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# Monthly Letter Leaflet.

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.

(WESTERN DIVISION.)

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VOL. III. TORONTO, APRIL, 1887. No. 12.

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## SPECIAL NOTICE.

TORONTO, April 1st, 1887.

The eleventh Annual Meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Western Division, will be held in Old St. Andrew's Church, Jarvis Street, Toronto, on Tuesday and Wednesday, 12th and 13th April.

The ladies will meet in the schoolroom on Tuesday, at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m., and on Wednesday, at 2.30 p.m. The Board of Management will meet on Wednesday morning, at 10 o'clock. A public meeting will be held in the church on Tuesday evening, at 8 o'clock.

Ladies who intend being present will kindly send their names and addresses to Mrs. Kirkland, 402 Jarvis Street, Toronto, who will provide homes for them.

Certificates to travel at reduced rates can be had on application to Mrs. Campbell, 194 Richmond Street West, Toronto.

The ladies of Toronto extend a cordial invitation to all interested friends.

Certificate holders will please remember that, previously to returning home, they must be signed by Mrs. Campbell in Toronto.

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## NEWS OF FOREIGN MISSION WORK.

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### EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS FROM MISS WIGHT.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, Jan. 21st, 1887.

I have now been four days in the Indian school. I did not commence work immediately on my arrival in Portage la Prairie,

but stayed four days in the town, kindly entertained by Mrs. McLeod, one of the ladies who are so very much interested in the school. So far there are only six children who stay day and night; I cannot say permanently, as they are all within reach of their tents, and we cannot tell what moment they may wish to return to them. There are also day pupils—fathers, uncles, etc., of the children; these are quite anxious to learn. Two of them, David and Peter, read in the second part of the first book, and write well in that class. I shall not forget to tell you in the future of their progress. One of them is getting quite gray-haired. He has—as indeed all of them have—long, long hair; his brother has bangs. It is distressing to see the children as they appear in the morning. Just fancy the appearance of especially the boys before their hair is combed and braided, a task which they very unwillingly commence, and not without a great many refusals. Quite different from what I expected, they have not the least dread or restraint at my presence, and care little indeed for my commands. It is well I do not understand their language, for when I tell them to do anything they answer by what I know is impudence in their own language. However, on the commands being often repeated, they, after much delay, generally obey. They are by no means stupid, but very unwilling to do work of any kind, and although they understand a good deal of English they do not talk anything but in their own language, except when they are playing at "Pussy wants a corner." I am glad that I commenced at meal times by sitting at the table with them, which I did at first with a great effort, but I find there a grand opportunity of teaching, also they try to imitate me there. I hope yet to win their affections. But above all I hope to be used by God our strength, upon whom I feel my dependence more than ever, in leading them to a merciful and loving Saviour. Earnestly ask God's blessings upon us, and He will bless us. It is a source of very great comfort to believe that prayers are being offered up in our behalf. An Indian chief visited us; also Mr. Solomon, the Indian preacher, who read and addressed the school in the Indian language, and seemed to be very earnest. We are well protected from the cold weather, having two heating stoves and a cooking stove, with plenty of splendid wood. We never feel the cold indoors, except in the mornings, before our stoves, which do their work with admirable speed, get properly to work. It has been as cold as 40° below zero since I came here, and sometimes quite windy, and we certainly feel the cold if exposed to it, but as it is a dry cold, and

not piercing, it is not nearly so much felt as the same degree of cold would be in Ontario.

I fear you will not find this letter interesting, but kindly bear with it ; and again I say, Remember us in your prayers.

Feb. 4th, 1887.

The bedding having just arrived affords me an opportunity of writing you a few lines, as I should like to receive a letter from you. The prospects are not very bright, and I could not stay here on any consideration in human strength alone, nor could I stay to train the children to be useful and intelligent, as some think my mission is. But if, from a merely human standpoint, the prospects are dark, they are bright as the sun, viewing the matter from the standpoint that God has taken me here to do a work for Him, and I praise Him for the opportunity. I know that many prayers are being offered up for us ; and they are being answered, for God is specially mindful of us, and shows us that He is with us, and I thoroughly believe that He has led one little girl to love our dear Redeemer. I had been telling her of the love of Jesus, and never more than then did I feel and realize my own impotence, and committed the matter, while I spoke in simple words, to the Spirit of the living God, who I believe put love to Jesus in her heart. She is by no means obedient to me yet, but always pleased to say that she loves Jesus. Don't you think she is a Christian ? Some of the ladies and myself are going out to the houses of the Indians to try to gather in children. It is a very hard matter yet to keep them ; they want to return after we have had them a few days, and in fact steal away when they get an opportunity. It is entirely impossible to keep a constant watch over them, and a very few minutes is sufficient for them to steal themselves away. They dislike very much to work, but learn to read remarkably readily. I hope that we will succeed in getting them to prefer staying here to going to their homes. As they come they are indeed very dirty ; their houses must be terrible. When we go for the children I shall see them. The ladies here are a noble band. Some of them call almost every day, and take a profound interest in the school. With regard to the bedding that has just arrived, we have not opened it. We will do so when first the ladies call, as it is in splendid order, I am sure, just as you sent it, a splendid-looking large parcel. It is cheering to look at it. I shall refer to it in my next letter to you.

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EXTRACTS FROM MISS ROSE'S, PIAPOT'S RESERVE.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION, Jan. 29th, 1887.

The boxes all arrived safe and in good condition. The things were extremely good. It is marvellous how God is stirring up His people to give. What shall we render unto the Lord for all His goodness to us? Also from Whitby ten bales, all shipped from Myrtle Station, and were all packed, or at least all covered, with the same canvas, and shipped by Mrs. McClelland, who must have been very tired, as I know I was before all was sorted into piles. The most of the clothing sent is for men, and I would like to say that they are much better clad than women and children, as man in the savage state is a very selfish being.

Feb. 7th, 1887.

Mother is very well, and would like to be with you at your expected meeting in Woodstock. She will be with you in sympathies strong and tender. You will have received the acknowledgment of goods received from Whitby ere this. I found a letter here and there among the goods, all of which letters I have answered. Some things have the name of the donor attached, some none. I hope all are assured of my appreciation, though I may not respond as gracefully as they may expect. I know it is not done for me, but for the dear Master, who loved us and gave Himself for us; even a cup of cold water given for His sake He will not overlook. We love Him because He first loved us. "We live by loving, and by serving love will grow." Here, I seem to be always in a hurry, but I hope in time to become accustomed to the burden, and rejoice in the promise, "If we are partakers of His sufferings we shall be partakers also of His glory."

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REV. JOHN MCKAY.

MIS-TA-WA-SIS' RESERVE, N.-W. T.

Your letter of October 28th came to hand some time ago, and I waited to make a reply when the goods arrived. The goods lay at the railway station at Qu'Appelle for a long time. On my way to Winnipeg in October I found them there. I made arrangements with the forwarding agent to ship them to Prince Albert, but owing to the state of the roads over the prairie they were delayed a long time. I only received them on February 1st. The freight on the goods, from Qu'Appelle to Prince Albert, was \$39.17, for which amount I will draw on Rev. Prof. Hart, Win-

nipeg, as he told me he would pay the costs of freight on goods. The goods arrived in very good order, and the selection of the goods was just what we required for our Indians. I may mention specially about the yarn sent. All the little girls in school can knit and make patch-work, and they are teaching the older ones at home, so that very soon, if they have the yarn, they will be able to make all their own stockings and mitts. The Government agents who inspect all the reserves were highly pleased with the progress the children in our school were making. I am getting the able men and young men to work for the clothing I give them. They are helping to get on the ground the wood for building a new church, and they are willing to accept some of the goods for this work, which is a great benefit to the mission work here. Mrs. McKay has been busy rigging out the children with what they required. She just got through with them to-day, and she is now busy giving to the old women what they require. One old woman of sixty-five years of age was so much pleased with what she got that she began to dance with joy, and said that she would come to school for three days, and learn to read. Our good old chief, Mis-ta-wa-sis, told me to write that he cannot find words to express his heartfelt thankfulness to the good Christian ladies who so kindly send them so much, and that he hopes that some time in the near future that the Indians on his reserve will, by diligence, continue to prosper until they will be able to supply themselves with the most of the comforts of this life. And I myself must say that I agree with our good chief, and I most heartily thank you all for the great interest you all take in our work amongst the Indians. And I hope that you will all reap the reward for your unceasing labours on our behalf.

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EXTRACT FROM MR. J. SCOTT'S.

ASSINIBOINE INDIAN RESERVE,

Dec. 9th, 1886.

In your letter, dated the 12th of November, you say you would be glad to get some information in regard to the work amongst the Indians on this reserve. They have plenty to eat, and a great many are well clothed. They number two hundred and seventy in all. The Foreign Mission Society got possession of it about the 1st of December, 1885, when I was sent up to take charge of the school, and to endeavour to teach the English language, and act as missionary to them. I have forty on my attendance roll, but my average does not come up to the Government require-

ments. Their parents do not care for the school, and the boys do not come only as they like. The condition of the women is very low. They are, truly speaking, not wives, but the property of the Indian, who may have as many as he can buy, which is either from her father or brother. I know a number who have three and four. He has one who is his favourite, and shares with him in his comforts and who waits upon him; the others are hewers of wood and carriers of water, and will resort to the lowest thing. But there is a good deal of improvement amongst them now in some ways. In regard to their customs, if one of the family die they give away almost everything they have or destroy it; then go about almost naked for some time, and a great many would think they were at the point of starvation, and give them something to cover them; then should another death take place the same thing is repeated. They do not bury their dead, but carry them to the woods and hang them up on a tree in their blankets, or lay them on a scaffold to be away from the foxes. Mrs. Scott taught a number to knit, and there are a good many who are busy knitting just now. Almost every day I have a demand for yarn and needles, of which I have a fine supply. Kindly convey my thanks, on behalf of the Indians, to the ladies who have sent such a fine lot of warm clothing. May God's richest blessing descend upon all who have helped in the work, and may they be long spared to carry on this labour of love.

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MISS STOCKBRIDGE.

ICE HOUSE, MHOW, 14th Dec., 1886.

In reply to your question I send you a few facts connected with our family. My parents, who came to India about twenty-four years ago, were born and married in England. My father was an engineer, and my mother before she was married was an independent city missionary in the city of London. Both attended Mr. Spurgeon's Tabernacle. On their arrival in India they joined in Christian work in connection with the Presbyterians in Bombay. At the end of thirteen months, however, my mother had to return to England, owing to ill-health, where she remained one year and nine months, after which she rejoined my father in India, whose death took place in 1874. My father leaving a small independent business, my mother thought it best for us to go to England for our education, and my sisters, Minnie and Kate, were sent accordingly, and I followed them the year after. On my arrival home I was sent to a private school, and

remained there until my step-father (for my mother re-married after four years) ordered us back to India. This he did, thinking that if we were under our mother's own training our spiritual education would be attended to as well as our temporal. On our arrival in India we were sent to the Railway School, at Mhow, of which my father was the head master, and remained there until he resigned. Then Kate and I were sent to a Christian school in Allahabad. My sister Minnie did not accompany us, as she had already made up her mind to go into missionary work, and had joined Mrs. Campbell in the mission. After remaining in the work two years, it was thought necessary that Minnie should have a change, so my father sent her to Mussoorie, a station on the Himalayas, where she could recruit her health, and at the same time have the advantage of an excellent school, under the tuition of Mrs. Scott, of the American Presbyterian Mission. As soon as she left, Kate and I commenced mission work, and worked together to the end of the year, when Minnie returned and Kate went to Mussoorie. Kate has been there two years. We are not quite sure whether she will return to Mussoorie for another year, or go right into work at once. At present I am in charge of the Bazaar school, and have my own Zenana work. Minnie has a school in Pensionpura and her own Zenana work, beside doing a good work in dispensing simple medicines, which give her a great influence over the people. I am able to read and write Urdu and Hindi, and speak them fluently. I am able to read Gugerate and speak it fairly, and I trust to be able to study Marathi shortly. In these languages my only wish is to be a useful member of the mission in its great and growing work in Christ in this part of India. My sister Minnie excels in Hindi. She understands Urdu, but has not given so much time to it as Hindi. Kate was fairly advanced in Urdu before she left for Mussoorie, and she has written to say that she wishes to study Hindi with her father during the winter vacation. I don't know that I can tell you any more, only that Mr. Drew, my step-father, is an Englishman, born in Kent, and came to India in 1870. At one time he used to oppose, and even lecture against, Christianity, but was converted in 1876. Since then he has been a Christian worker, often preaching against infidelity, and is very fond of lecturing on temperance. He preached his first Hindi sermon in Mr. Builder's preaching hall, two weeks ago. He is studying hard with a view to accompany and assist Mr. Builder in the district next month. This he can do very well, as his business does not necessarily need his supervision during the winter months.

ANNIE STOCKBRIDGE.



### NEW AUXILIARIES.

St. Andrew's, Niagara ; St. Andrew's, Strathroy ; Drumbo ; Old St. Andrew's, Toronto ; St. James' Square (retaining the name Murray Mitchell) ; College Street Church ; West Presbyterian (retaining the name Burns) ; Weston.

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### NOTE ABOUT LITERATURE.

Secretaries of Auxiliaries and Mission Bands within Presbyterian Societies can now apply to their Presbyterian Secretary, who has a full supply of the Leaflets, Mite Boxes, etc., furnished by the Board, of which each has received samples.

Presbyterial Secretaries, and the Secretaries of Auxiliaries and Mission Bands not in Presbyterian order, can receive them from Mrs. Telfer, 72 St. Alban Street, Toronto.

The following is the list and prices : "Mrs. Pickett's Missionary Box," "Pitchers and Lamps," "Kashibai," "Voices of the Women," "For His Sake," "Thanksgiving Ann," and "Mite Boxes," one cent each, or twelve cents per dozen ; "Importance of Prayer," "Giving and Giving up," "Why and How," "What is in thine Hand?" and "Preparation for the Master's Work," eight cents per dozen.

"Leaflet No. 1 (Self-questioning)," "Two Cents a Week," "Presbyterial Organization," "How to Organize and Manage a Missionary Society or Band," Monthly Envelopes and Prayer Cards. All these are free.

Our extra W. F. M. Letter Leaflets, one cent each, can be had on application to the Home Secretary, Mrs. H. Campbell, 194 Richmond Street West, Toronto.

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