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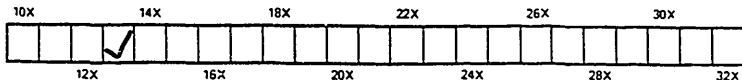
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Monthly Letter Leaflet.

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

(WESTERN DIVISION.)

VOL. IV. TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1887. No. 7.

FOREIGN LETTERS.

FROM REV. K. J. GRANT.

ON BOARD R. M. STR. "ESK,"
BARBADOES, Tuesday, Sept. 6, 1887.

Had you the outlook that I now have at this hour you would be charmed with tropical air, scenery and vegetation, "Every prospect pleases." I take this opportunity when all is quiet to acknowledge the receipt of the "Eleventh Annual Report of the Woman's F. M. Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada." I have been reading it on shipboard, and with pleasure and gratitude. The addresses and reports are admirable; and who can estimate even the probable results when the mothers and daughters of our Church have so vividly before them the extent and needs of our Mission Fields both at home and abroad. How wonderful the growth of your Society and the enthusiasm that pervades it. But it is the Lord's work, the Lord is with you, and you desire to give God the glory, hence the blessing.

Why were not women to the front and in force earlier? I entirely sympathize with your efforts to get qualified lady missionaries with medical knowledge to visit the homes of the women in India. Even here the women on their first arrival completely cover up their faces in the presence of men, but gradually the veil is drawn back; they accommodate themselves to the usages of the country, and the women as well as the men come to church, and on the estates are giving an attentive hearing to our message. Never in the same period have we had as many baptisms as in the eight months of this year now passed. In my district alone I have baptized ninety-seven people, about one-third children, two-thirds adults. The tendency towards Christianity on some estates is becoming marked,

At the present we are regretting very deeply the removal of ten of our number to India. On the 3rd when I left Port of Spain a returning immigrant ship was receiving over six hundred souls homeward bound. I believe their going to India will do good. The intense home prejudice is almost entirely uprooted in all who have been here ten years. This ship too had more true Christians on board than any that has gone before. One family we will sorely miss, they were so kind, intelligent, earnest and liberal. They embraced Christianity, ay and Christ too I believe, six years ago, and their annual contribution ever since has averaged about \$80. They were shop-keepers. He (Benny, the head of the family) swept the church in his district, trimmed the lamps, supplied the oil, weeded and ornamented the grounds in addition to the 5s. stg. which were weekly laid on the plate. I grieve at their removal. I was training the eldest son for the mission work. He is well up in Hindi, in English too in all its ordinary branches, has made good progress in geometry and in algebra (branches in which Miss Copeland, his teacher, is proficient), and reads Caesar in Latin freely. They go because they yearned to see their native land once more, but as the children were born here, I think it probable they will return, and that their son, my dear boy Joseph, will yet be a power for good amongst us. I believe he is a child of God, desirous above all things to work for Christ, hence he will be useful wherever he may go.

I have your report, and if I can find a few earnest souls amongst the ladies at Demerara, I will try to organize a W. F. M. S. It is vain to start such if two or three cannot be found, and I fear friends at home little know how unfavourable tropical life is to the development of the higher life. When we see the number of young men of Christian parentage, some of whom bear with them certificates of Church membership, who turn their back on the Church, disregard God's holy day, and make haste in their wickedness, you are almost compelled to doubt whether there is such a thing as conversion at all. Had they lived at home, and died at home, there might be little or no anxiety in regard to their spiritual condition, but outward relations having changed, their real nature shows itself. I could cite examples humiliating in the extreme. Be it remembered, however, that some continue faithful.

You will all deeply regret with ourselves the removal by death of Miss Archibald, teacher at Couva. She proved an excellent worker. Why from a position of so much usefulness was she taken away? What we know not now we may know hereafter. In Thy light, O Lord, we shall see light, and whatever may be our

doubts and misgivings now, every ransomed tongue will then acknowledge that Thou hast done all things well.

We regret too the prospect of losing Mr. Wright. He intends to withdraw in May on account of Mrs. Wright's health. She looks decidedly feeble and evidently needs a change; but it is a great loss to a Mission to be deprived of one who has acquired the language and possesses other qualifications fitted to secure success. Whilst we note the features of discouragement, the whole outlook for the Mission is most cheering and inspiring, and success is absolutely certain.

EXTRACT FROM MRS. MORTON'S.

Our work is progressing slowly. We have had five more baptisms since I wrote you, three of them women; but we need great faith and patience. The heathen does not want the Gospel; at least the Hindu does not. I have not been to Red Hill since before Miss Archibald died. Twelve of the scholars had been taken away to work. I thought I discerned a marked increase of attentive interest among the parents. Mr. Morton had a good meeting in the school house, and I remained among the women telling the "old, old story." There may be some changes among our schools; they have a fortnight's holidays now.

FROM REV. GEO. A. LAIRD.

COTE'S RESERVE, N.-W. T., Sept. 8, 1887.

We were very glad indeed to receive your kind letter of August 25, and to learn of the interest your society takes in the Master's work in this distant Mission Field. It cheers us not a little to know that the missionaries have your sincere sympathy, and that you remember us "earnestly and regularly" at the Throne of the Heavenly Grace.

Indian work is not without its difficulties. Even with our short experience we find that it requires much patience. The missionary needs to be a man of faith and prayer. If he is to succeed his walk must be close with his God. He would need also to be a man of a fair share of common sense, and to possess

considerable tact. The peculiar and somewhat distrustful nature of the Indian, his wandering habits of life, his ignorance and superstition, and the vices he has learned from his white brethren, are some of the difficulties to be met. These and others all combine to make results appear slowly.

Still so far we have no room for discouragement. We have only been about three months on the ground, and have scarcely had time to do more than get fairly started. We lost no time in establishing regular services at different points on the reserve, and the interest manifested in these is very gratifying. The attendance at all of the stations is pretty regular, and at the principal station numbers some Sabbaths, including children, as many as seventy. We hope also, so soon as the school children are a little further advanced, to be able to organize at least one Sabbath school.

Mr. McVicar, who is associated with me as interpreter, teaches the day school, and is doing good work. There are at present twenty-nine pupils on the roll. The attendance is regular; some weeks the average being as high as twenty-seven. Six of these children we have taken to live with us in our own home, and as the Mission House is not very commodious, only containing two apartments altogether, you will perhaps wonder how we get along. We are somewhat straitened at times for room, but we were very anxious for these children to have the benefit of the school, and as they live too far away to attend, we had either to take them in or allow them to remain away altogether. At present we have very little accommodation, but we hope that before long our condition in this respect will be improved. Our aim is to have boarding accommodation for at least thirty children. There are at least twenty who might have been at school this summer if we could have housed and looked after them. In another year, however, we hope to be in a position to gather them all in. Mrs. Laird visits the school once a week, more especially for the purpose of teaching the girls sewing and knitting. She is pleased with the progress they are making. She intends now opening similar classes at the Mission House for the women, as the W. F. M. S., of Winnipeg, has very kindly supplied a quantity of yarn, cotton and some other things.

The boxes you are preparing will be most welcome. Our Indians are not by any means well off. They have not yet succeeded in growing much grain. When they have made the attempt it has been damaged with summer frosts, but their root crops this year are good. No doubt they are shiftless and wasteful in their habits, and to this, more than to the failure of their crops, may be attributed the fact that they are often without the

necessaries of life. They have great difficulty too in providing themselves with decent clothing. A good many of the children who attend school are literally in rags. We have been doing what we can for them, but our supply of clothing soon ran out. If it were not for the boxes you so kindly send I do not know what they would do during the winter months. I think the boys and men are perhaps the worst off.

I have not yet had any opportunity of conveying your regards personally to Chief Cote, but will be glad to do so. You will be pleased to learn that he has made a profession of Christianity. He is rather a superior Indian, affable in manner, and with more than average intelligence. I trust he will develop into an earnest, warm-hearted Christian, and be a source of strength to the Mission.

I do not think I have anything further to write except that we are all well. Our three little boys are thriving. The bracing air of the North-West seems to agree with us all.

FROM MISS CHRISTIE B. MCKAY.

ARMADALE MISSION, Sept. 10, 1887.

Please pardon my negligence, I intended writing to you while I was in Prince Albert where I was spending my holidays. I had forgotten your address, so had to wait till my return when I found your kind letter awaiting for me. My father and mother were away to the General Assembly in Winnipeg; after their return I left for my holidays.

In June the School Inspector examined my school; afterwards I received the first prize for the best conducted school in the North-West, the prize was \$100. There are prizes given every year by the Government to the teachers on every Indian reserve; there were four prizes this year. I think I have great reason to be proud of my pupils. It is indeed encouraging to see how they behaved themselves through the examination.

I am very much pleased to hear of your success. I often read in the papers you send me of your meetings. I received the book safely. We will be very much pleased to receive any thing you send; the children are beginning to feel the want of warm clothing already. They have knitted all the yarn that was sent, so you may know how needful they were. It is a grand sight to see even the old women and little girls knit. The woollen goods and blankets were just what the old people want; every thing you sent last year was suitable.

It is too much to expect the like every year; there must be a great deal of work. I have not my usual health this fall and most of the summer. Last spring I took a dreadful cold, and since then am not quite myself. All the rest of our family are well.

EXTRACTS FROM MISS ROSE.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION, Sept. 26, 1887.

Your kind messages deserved better attention. My mother has gone home, and while in Regina we were thrown from a buggy. Mother was able to go home, but I was laid up at the manse for some time.

School is reopened, and a rare welcome I received when I came home. I believe these people really do like me.

They are camped three miles away, between fifty and sixty lodges, covering four or five acres of ground. They love to live near each other. I hope they shall soon camp nearer the school. It would seem that boarding schools are the only hope for these children. I am extremely anxious to have the place finished and furnished, in order that better results may be reached. The Foreign Mission Committee are of the same mind also. The Government agree that boarding schools are the one hope for these degraded people. So when we all think alike I hope the day is not far distant when all the Indian children shall be found clean and clothed. I have much to encourage me in my work and can see that they are gradually beginning to like the school, and if this worst of all bands can be won over we need not despair.

P.S.—I beg to acknowledge a most excellent box of yarn stockings, mitts, clothing, etc., from Mrs. A. Lindsay, New Richmond, Quebec. Being addressed to Rev. A. Urquhart, it lay a long time at the station. This box was a last year's contribution.

EXTRACTS FROM MR. TOMS.

The Indians are beginning to look upon us as their brother and sister who have come amongst them to do them good, and that although, through the habit of restlessness and roving, which has become a part of their natures, the attendance is not very regular good is being done, and this, I believe, in answer to the prayers of dear faithful Christian friends, especially our dear sisters of the W. F. M. S. Pray on, dear sisters, and we shall

have greater results for good. The arm of the Lord is not shortened; He will fulfil his promises; and His Son shall have the heathen for His inheritance. I am sure it would cheer my dear sisters to hear these dear Indian children reverently repeating (in English) the Lord's Prayer, and singing (in Cree) "Hold the Fort," "The Gate Ajar," "Tell me the Old, Old Story," and "In the Sweet By and By."

May God bless you all, and I am sure that you will pray on, while I will (trusting in Divine help) fight on, and may our Father in Heaven bless our united efforts.

FROM REV. W. S. MOORE.

October 1, 1887.

I received your very kind letter in due time, and feel thankful in prospect of the contributions of the ladies to the Indians of this field.

The clothing will be a great blessing to this people during the coming winter.

The Mission House we have been erecting is now complete. It is a building 44x26, capable of accommodating twenty-five children.

As to our plans:—We propose to receive the children from the three reserves into this mission building, where they will be clothed and fed and cared for as in a Christian home, and we hope that very soon the day school on Piapot's reserve will be amalgamated with this one, and by our united efforts push on the great work already begun most extensively.

The work is the work of the Church, and therefore I feel it my duty to let the Church know what we most require in order that the work may be carried on most effectually.

I have been much pleased in being appointed to this work, and will feel delight in it so long as I feel that I am accomplishing good. Asking for an interest in the prayers of the Christian women of our Church.

INCREASE.

Mrs. McKenzie, President, and Mrs. Farrell, Corresponding Secretary, of the Lanark and Renfrew Presbyterian Society, organized the following Auxiliaries, viz. :—On September 15th, Admaston ; 16th, Douglas Auxiliary and Barr's Settlement Auxiliary ; 17th, Eganville ; 19th, Alice ; 20th, Mattawa ; 21st, Beachburg ; 22nd, Fort Coulonge, 23rd, Bristol. Pakenham Auxiliary was also visited and the interest deepened. It was "found that all were easily interested and eager to take up the work, and we were particularly pleased at the sympathy and encouragement from the ministers wherever we went, and where they had manses and wives we were most hospitably and kindly entertained." Mrs. Bennet, of Almonte, also, on September 20th, organized Appleton Auxiliary.

In Ottawa Presbyterian Society, Masham Auxiliary on 17th October, by Mrs. Thorburn.

In Glengarry Presbyterian Society, Dominionville Mission Band, by Mrs. McGregor, Miss McIntosh and Miss Haggart.

Knox Church, Lancaster, Young Ladies' Mission Band, on 29th September, by Mrs. McEwen.

In Kingston Presbyterian Society, on 16th September, Kylestone Auxiliary, by Rev. J. Steele, Miss Neill and Miss Robertson.

In Toronto Presbyteria' Society, East Church, Toronto, "Steady Streams" Mission Band, by Mrs. Cameron.

In Guelph Presbyterian Society, on September 19th, Children's Mission Band, Chalmers Church, Guelph, by Miss A. Girdwood.

NORTH-WEST BOX NOTICE.

A sufficient quantity of clothing for Indians has been either promised or dispatched, and while it is hoped all who have intimated their wish to send will do so this year, others who may desire to contribute will get the opportunity next year.

NOTICE TO TREASURERS.

Presbyterial Treasurers needing blank forms of receipts may now have them from the General Treasurer, Mrs. MacLennan.

NOTICES.

The Board of Management meets on the first Tuesday of every month, at 3 o'clock p.m., in the Managers' Room, Knox Church, Toronto. Members of Auxiliary Societies, or other ladies interested in the work and desiring information, being introduced by a member of the Board, are cordially invited to attend.

Letters concerning the organization of Societies, and all matters pertaining to Home work, are to be addressed to Mrs. Hugh Campbell, 194 Richmond Street West, Toronto. The Home Secretary should be notified *at once* when an Auxiliary or Mission Band is formed.

Letters asking information about missionaries, or any questions concerning the Foreign field, as to Bible readers, teachers or children in the various Mission Schools, should be addressed to Mrs. Harvie, Wilcocks Street, Toronto.

Letters containing remittances of money for the W. F. M. S. may be addressed to Mrs. James MacLennan, Treasurer, 10 Murray Street, Toronto.

All requests for literature may be sent to Mrs. Telfer, 72 St. Albans Street, Toronto.

Certificates of life membership can be issued at any time, if the Home Secretary be notified.

LITERATURE NOTICE.

The Board of Management desires to explain, in answer to enquiries on the subject: That *part* of the literature issued by this Society is free (leaflets Nos. 1, 6, 14, 15, 16, and the Prayer Cards). If any Presbyterial Society requires these, for the extension of the work, the Presbyterial Secretary will receive a supply on application. All the other literature and supplies (the prices of which can be found on the last page of the Monthly Letter Leaf) *are for sale* for the above purpose.

LITERATURE.

	<i>Price.</i>
1. Self-Questioning (leaflet)	Free.
2. Giving, and Giving Up; or, the Test of Love. per doz.	8 cents.
3. The Voices of the Women	1 cent.
4. The Importance of Prayer in regard to Mission Work	per doz. 8 cents.
5. "Why and How?" Missionary Questions for Women	per doz. 8 "
6. Two Cents a Week	Free.
7. Mrs. Pickett's Missionary Box	1 cent.
8. Some Facts in the Life of Kashibai, a Brahmin Woman	1 "
9. Pitchers and Lamps.....	1 "
10. For His Sake	1 "
11. Preparation for the Master's Work	per doz. 8 cents.
12. What is in thine Hand.....	per doz. 8 "
13. Thanksgiving Ann	1 cent.
14. Suggestions for holding Missionary Meetings	Free.
Presbyterial Organization	Free.
How to Organize and Manage a Missionary Society or Band	"
Mite Boxes	each. 1 cent.
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Prayer Cards.....	"

Orders for the above Leaflets received by Mrs. Telfer, 72 St. Albans Street, Toronto.

Applications for "The Monthly Letter Leaflet" (extra copies one cent each), and Annual Reports, to be made to the Home Secretary, Mrs. Campbell.

Every member of the Society is entitled to a copy of the Report free, extra copies are sold at 10 cents each.

NOTE.—The reprinting of the Missionary Letters is reserved by the Board of Management.