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# U. B. M. U. Tidings.

25 Cents per Year.

Vol. 6.      Amherst, N. S., December 1899.

No 70.

Motto for the Year. — Workers together with him.

### Prayer Topic.

For Bimlipatam, its missionaries and schools. that God would raise up faithful native preachers and Bible women and bring those to confess Christ that have so often heard of Him. For our Mission Bands and their Leaders.

#### Suggested Programme for Dec.

Singing.  
Reading Matthew 2.  
Prayer.  
Singing.  
Reading Minutes.  
Reading Tidings.  
Prayer by several, bearing on the topic.  
Singing.  
Suggestions as to Christmas work.  
Form plans for helping poor or sick in church or community.  
Roll Call.  
Closing Prayer.

#### Suggested Programme for Jan.

Prayer by President.  
Singing.  
Reading Ephesians 2.  
Prayer by several for divine guidance during the year.  
Reading Minutes.  
Reading Tidings.  
Prayer by two or three on topic.  
Singing.  
New Year's Greeting to each other in the shape of precious promises from the Father.  
Close with the Lord's prayer in unison.

### Notice.

Please remember that Mission Band and Sunday School monies are to be sent to

Mrs. A. G. Fownes,  
St. Martins, N. B.

### Letter For Tidings.

Dear Sisters ;—

The last mail from home brought the program as arranged for "Tidings" for the present year. I find you are expecting a message from me in December This may be too late but will hope for the best.

Some of you have been introduced to my Sabbath school class. Will each sister who reads this letter lift up her heart in prayer for God's blessing upon these little ones ?

The opening exercises of the school over, the primary

class passes into a room off one end the chapel verandah. Before taking up the lesson for the day, it is our custom to spend a few moments in prayer. The children are taught that Jesus loves to hear them pray if they mean the words they say, and are encouraged to do so at this time. Often we begin with a short talk on prayer, after which each child is asked to name some one thing for which he desires to thank the Father or for which he wishes to ask. Then all heads are bowed and as many as feel moved to do so, offer short sentence prayers for that which they previously specified. Thus we have a variety of petitions and each feels he has a part in this blessed season.

Sunday, Oct. 1st, we commenced in this way, when my turn came, I said I had some thing very special to ask Jesus and went on to tell the children that baby Frances was not well, all night she had suffered so she could not sleep. She was better, but I wanted to ask Jesus to please make her entirely well.

The same evening the Lord sent his angels to this home. We did not see them enter: we hardly realized they might be hovering over her whose every movement we anxiously watched. She was dear to each of us; she had brought much sunshine into each of our lives; day by day she was growing inexpressibly sweeter and dearer and more essential, we thought to the happiness of this home. But the loving Father who never makes the slightest error, had sent that ray of sunshine for four short months only, and the time had come when He wanted that darling one in Heaven, wanted her there free from all pain and free from all sin, wanted her sweet baby voice to swell the angelic chorus of praise from infant lips, wanted her to draw the thoughts of those who loved her most, more from earth to Heaven. So the angels carried the little lamb to Jesus' bosom and the hearts which had thrilled with joy and gladness unspeakable, when they had received that precious treasure, were aching and bleeding because of what it cost to give her again to the Giver. But the God of all comfort stood by them, so-laced them, wiped the tears from their eyes, filled with His own blessed presence the lonely hours, opened Heaven to them and shewed them its beauty and freedom from pain and sickness and all of those things which had made their hearts

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quiver as they had watched their dear one suffer, whilst they who love her most were powerless to bear the pain or to relieve her of it. In a word he caused them to realize their treasure was in heaven where pain cannot torture nor sin defile. where the sun cannot light on her nor any heat. They felt this was so exceedingly far better that although there were aching hearts and empty arms and tearful eyes, there was also a peace, a joy, a trust, that was sublime. Thus the Father turned our thoughts toward Heaven as never before had they been.

In our private study, in the hour for family worship, in the Bible classes taught, it seems impossible, were we so inclined, to talk of anything other than what the Word reveals to us of the home where there are pleasures for evermore. Those mansions which Jesus went to prepare, have become so real that sometimes it seems but thinly the veil intervenes between that fair city and us.

Another Sabbath came. I felt the Lord would have me tell the children of the country to which little Frances had been taken. Perchance their fear of death might be somewhat removed and their thoughts turned from the things of earth for a time; they might be helped to realize this world is not our home, but there is a land of pure delight where all may enter, and above all might learn of the way thither. There was a full attendance that day—fifteen of us gathered around the sand map, but it was something for which we had no use that day. No approach to that similitude of the land "beyond the cloud and beyond the tomb" could be effected with sand, its jasper walls and golden streets, its pure river clear as crystal, could not even be suggested thereby.

I reminded the children that the previous Sunday we had asked Jesus to please make baby well, but this morning she was not on earth at all; people said she was dead. Had God not heard our prayer? Or having heard had He not answered? In the class were five boys from heathen homes. "Oh that they might receive some lasting impression!" was the prayer of my heart. Immediately I had asked the question, one of these boys replied that God had not answered our prayer. I turned to Marion. "Little Sister" was indeed her heart's delight; she long had hoped and prayed for her. I

seemed her tender heart must surely break when told this dearly loved sister had gone to a land where she could not be with her for a time. It was not so—Jesus wanted “little sister,” and she could give her to Him and pray, “Thank you, Jesus, because you let us have Frances for a little while and thank you because you took her to your house where there are no bad boils and no fever” “Yes,” said Marion, “Jesus did hear us and He made baby well.”

Very earnest was the talk that followed. We spoke of God's knowing the very best way in which to answer our prayers; then I tried to make real to them that baby Frances had not ceased to exist, it was only the beautiful little house in which she lived that had been buried she was with Jesus. She had gone to another country, as I had left my father and mother to come to this land. They missed me at home and would love to see me, were it possible, but they did not think that because I was not with them, I was not at all, they thought of me as being in India. This land to which Frances had gone was so much better than India or even than my country, that I could not begin to tell them of its beauty; I did not know the half myself. We all might go there but we could not take our sin for nothing that in anyway defileth is allowed entrance into that pure home. How then could we go? As the Spirit gave me power I showed them Jesus who takes away sin, who is the way, in whom believing we shall never die. The attention was better than ever before, I think. Every child seemed touched and we trust that some among them received impressions which will deepen until they are constrained to enter the path leading to that land where “there shall be no more curse.”

Sincerely yours,

Bimlipatam. Oct. 17, 1899

Ida M. Newcombe.

### Notes from Nova Scotia.

Two Misson Bands have been formed since our new year came in—one at South Brookfield Queens Co. “Little Helpers” with seventeen members. Miss Laura Crooker is President and Miss Ethel D. Freeman, Secretary. The other is at Morganville, Bear River, with twenty-five

members Miss Jessie Tinkham is President ; Miss Jessie Harris, Secretary. We cordially welcome these new workers, and pray and expect that they may grow in knowledge of this great work to which the Lord has called them.

Since the year began we have also had three Life members. The last is Mrs. E. A. Brancroft of Walton, Hants Co. This membership was presented to one sister by her Sunday School class. Are there not other classes who will do the same ?

Dear Sisters in our Aid Societies and Bands let us not forget "our work" during this busy Christmas season. Can we not make our gifts to each other a little smaller and so have a larger one for Him without whose love this Christmas season would never have been ours ?

At a teachers meeting lately the subject of a Christmas tree for the scholars came up for discussion, when a teacher said :—"Cannot we do better than having a tree ? Why not teach the children the pleasure of GIVING instead of always letting them think they must RECEIVE." Teach them to give instead of to get. The suggestion is a good one we pass it on.

A happy Christmas to all the readers of Tidings—happy in the love of Him "who for our sakes became poor that we through His poverty might be rich."

Yours in his name,  
A. E. Johnston  
Sec'y N. S.

At the residence of Mrs. Allison Smith, Halifax, on Thursday afternoon Nov. 16th, the Home Mission Committee held their first meeting for 1899. All members present. It was unanimously decided to print in the M. & V. as well as Dec. "Tidings," a copy of the following resolution, which was passed at the Women's Meetings, held at St. Martin's on July last.

"In view of the urgent necessity for work among the Doukhobors and the Gallicians, and where as we are asked to aid in supporting Mr. Burgdorf, therefore resolved that the presidents of Aid Societies be urged to collect ten cents from everyone for the support of this Missionary, this collection to be in addition to the offering for Home Missions in the es-

timates of the W. B. M. U. It is urged that special collectors be appointed for this matter. The money to be sent to the Treasurer of the W. B. M. U., Mrs. Mary Smith, Amherst, N. S., and through her to the Treasurer of the Women's Board in Winnipeg."

In view of the fact that Xmas is so close upon us, and extra collections will perhaps be more felt than later on, it was also thought best, not to ask the Societies to take the 10 cent collection until January meeting, but whenever it is taken, will the sisters please bear in mind the words of our Lord, as quoted in our Home Mission Report, namely: "The STRANGER that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself, for ye were strangers in the Land of Egypt."

"The Lord loveth a cheerful giver."

M. E. Hume,

Sec'y of Com.

### Mission Band Lesson.

#### HEATHEN HOMES IN INDIA.

Question Do the Telugus live scattered on farms throughout the country?

Answer They have some large cities, but generally live in small compact villages containing five hundred or more people.

Q. Why is this? A. Formerly it was for protection. Now it is custom, and the Hindoos are slow to adopt anything new.

Q. Are there many villages? A. Yes, they occur every three or four miles.

Q. Do all castes mingle here? A. Different castes live separately each in its own hamlet. For example, the Brahmins occupy one hamlet; the Merchants, another, and the Artisans, another.

Q. Are the streets like ours? A. No, they are very narrow and crooked.

Q. How are the buildings located? A. They are built in groups of three or four, facing one another.

Q. Of what material are they constructed? A. The

walls are built of mud or of stone laid in mud, with thatched roofs, and surrounded by a high mud wall.

Q. Is this material suitable? A. Yes, for there is not a great deal of rain, and as clay is a non-conductor of heat, it is cool inside.

Q. Do the people clean house as we do? A. Instead of this, most Hindoos take white cow's manure (for the white cow is sacred) and mix it somewhat as we mix whitewash, and plaster the walls and floors for the sake of purifying them.

Q. Do they drive out and destroy the insects? A. No, indeed. To kill a bug, a fly, or even a misquito, is a sin.

Q. Are the houses airy? A. They are low and poorly ventilated.

Q. Inside the house, do they have chairs, stoves, books, etc., such as we do. A. No, they sit on rugs, do not use knives and forks, and the majority, especially the women are unable to read.

Q. What is one thing they are sure to have? A. Some idol to which they bow down and worship.

Q. What is the daily routine? A. Very early, after worship and a light meal of rice, or grain and milk every one goes to work; the farmer to his field; the goldsmith to the verandah; the washerwoman to the tank to beat clothes on a flat stone. At noon another light meal is followed by one or two hours' chat or sleep. At dark, they stop work, eat the hearty meal of the day, consisting of rice and curry, and smoke before retiring at an early hour.

Q. Do the women enjoy life as companions of their husbands? A. No, they are generally married between six and twelve years and are taught their highest duty is to serve their husbands well.

Q. Do men and women eat together? A. The women first wait on their husbands, and eat what is left.

Q. Do they have much freedom? A. They are kept in as great seclusion as the wealth of the household will permit.

Q. Upon what does the woman's happiness depend? A. Upon the kind of mother-in-law she happens to live with, upon her devotion to her husband, and upon her children, for sons bring much joy, and daughters are no blessing. A widow's life is very sad.



Q. Do the little children require much care? A. Oh, yes, if a little boy sneezes or yawns some utterance is made by an older person to ward off evil.

Q. Is the religion so much a part of daily life? A. The gods of disease must be propitiated; even the food must be prepared in certain ways or some evil will result.

Q. What are some of the bad habits in the home? A. Smoking, deceit, falsehood and gossip.

Q. Name another bad habit? A. The habit of drinking toddy.

Q. Does not religion prohibit drink? A. It does, but nevertheless much of it is done. The lower classes drink toddy, the higher something stronger.

Q. What is toddy? A. It is the sap of the palm tree, gathered somewhat in the same manner as our maple sap is obtained, by tapping the trees.

Q. Why is drinking intoxicants such an evil? A. It destroys both mind, body and soul.

Q. What can we do to put down the evil? A. Ask our Heavenly Father what our duty is, and then KNOWING it, be enthusiastic to do it.

Q. For which cause is more money expended—liquor or missions? A. Many times more is wasted in drink than is given to help God's work in uplifting humanity.

Q. Is not this a sad condition for our own land? Shall we not PRAY and DO all we can against this awful evil both in our own land, and also among the people our missionaries in India are trying to help? Shall we not, in God's strength try to brighten and enlighten the homes that know not him?

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Band Leaders might read at next meeting Isa. XXVI 1-16. Try to make the children picture the difference the Gospel has made in our Christian homes compared with the heathen homes in India. Oh, the bliss and joy that may be ours by having Christ as our Elder Brother, and God as our loving Heavenly Father! The "perfect peace" of him "whose mind is stayed" on God! As the joyous Christmas approaches let us not forget our distant sisters and brothers both by gifts and prayers.

Miss Newcombe's letter for Mission Bands had to be withheld for want of space.