

*Kate C. Campbell*

## W. F. M. SOCIETY.

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### SPECIAL NOTICE.

TORONTO, March 1st, 1885.

It is earnestly desired that all our Auxiliaries and Mission Bands may be represented this year at our annual gathering, to be held in the City of Ottawa on the second Tuesday and Wednesday of April.

The Ottawa Society extends to us a cordial and generous invitation, and we expect a large gathering from the Societies in the east.

If in any case, distance should interfere with attendance, perhaps some friend in the more immediate neighborhood could represent that Society or Mission Band.

Ladies who intend being present will kindly send their names to MRS. ERSKINE BRONSON, Concession Street, Ottawa, who will provide homes for them during their stay.

Certificates to travel at reduced rates may be obtained on application to MRS. HUGH CAMPBELL, 194 Richmond Street West, Toronto.

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*Foreign Letters issued March, 1885.*

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MRS. BUILDER'S LETTER.

CANADIAN MISSION,

MHOW, CENTRAL INDIA, Dec. 28, 1884.

*My Dear Mrs. Harvie,—*

I was very glad to get your kind letter, and am happy to be able to give you any news of the work here that will likely in-

terest you and other Christian ladies. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and Miss Beatty arrived last Friday. They left Miss Bell ill in Scotland. The day after their arrival we had all the Missionaries of Indore and Mhow here at breakfast, and as the staff now numbers fourteen, they made quite a happy gathering. Thus far Mr. and Mrs. Wilson seem agreeably surprised and delighted with India. This is our cool and most pleasant season. The weather is just lovely at present—the flowers and foliage are looking their prettiest just after the rains. I am now sitting with a shawl about my shoulders and find it most comfortable. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson purpose remaining with us for a time, and it is a real pleasure having them. We have missed our friends and all Christian associations so much since we left; but this is the greatest trial of a missionary life; but labor is sweet for Him, although to perform it sends friends far away, and sweeter from the very fact that the sacrifice it now costs will enhance the blessedness of the rest when the resting time comes. Mr. Builder is enjoying good health and is just getting into work; is preaching in Hindustani, and at the same time is studying Hindi. The more one becomes acquainted with the people, the more they can sympathize and realize the need of the Gospel here. From what we have observed and heard a missionary requires great tact, patience, and readiness in argument to converse with the people and meet the objections they bring forward. They are very conservative, and many who are convinced of the truth are timid to confess Christ on account of the persecution they would have to endure. To give an illustration. Mr. Builder's Moonshee (Teacher), who is head Priest among the Mohammedans, has several times owned his belief in Christianity, and admits that he has not the courage to come from his people as he fears that they even might secretly seek to put him to death, and there are times when one would be moved to tears to see his uneasiness and unhappiness of mind. Other illustrations of a similar character could be given, but let this do for the present, as I would like to give you some facts in connexion with the Mission-lady workers here and at Indore. Miss Boger is in her new school-room which was recently put up for her on the compound of the Mission Church. I understand the number of her pupils is about fifty, average attendance about forty. Twenty Parsi and Bengali girls are studying English,

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and thirty Hindi girls Hindi. The English classes are very regular in attendance, and she hopes to have a Girls' High School with this good beginning. One Parsi girl is studying geography, grammar, and arithmetic. The new building is a great comfort and help, as she has separate rooms for the different classes. It is her expectation that it may develop into a High School, she is devoting her whole time to it and Zenana visiting. Miss McGregor's work is somewhat different; she has several schools in Indore city, and thus far has been allowed to carry them on without very much interference, she employs native teachers and visits each school to give religious instruction. In addition she has a kind of normal class for training teachers and Bible women. I happened to be visiting at her bungalow one day while she was teaching it. Their attention and earnestness was pleasing to witness, and they sang the hymns apparently with so much heart. She has told me of many encouraging things that she has met with, some I will mention. A few days ago a native gentleman gave forty rupees (a rupee is 40 cents) in clothing and books to the children belonging to one of the schools. Other natives have also given small sums to show their interest in girls' schools. An official in charge of educational affairs, visited one of her schools and expressed his satisfaction, and said he would be willing to visit all the other schools; but she has to be careful in order to avoid the opposition of the more bigoted. In connexion with visiting work a few simple instances may be given. One time a woman who at first refused to see her, and was angry because she read in her house afterwards met with an accident and was obliged to go to the hospital. While there she met with a Bible woman, and told her she was sure God had punished her for refusing to hear His word, and when she recovered she gathered all her neighbors together to listen to the good story of the Bible. A poor village woman wept freely while listening, and said, "Do come again, I have never heard God's Word before." Often the question is asked, where did you get God's Word from? A native woman who was suffering very much repeated a line of a Marathi hymn, and said, "I have often thought, it is true, Jesus is the best friend." Once a woman was gently reproved for appearing to take no thought about the things of another world when she replied, "Oh I do think about Christ, and

when I'm grinding my corn I like to sing the hymns I've often heard from yore."

Miss Ross, a few months ago, had an experience of petty interference on the part of one of the officials. He ordered her school closed, and succeeded in breaking it up, and his horse died the next day, and he thought that this was a punishment from God on account of his unkind action; consequently he allowed her school to be re-opened, and there has been no interference since. She has only the one school at present, and gives much of her time to Zenana visiting. Mr. Builder thinks that these young ladies have a very solid footing at Indore, and also thinks that their work is of the greatest importance on account of the peculiar state of society here. Male missionaries when preaching in the Bazar and villages, rarely have women listeners, and not being admitted to their homes have no opportunity of teaching them, until Christianity reaches the homes it will have very little prosperity in this country. The same here as elsewhere, the lessons received from mothers have the greater influence on the minds of their children. The two young girls working with us here have told us much to convince us of this fact, but time will not permit me to tell of their work just now.

I have a project in view, that I would like to explain, it is a new branch of work and can be carried on along with teaching, hitherto work amongst the women has been confined to visiting in the homes and school work; when any of the women become Christians they are trained for Bible teachers, but many have not the ability for this and the question is what to do with them, as they naturally spend their time in gossiping, which leads to quarreling, and you know something of the suffering of the widows in this land how that many of them are driven to prostitution through cruel treatment and inability to earn their own living in a right way. My plan is to have a sort of an industrial home, that would in time be self-supporting. It could be associated with a boarding school or carried on independently. If a suitable building could be provided which would be a home for widows, we might expect a number to choose this rather than their wicked and unhappy life. The cost of carrying it on would be very little, if anything, as they would according to their ability receive wages, sufficient for

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their own support. A large portion of their work could be disposed of here and when the number of workers would increase so that all work could not be disposed of here, perhaps we might open a market in America. Many of them are apt in picking up all kinds of fancy work and plain sewing. I have already started something of the kind on a very small scale, and I enclose some samples of what my Ayah has learned since she has been with me. I have sold several yds. of her work, also of another woman's (the wife of one of the Christian workers) who was trained in the Mission School. She is very apt in all such work and could be used as one of the teachers. My Ayah has learned to use the sewing machine quite readily, and does all my plain sewing. Others seeing her work have asked to be taught. I have spoken to some of the English ladies regarding this work and they kindly approved of the plan, as they would prefer to get such things here rather than send to England for them, particularly children's clothing, underwear for ladies, edgings, &c. I am also writing to some *friends* in the States, who kindly offered to take an interest in anything that we were engaged in out here. I would like to receive the opinion of the ladies at home, and know if they could aid to the extent of providing a building. Could it be realized how much such work is needed here, and how it would give the opportunity to so many to hear of Christ and receive eternal life from Him, I am sure it would cost little effort to get it up. It is the Spirit's power and presence that can alone give the increase to all such practical efforts, and in him we will *trust*.

Believe me yours sincerely,

M. KATE BUILDER

NOTE.—Special attention should be given to Mrs. Builder's letter in reference to our lady missionaries' work.

MISS BEATTY'S LETTER.

INDORE, Jan. 14, 1885.

*My Dear Mrs. Harvie,*—

Your very kind letter was welcomed as such things only are when the recipient is far from home. But I am not going to give you a blue account of these first few weeks in India—

quite the contrary. I have found the country far more lovely than I expected. Someone who knows India advised me not to write much till I had seen a good deal, and I believe the advice was a good one. I shall not say much about the ladies' work for I believe Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Builder have written about the schools. I was very greatly pleased with the schools. Though there should not be one single member added to the church here for years, the time and work are not lost. The Christian teaching and the training to think for themselves that these bright little girls are getting now must, and will shew themselves some time, though it may not be till "after many days"; and we are sure of this, "In due season we shall reap if we faint not." As we have therefore opportunity let us do good unto all men; and there is ample room here to do good. As the preaching of the Gospel is hindered, it seems to me impossible to estimate the importance of the schools.

Of my own work I cannot say much, because I am not into it yet. The language is my care, and though it seems very slow I hope to get a few words into my brain and tongue soon. Mr. Wilkin has quite a large practice, and I go up to his dispensary and observe what is to be seen—what I am thus learning will be of great use to me when my own dispensary shall be opened. I shall be so glad when I can talk to my patients directly, then I shall feel that my day of usefulness has arrived. I had a short letter from Miss Bell last week—was so glad to hear directly from her—she is so patient that it did me good to read her letter, though it made me wish more and more that she had been allowed to come on with us.

It is very comical the way business is done in this country. I wanted a few yards of muslin and cotton wherewith to make my room like home, but instead of going down to the shop as I should have done at home, I let the merchant know that I wanted these things, and he brought several pieces of goods for me to choose from, so I did my shopping sitting right here on our own verandah. In the same way the shoemaker came and took measures for shoes. I would like to give a description of the bazaar but it is a perfectly hopeless task. The place is a perpetual wonder to me. I feel sometimes as though I must have been shot backwards in time to a century or two before the flood; then all at once I see in the midst of the jumble some

modern article or invention, and I wonder how it ever got there.

Kindest remembrance to Mrs. Ewart and Mrs. McLaren.  
The Lord bless, and prosper, and guide you in his work.

Sincerely Yours,

E. R. BEATTY.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We acknowledge with thanks, receipt of annual reports of work, from Rev. K. J. Grant, San Fernando, Rev. J. Morton, Tunapuna, and Rev. J. R. Wright, Conva, Trinidad. Also, circular letter from Mrs. Morton, and interesting letter from Miss Blackadder, Prinestown. We rejoice in the progress of mission work in this field, and pray for the continued presence and blessing of God.

#### NEW PRESBYTERIAL SOCIETY.

On the 27th January the Toronto Presbyterial Society was formed in connection with Toronto Presbytery.

Three representatives from each of the four auxiliaries in the Presbytery met with the Board, Mrs. Ewart presiding, to consider the propriety of forming the Society.

The meeting unanimously decided in favor of it, and the organization was at once cordially proceeded with. The auxiliaries are Agincourt, Central Church, Toronto, Murray, Mitchell, Toronto, and Burns, Toronto.

Officers — Mrs. Harvie, President; Mrs. J. R. Crawford, Mrs. Duff, and Mrs. Carlyle, Vice-Presidents; Mrs. Alexander, Secretary; Mrs. Rolls, Treasurer.

#### NEW AUXILIARY.

On 3rd February an auxiliary was organized at North Branch, Glengarry Presbytery, by Miss Minnie Fraser.