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MONTHLY LEAFLET

OF THE

Canada Congregational Woman's Board of Missions.

MONTREAL, NOVEMBER, 1898.

Price 10c
a year.

SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.

Thanksgiving.—Heb. 13. 15-16; 2 Cor. 9:8-15; James 1:17: Ps. 50:

TOPICS FOR AUXILIARY MEETINGS IN "LIFE AND LIGHT."

November—Thank-offering Meetings.

December—Review of the year.

THE MONTHLY LEAFLET.

All communications and letters from the missionaries intended for publication should be addressed to the Editor, Mrs. Sanders, Mackay street, Montreal, P.Q.

Editorial Paragraphs.

Received up to date, 1,785 subscriptions, MONTHLY LEAFLET, Volume 4. All expire with the January number. Renewals and new subscriptions for Volume 5 must be forwarded before January 20th, so that we may know how many copies to order in February. Please appoint your collector without delay and your church be thoroughly canvassed for subscribers.

We hope all the Auxiliaries have arranged to hold a Thanksgiving meeting, and that the offerings will be liberal.

The new address of the Treasurer C.C.F.M.S. is the Rev. T. Gunn, Embro, Ont. He writes: "Mrs. Gunn and I hope to renew Embro's invitation to the W.B.M. and have you there after Ottawa has had its turn."

Thanksgiving Circular.

to the Ladies of the Auxiliaries:

DEAR SISTERS,—For some years past we have been accustomed to hold our Thank-offering services at the November meeting of our Auxiliaries, and much benefit has resulted from these gatherings to the Board from the offerings made at the services, and to ourselves from the blessings promised to those who gather "in His name." It is with much joy, therefore,

UNITED CHURCH
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that we invite you to join once more in what has been a fruitful of blessing in the past. It is none too soon to plan for your meeting; let it be as bright and interesting as possible; above all, let it be a real thank-offering service; full of the spirit of thankfulness to our Heavenly Father for His mercies to us. Let us name a very few of the innumerable reasons we have for gratitude.

1. For "peace in our time" Our sons, brothers, husbands have not been sent far from us to suffer and perhaps die on the field of battle.

2. For "what Christianity has done for me." Let us read over again the little story in the September "Leaflet" and gratefully acknowledge what it means to us to have been born in a Christian land.

3. For God's blessing on our special work in Cisamba. The prayers that have gone up for that work from many loving hearts at home have been certainly answered. Let us believe that the present "cloud"—the illness of Mrs. Currie and consequent departure of herself and Miss Melville from the field—but part of God's plan for more surely answering our prayers.

Dear sisters, let our offerings be as liberal as possible, and let them be sent, as our Treasurer suggests, undesignated, so that they may be used, if necessary, for the salaries coming due in December. Similar envelopes to those supplied last year can be obtained from the Secretary. Shall we not all pray that our offerings this year may be made in such a spirit of loving gratitude that the great privilege and blessing may be ours of being workers together with God?

MRS. D. MACALLUM, *President.*

MRS. J. D. NASMITH, *Secretary.*

September 26th, 1898.

From Miss Helen J. Melville.

DURAND HOTEL, Lisbon, Sept. 26.

MY OWN DEAR JESSIE (Mrs. Wickson, Toronto).—It was so nice when the steamer arrived to receive a letter from you. Mr. Bagster had sent it on to the agent here, and he brought it to us on board. We are very, very well and have a pleasant voyage thus far. We have been well, and everything has gone well with us. How good our Father is to us. We leave here to-morrow by the "Iberia," the Pacific Line, from Brazil for Liverpool. We will take about four days. We will be in Liverpool a couple of days. We want to get a dress and hat each to go to Scotland with. I see that the rates after November 1st for the Atlantic steamers are much lower, so we may make our visit a few days longer so as to have the lower rates.

and thus leave the first of November for America. This afternoon we had to go to the Custom House, got our luggage ready for the steamer to-morrow evening. We have been there a good part of the afternoon, but we did not have any trouble, only wait, wait, wait. The Portuguese are not much better than the native when one is in a hurry. Time is no object to them. They move so slowly. We were ready for our dinner when we came home, and a nice dinner we had. This is such a nice hotel, so quiet, and everything so neat, very nice, I am sorry in the way to leave. I would have liked a week here. In another day I am very glad to go home to America. I do so long for a letter from Maggie. I do wonder how she will stand the strain alone. I tremble for her, she has so much on her shoulders, and it is easy to say "take things easy, do what you can, and leave the rest," but I know she will not, and, indeed, cannot well do for what is necessary is more than she is able for. I do dread the public speaking and having to talk to everyone. I do dislike to be brought forward. You say "strength will be given." I expect it will be, as it has been before when hard things have needed to be done, but I dread it so.

From Miss Maggie W. Melville.

CISAMBA, Aug. 18, 1898.

DEAR FRIENDS,—It is a long time since I wrote a letter directly to the LEAFLET, and I suppose you all know why our regular letters were stopped for a little while. In fact, I have a dozen written this month already, and have still a number to answer, so if some of those who wrote to us have not yet received a reply, you will please excuse us for a little time longer. I hope by another month to answer all. I have just returned from a wedding of one of the young men, Kambundu, and one of our girls, Wandí. Yesterday she and another girl, Kasova, went to her village to make ready or rather to wait until some one went to bring her here to be married. This morning Kumba and Ciponge, who is a little son of the chief of Mjuka, with Kasinda went to bring her. Ciponge carried a gun and Kasinda the clothes for Wandí in a basket. About nine o'clock we saw them coming, Ciponge with the gun leading the way, the others following, first another little village boy with a gun, then Kasinda with the basket on her head, containing some articles for household use, then Wandí, the bride, then her attendant, Kasova, followed by some village relatives, with Kumba last. In all there were fifteen. She was conducted to her house and there refreshed herself with a wash and food. She would then change her clothes and await the time for

gathering in the school house. In the meantime the friends would partake of the wedding feast, consisting of pork, a pig having been killed, beans, mush, etc. At one o'clock we assembled in the school-house; the marriage was performed according to the Christian ceremony. The bride looked very neat in her dark blue jacket and cloth and a handkerchief draped around her head. When the ceremony was over there was a hearty shake hands all around. Kambundu came here a little lad shortly after Mr. Currie came to Cisamba, and has grown into a strong, sturdy man. He is one of the church members, and we pray they may together form another Christian home to be a living example of what the Gospel can do. The bride will now be seated on the bed in his house receiving visitors. It is a hard position for a young nervous girl. I am going over in a few minutes to visit her. Last week we had two weddings. One was that of Sayore, who, over five years ago, was married at the village, but since has learned that superstition and fetish ceremony are wrong, so he was married by the Christian ceremony, thus showing his faith in Jesus Christ.

I have some additions for the Cradle Roll. They are as follows:—

March 22nd, 1898—Hannah, daughter of Sawimbu and Musalo.

May 1st, 1898—Mark son to Yobe and Munga.

June 2nd, 1898—David, son to Mbembele and Nalembe.

There is another little boy, but as he is only three days' old and not named, I will reserve him for another time.

From Miss Emily McCallum.

SS. ESPERO,

BLACK SEA, Sept. 13, 1898.

MY DEAR MRS. SANDERS,—I am afraid you will think I have been very slow in acknowledging the receipt of the money for Galene, but your letter reached me just as I was preparing to leave Sivas and I had no opportunity during the journey up now to write you a few words.

I thank you very much for your continued interest in Galene and I hope that she will prove worthy of all that you have done for her. I enclose a letter I received from her, not that it is anything wonderful, but it will perhaps serve to make her seem more real to you.

I am now on my way to Smyrna after a very pleasant vacation spent at Sivas—a town in the Interior, seven days' journey from the sea coast. Miss Pohl accompanied me as far as Marsovan, and the five days from there I was alone. Marsovan is called our "model missionary station," and it really deserves

The missionaries there are all such splendid people, and all their work, colleges for boys and girls, theological seminary, orphanages for boys and girls, hospital, medical and evangelistic work, all is most successfully carried on. It was quite an inspiration to visit the place, and Miss Pohl, who spent the summer there, is most enthusiastic over it all. Sivas is so much further in the Interior that it was quite like visiting another country. The people seemed so far behind. The women all go about enveloped in a white sheet. Imagine the ghostly appearance, and yet it is the only way they are safe from insult. The brides are often most cruelly treated by their mothers-in-law. Usually as soon as they get home from the church their mouths are tied up and they are either not allowed to speak at all in presence of the mother-in-law, or else only in a whisper. At one house where I visited, even when the mother-in-law was not in the room, the bride (who, by the way, had been married eight years and was the mother of two children), continued to speak in a whisper. We asked her why she did it, and she said she was so accustomed to it that she did it unconsciously. Generally the Protestants are rather better than the Gregorian or Orthodox in this respect, but even they, I think, do not always have an easy time. Altogether there is much more difference between Smyrna and Sivas than between Smyrna and America. The work there is not so extensive as in Sivas, but they have large orphanages, schools and evangelistic work. They are hoping to have a doctor, and really they need one, very, very much. I was very much struck by the faces of the girls in the orphanage. There was not one pretty one among them, and although not a girl was over 15, there were faces there I should have said belonged to women of 40. Probably because they have had such hard lives.

I must close this hurried scrawl now with warm love and thanks to all the friends.

From Miss Galene Philadelphus.

MAGNESSIA, August 3, 1898.

MY DEAR MISS MCCALLUM, — I am sure you will be surprised to receive a letter from me, because I seldom write letters, but I hope I will not be so any more. My aunt Ariadne has not come yet, and when she will I don't know.

My grandmother now is well. I am well, too, but I am rather tired of counting the days for school to begin. The books I took with me are finished. I wish I could write some book or poetry!

Now I have two scholars, so I am a teacher. The one I teach

a bit of arithmetic, and the other some reading. I am trying to teach myself some things, too, but that is very difficult. The easiest thing I try to teach myself is Armenian. I wonder if I will be able to learn it.

The other week I got some letters from some of the girls in Smyrna. Baidzar was telling me that she and I were going to take extra lessons this year.

My aunt Aspasia has gone to take some baths, so my grandmother and I are alone. My uncle, of course, comes home in the evening and goes off to work in the morning. My other uncle, with his wife and children, has gone to the vineyard. Much love from my grandmother. Good-by, my mother.

From the Literature Superintendent.

In preparing for our Annual Thank-offering we would call the attention of our Auxiliaries to new Leaflets just to hand—"Mrs. Warkwell's Change of Mind" and "Mrs. Stanton's Thank-offerings." The liberal distribution of these may help some whose lot has not been full of brightness to see there is yet much cause for thankfulness.

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