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W. B. M. U. TIDINGS.

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS PER YEAR.

Vol. 4.

Amherst, N. S., July., 1897.

No. 42.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR.

"Workers together with Him."

PRAYER TOPIC.

For our Home Mission work in these provinces, that the laborers may be encouraged and a host be won to the Lord.

Suggested Program for July.

HYMN.

PRAYER.

SCRIPTURE, John 4 : 27-42.

HYMN.

PRAYER by several sisters, for our workers on the H. M. Fields.

READING. Tidings.

HYMN.

PRAYER.

LOCAL Treasurer's report.

QUESTION by President. Is it possible for us to send in an extra offering this month?

CLOSING PRAYER, giving the money raised by the Society to the Lord and asking Him to bless it.

Suggested Program for August.

HYMN.

SILENT PRAYER, followed by audible prayer by the Leader.

HYMN.

SCRIPTURE.

PRAYER by several.

MINUTES of last meeting.

READING. Tidings.

HYMN.

TREASURERS report for the year.

DISCUSSION. What can we as a Society do to help the leader of our Mission Bands, and make the work more effective.

CLOSING hymn and prayer.

NOTE. If there is no Mission Band the above discussion may be changed to—"What is our duty as an Aid Society towards the children?"

Mistake in Statistical Sheet.

The mark denoting "on Furlough" after the names of Mr. and Mrs. Guilison, Miss Newcombe and Miss Harrison should not have been there. They are not on furlough, but at work.

To the County Secretaries of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Dear Sisters :

You will remember that at our last annual meeting it was decided that in future the Provincial Secretaries send out the blank forms to be filled in by the secretaries of our Aid Societies and Mission Bands, these forms when filled in to be returned to the Provincial Secretary.

This is more in accordance with our Constitution (vide p. 6., Art. 8 of ann. report) and we are sure will in a little while commend itself to all.

Will you therefore make out your reports from the work done by you as County Secretaries during the year, either by visiting or correspondence?

Kindly state the number of Societies and Bands visited; the number of letters and post cards written; and the amount of literature you may have distributed; also make any suggestions which may occur to you relative to the work. These reports must reach each Provincial Secretary *not later* than July 30th.

Thanking you for your co-operation during the year, and praying for a rich blessing on the work already accomplished and wisdom for the future.

We remain, yours in the work,

AMY E. JOHNSTON,
Prov. Sec'y for N. S.

MARGARET S. COX,
Prov. Sec'y for N. B.

The following are extracts culled from Mrs. Churchill's letter to Miss

Prince—in regard to the heathen boy, Somina, supported by the Lewisville Aid Society:—

Your letters received, and am very glad that you take such an interest in our Somina.

Swamie is what he is mostly called, but that is their name for God, so we do not like him to have just that name and call him Somina instead. He is a nice boy, smart at learning and a good boy. When Mr. Churchill is away he sometimes leads the morning Telugu prayers, and when he explains the chapter he reads, he always has some good thoughts to give us. He is attending school and never misses a day and is now studying for the Lower Secondary examination, this is 3 years below matriculation.

I have called him this afternoon and asked him to write you a letter, so when he was done he brought it to me and the enclosed is the translation of it into English as nearly as I could make it intelligible to you. It is about half Telugu and half English idiom. I thought you would enjoy it more to be as near like the original than if I changed it into good English.

He has begun the study of English but has not progressed very far yet, as the teacher who taught English went away and I have not been able to procure another one.

I taught the class myself for some months, but I had to give it up. Miss Harrison says she will be glad to take

it, until I get another teacher.

I have a photo of him and Somina taken together. It is good of the former but not good of Somina. He is almost always smiling and is willing to do anything he is asked to do. If anything is wanted his name is the first to be called.

On-Saturdays he works in the garden or sweeps up the leaves, or does anything there is to do about the place, and thus he is growing up a strong body as well as an educated mind, and a soul turned toward God, in which we believe the Holy Spirit dwells.

By God's help my very dear friends, I write the following :—

By God's grace and your believing prayers, we are all happy and well. That you are enjoying the same by faith in God I believe.

I have faith in Christ and this great good that I have received. I wish always to tell to the heathen around me, that is during my life time. That I may do this and always live in Christ while I live world, for me please pray. This is my great request of you. And concerning you I also will pray.

You are sending my needed support, this I learn from my dorasanni (Mrs. Churchill) and it gives me great joy, and I send my great loving salaams (thanks) to you for it.

Please do not forget to pray for my spiritual good as well as remember my bodily needs. When you write to my

dorasanni, please write to me too.

Your thankful boy,

M. SOMINA.

From the Treasurer.

In every part of life's work, there comes a crisis, and upon the decision or action of that hour, future success or failure largely depends.

We have just reached that point as a Union in our year's work. We are entering the last month; are we planning for increased effort? determining in God's strength to make this "month" the grandest in our history, both spiritually and financially, that "The stakes shall be strengthened and the cords lengthened" in our Christ's Kingdom? That as redeemed women we will not be at "ease in Zion," but will resolve that success shall mark the year's work in our Union, and this closing month shall have more prayer and work for Christ woven into its days than any preceding one has had.

Individual responsibility in the work is what we must feel. If "this is my work" could be imbedded in each of our hearts, mine, because it is Christ's, and I am His, and I am a worker together with Him, then only songs of success and victory to Him who has redeemed us will be ours at the months' close.

Miss Newcombe's Letter for Tidings.

My first letter to you—what shall I say? Just six months ago to-day I

was bidding good-bye to the dear home and its loved ones, and to the home friends. It seems as if I still can hear the sweet strains of that hymn "God be with you till we meet again," as it came floating to me as the train moved away. The future lay before me then unknown, untried, —not one step before me could I see, but the Father was so near and whispered, "Lo, I am with you alway," "And the Lord. He it is that doth go before thee: He will be with thee. He will not fail thee, neither forsake thee, fear not, neither be dismayed."

Now six months of that future has joined the past, and the prayer that followed me that day as I left home has been most beautifully answered. God has been with me.

Six months gone! Can it be possible? In some ways the time seems so short and has been so filled with new experiences that come crowding into my mind that I hardly know of what to write. But the months have not passed without my learning some lessons, such blessed ones, such as only the Father can teach. One of these has been that happiness is not wholly dependent upon surroundings. I find myself much happier and more contented here than at home. Why? Because I am in the place the Lord would have me and I know now as I never knew before that, "Anywhere without Him, dearest joys would fade," but, "Anywhere with Jesus is a house

of praise." Truly "He turneth the wilderness into a standing water and dry ground into water-springs."

Since coming here it has been my privilege to witness three baptisms, two in the Bay of Bengal and one in the baptistry in the mission compound. Both were most impressive scenes, more so than any I ever witnessed in the home land I think, perhaps because those who were thus obeying Christ in this ordinance were those who had come out of heathenism. Once they worshipped gods made by men, now they are publicly professing their faith—no longer in gods that cannot save, but in the One mighty to save. Let persecution come, as is generally the case, let friends forsake and they of their own house become their enemies, let them be made outcasts, yet as for them they will serve the Lord.

How small and insignificant seemed everything which had to be given up in coming here, while witnessing those baptisms. Here were three souls once in the awful darkness of heathenism, now rejoicing in Him who is the light of the world. Would that not recompense anyone for toiling many years in India? But God has still better things in store for us, I am sure, and the coming year shall witness many of these Telugus accepting Him who died for them.

Many times, dear sisters, have I wished that you could have attended the Telugu Association held at Chica-

cole last January, and seen that goodly number of our Telugu brothers and sisters, redeemed ones, singing praises unto God; and though you could not understand one word they said I am sure you would have enjoyed their songs and prayers because in them you would doubtless behold some of those whom God is gathering out of every tribe and kindred and tongue of all them that dwell upon the face of the earth and with whom we shall one day join in singing praises "unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood."

I feel certain that could you have been there the scene would have dispelled all discouragement and have proven an incentive to yet greater efforts in this work on the part of all of you, while in louder and more impressive tones than heretofore, you would hear, "be not weary in well-doing for in due season ye shall reap if ye faint not."

But oh, my sisters, the great, awful, crying, unmet need of these our *brothers* and *sisters* forces itself upon me as it never did and never could at home. They die so fast, there are so few to teach, and they grasp the truth so slowly, therefore, sisters, "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth laborers into His harvest."

Sincerely yours,

IDA M. NEWCOMBE.

Kelso Cottage,

Ootacamund, April 27, 1897.

Home Mission Work, its Importance and Needs.

"There is much truth in the old saying, "Distance lends enchantment to the view." This is illustrated in the view we sometimes take of the service to which the Master calls us. The duties near at hand seem to be unimportant and those further off the only ones worthy of serious attention.

For this reason Home Mission Work fails to receive the attention its importance demands. The fields of labor are at our own doors. The laborers mingle with us regularly in our gatherings. The results of their labors are reported in much the same way as other pastors.

But whatever may be thought of it, this work of Home Missions is most important. To it we owe the very existence of our Denomination. The first preachers of the Baptist doctrine in these provinces were Home Missionaries. The first pastors, the "Fathers" as we call them spent much of their time in Mission work. Had this work not been done the Baptists would not occupy the place they do to-day.

What was done in this irregular way still needs to be continued, only with more system and regularity. Scores of weak Churches need the fostering care of the Denomination and waste places need to be cultivated that they may become gardens of the Lord.

In order to make satisfactory provision for this work in Nova Scotia and P. E. Island the Board needs an annual income of at least \$6000. This sum wisely expended would give to our weak Churches regular pastoral care and sustain two general missionaries to do pioneering or other work as circumstances may require.