special help from on high. God bless our lady missionaries should be the prayer of every christian woman. We have been greatly favored with letters from our missionaries the past

year. I hope they have been read and appreciated by all our sisters. Will you not show your appreciation by writing occasionally to these sisters in India, thanking them for these letters and cheering their hearts by knowing there are those in the home land who do love and remember them outside their own family. It is such a little thing to do, but would greatly cheer and help our young missionaries.

MISSION BANDS.

Special attention has been given to this most important part of our work during the past year and the results are encouraging. Miss Lenora Barton Chipman has been appointed Superintendent of Mission Bands for N. B. Miss Etta Yuell, Wolfville for N. S. Miss Annie Jackson for P. E. I. Our Model Mission Band meeting at Convention was most helpful and interesting. If faithful intelligent work like this could be done in all our Bands, the mission work would soon receive a reinforcement of trained workers that would put new life into every department. Let us thank God that there is an awakening to the importance of this work and leaders are being prepared to carry it on. The lessons in "Trilings" will be continued. This year we purpose taking up India for our study and having the lessons connected so that if they are faithfully learned at the end of the year our Bands ought to be better acquainted with our Mission and the country where it is situated. Mrs Parker, River Herbert is to prepare the lessons and will be grateful for any suggestions from Band leaders or others so that

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she may meet the needs and give all the help possible. The Constitution of our Mission Bands was changed this year so that any person or Bands paying \$10.00 into the Mission funds for Home or Foreign Missions can become a life member of the Mission Band. Certificates will be prepared and sent when the money is received by our Treasurer Mrs Mary Smith Amherst. May the coming year show still greater progress in this department of our work.

CRUSADE DAY.

October 13th has been appointed "Crusade Day"—We hope there may be a general observance of this day in all our Societies this year—The need is very great. There are still many of our sisters members of Baptist churches who have not joined our W. M. A. S.—let them be visited and kindly asked to unite with us—If they continue to refuse the responsibility will be theirs. Our membership should be doubled on Oct. 13th if all our Societies would enthusiastically undertake this work—Ask God's help before you begin for Christ says, "Without Me ye can do nothing" and we have all proved it to be true.

At eleven o'clock let each sister find a few minutes for prayer in our homes, so that a united petition may ascend to our Father who heareth in secret and rewards us openly—Visiting in the afternoon—The names of all the women in the church should be divided among the members so that each one would not have more than six on whom to call—If they cannot be seen that day take another opportunity during

the week—A public missionary meeting in [the evening, a few minutes might be given to reports from visitors—The work of the Union for the past year should be brought before the people—The Annual Reports will be published by that time, and they contain sufficient interesting material to form an excellent Programme.

COUNTY SECRETARIES.

There are a number of Counties without secretaries. Who will fill the vacancies? Some have been compelled to resign on account of ill-health, others have removed from the place. Here lies a grand opportunity for work. Great progress is seen in some counties where faithful work has been done during the past year. Are there not women who can undertake this work for the Master? Our Co. Secretaries meeting was considered one of the best Sessions we had at convention. It can be better next year if there are more officers and they do more efficient work. Oh, to be faithful in everything we undertake.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

We have entered upon a new year, bright with God's promises full of encouragement at home and abroad. The perishing condition of our heathen sister called so loudly for help. Shall we not each with renewed zeal and fresh courage undertake this mission work, giving it a first place in our thoughts, time and prayers—daily asking, "Lord, what will Thou have me to do?", and then doing God's will with our might? "There is no time to trifle. Life is brief and sin is here, our

age is but the falling of a leaf, a dropping tear. There is no time to sport away the hours; all must be earnest in a world like ours".

Yours in the work,

S. J. Manning.

St. John :

Glimpses and Gleams.

All aboard for Vizianagram! All aboard! But wait—you have not yet heard the shrill whistle, nor seen the long line of low-built unadorned cars, filled with dusky humanity. You must first drive eight miles in a noon-day sun.

"Salaam! salaam! . Be sure to sweep up the white ants and don't forget the parrot!" Now wire off! In a few minutes we are at the turning of the road. That long low building must be the policemen's quarters; see the many belted knights with white suits and red helmets.

Notice the temple on the other side, the cupola and balustrade, columns and portico, the bas-reliefs of monkeys in strange attitudes, and the demi-reliefs of lions with lolling tongues and rolling eyes—all these, even in their begrimed and crude form, show an attempt at architecture. "Mr. Munshi, why are your temples adorned with hideous looking animals?" "Oh, these animals are the gods friends," "Do they talk?" "E-p-per-l ays."

If this were the evening hour you would hear the gong sounding and the bugles blowing in order to wake up the god; you would see hundreds of

lights (wicks in castor oil) flickering in the triangular cavities which encircle the doors and dot the pillars here and there. You might also peer into the adytum and behold the flourishing of lights and the throwing of flowers, the glittering of red and gold and the wielding of the knife in dividing the offerings.

One evening on our way to church we saw a woman, surrounded by her children, leaning against the temple steps. In pleading tones she said. "Oh, Mr Priest, I have come a long way; here are my coconuts, won't you soon open the door?" "Shut up! the god will be angry if you talk that way," was the reply.

One never loses sight of devotees bowing before silver and gold, the work of men's hands. The course, hard faces of these worshippers abundantly verify the statement, "They that make them are like unto them, so is every one that trusteth in them." Oh, that they might learn to fear the Lord our God, who is God of gods and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty and a terrible.

We'll miss the train! Coolies! Coolies!! Now we pass the hospital in front of which a flock of sheep are waiting to receive the seal of "bonne sante;" now through a narrow street lined with high houses belonging to high people. The women peer out of the barred windows or gaze from the house-top. How filthy these malavilages—there is a woman pouring water on her husband's head, and see those women searching for—brains perhaps. On we go through a long

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arehway formed by the dense, rich tamarind and banyan foliage; past the catchery on the verandah of which are many sleeping mortals. It is one o'clock: All the air is still. Even the crows and screeching minas seem to be taking a siesta.

Why, there is the mail-carrier. Do you not see his shiny skin and hear the jingling of the rings? As we haster on, through the country, so open and free, Miss Clark says, "there is a village away over, which I would like to visit." Mr. A points out another and another, another and another. Oh, the pity of it! One missionary—600,000 perishing souls! Is it any wonder if at times the heart sinks and the faith falters? But a better day will dawn a-day when Christians will do as they profess, when they will actually consecrate themselves with all they have and all they are to Him who gave His all for us.

At the station—an hour to wait! We find a shady nook and read aloud "What would Jesus do" by Charles Sheldon. (I am sure Jesus would be pleased if you would see that every member of your church reads this book. Price 25 cents: Baptist Book Room, Halifax.) With the beggars calling and that peculiar man watching I can hardly listen. On questioning we learn that this man's hair was never cut or combed and that its brilliant golden colour is due to a certain wash. How proud he looks and how fondly he strokes his bushy locks. As a result of his non-costumed painted body and odd appearance this

"holy" man will undoubtedly receive gifts from men.

All aboard now in earnest! A three hour's drive brings us to Vizianagram. Time will not permit me to describe the details of our Conference; the consideration of the complicated problems of mission policy which demand the keenest thought and utmost wisdom; the singing of the beautiful hymn, especially the favorite of a loved father or mother across the sea or in the home-land above. A six months solid contact with heathenism, breathing its miasmatic air makes one appreciate as never before the help to be derived from associating with kindred souls.

Now, my dear sisters, I have perhaps given you a glimpse of this land but my greatest desire is that you may have such a glimpse of Jesus as you never had before.

"We would see Jesus—this is all we're needing, strength, joy and willingness come with the sight.

We would see Jesus, dying, risen, pleading: then welcome, clay! And farewell, mortal night."

Mabel Archibald
Chicacole, Aug 10, '98.

Sooboornagam Annual.

Not long ago we received for the library of the W. B. M. U six copies of a little book called Sooboornagam Annual. This is the story of a young Hindu girl's conversion. Her father who was one of the leading citizens of Madras belonged to the Puntulas, the strictest sect of the Brahmans and Soo-

boo herself was one of the most zealous of a very religious family. She fasted at one time for forty days and on another occasion twenty-five days, she visited fifty temples and bathed in eight sacred rivers and was anxious to take part in all religious duties that she understood. Still she was not satisfied, but wanted to learn Tamil because "there were some prayers in the Vedas and Sastras, also some ceremonies which, if she knew Tamil, she would perform". So she sent for a teacher.

For some sixty or more pages after the account of her first meeting with her teacher, the story goes on to tell, in a very interesting manner of her declining zeal in idol worship, the plans and suspicions of her family, her first flitting and return, and of her final runaway when she left her home and went to the Orphanage. The friends and relatives of the family went and entreated her to come back to her beautiful home, her wealth and their favor, but she refused. Of course she lost caste by living with christians and was therefore dead to her family. The funeral ceremonies were performed for her and the old Sooboonagam Annual was no more. Everything that once belonged to her or could remind anyone of her was either given away or destroyed. She literally "left all" and was poor, dispised, forsaken.

The concluding chapters give glimpses of her present life and of the large field of usefulness which is being opened up before her. Of Sooboonagam Annual it is said, "She might be called an Indian Esther she is so beautiful spiritually, mentally and physically." And

this book is really more than a story for it gives the reader an insight into Hindu highlife and as she will rarely get in any other book.

Miss Ida Newcombe of Bimbi who so kindly sent the books, writes of them as follows: "I am sending one half dozen copies of Sooboonagam Annual. I think it would do a great deal of good if each one of our societies would read it, and as I send these books to the circulating library, it is with the prayer that God may use them among the sisters of your union. As you read this book you will see what are some of the difficulties attending the lady missionary's work among the women here; especially those of high caste, how extremely difficult it is for one of these women to come out and leave all for Christ and how God's grace is sufficient for all things."

As we read these books I feel sure that we will remember our sister by whom they were sent, and will pray often for both her and Miss Harrison that they may be strengthened for this life work and upheld now and ever by that all sufficient Grace.

Suggested Programme for Mission Bands.

Singing. "Jesus bids us shine."

Prayer by leader.

Bible lesson. Acts 16: 14-34.

Roll call. Pupils will answer by repeating a verse containing the word believe.

Minutes of previous meeting.

Hymn. "We are little workers"

Leader. Can you tell me how much

money is spent in America in one year for intoxicating drink ?

Ans. \$900 000.000

Leader. Do you know how much is spent for tobacco ?

Ans. \$600.000.000

Leader. Can you give me the amount expended for chewing gum ?

Ans. \$20.000.000

Leader. Now tell me how much is given to Home and Foreign Missions.

Ans. \$5.500.000

Question to be answered by the band.

Do you think this is pleasing to God ?

Close by repeating the Lord's prayer in concert.

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