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W. F. M. SOCIETY.

LETTER FROM MRS. WRIGHT.

COUVA, TRINIDAD, July 5th, 1884.

DEAR MRS. HARVIE,—

We have been in Trinidad now over six months; looking back, it does not seem long. Our interest in the work is increasing every day. Mr. Wright is always very busy; nearly every day he goes out to visit one or more of the schools or hospitals, or to hold services in the barracks. The coolies always welcome him with their smiles and salaams. When at home, he is constantly working away at the language, with which he is making good progress, as you will think, I am sure, when I tell you that already he is able to converse pretty well with the people, and conducts part of the Sabbath service in their language. Many of the coolie children are bright and intelligent; some of our boys read and write and do arithmetic quite as well as boys of the same age in Canada.

We are opening a new school on Providence Estate in connexion with the Esperanza school. Three estates, Providence, Phoenix Park, and Esperanza, are owned by W. F. Burnley, Esq., in England. This gentleman makes quite a liberal allowance monthly to the Esperanza school. Colonel Burnley—the son and heir of the proprietor—with his lady, was in Trinidad some months ago. They visited the school, in company with Mr. Wright and Mr. Kenny (the Attorney of these estates), and declared themselves highly pleased. The school received an honorable mention in the *Royal Gazette* of England shortly afterwards.

The opening of the new school will necessitate greater outlay. We cannot think of asking Mr. Burnley to do more, unless he should offer; so if the ladies in your society have a

surplus which you wish to invest profitably in the Master's service, the Providence school is an object worthy of consideration.

At Calcutta village, about three and a-half miles distant from Couva village, we have built a very nice school-house, with money borrowed by agreement of the Mission Council. The land, school-house, and furniture cost \$334.98. This of course is not a heavy debt in such a large field as Couva, yet it is very satisfactory to be able to lift such ornaments from our buildings as speedily as possible. Application has been made to have this school placed on the list of Government assisted schools. This school has no aid from proprietors. The people of the village are free people, *i. e.*; they have finished their term of indenture and have obtained small grants of land, but have not worked them long enough to make much money, so they cannot aid much. In this school there are some very bright boys. Mr. Wright says that yesterday the children recited very accurately the first twenty-five answers to questions in the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

Last Sabbath I accompanied Mr. Wright and Abraham Lincoln (the Interpreter) to California, where we have a service every Sunday at mid-day. There were very many people present; one of the Overseers at Esperanza was there. The service was truly interesting. The people repeated the Apostles' Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer. They sang several of their "bhajans"; of course I did not understand them. Their music is wild; it appears to give expression to all shades of feeling. Some of the tunes are pretty, but perfectly indescribable.

Mr. Wright read the lessons in Hindi quite fluently. I had a conversation with the Overseer, after service; he bore this testimony:—These Christian coolies give us no trouble; they do as they are told and do it well; it pays to Christianize our coolies.

The people were catechized on the sermon and said some catechism in Hindi, which I did not understand. They answered some questions on leading points of theology. A man of 40 years and a woman of 30, who are shortly to be married, were baptized. Then the benediction was pronounced and salaams exchanged, and the people went away to their own homes.

The estate officers and their wives are very cordial and kind; we have received some very substantial aid from them

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in several undertakings. One gentleman (Mr. Wilson), the Attorney at Brechin Castle and Jerilla, gave and carted to the mission premises, free of charge, over 4,000 bricks, to make pillars under the house in room of the wooden ones which had rotted away. I think bricks cost something like \$12 per thousand in Trinidad, and to cart them would have brought up the price to nearly \$20; so you see that this gift was really handsome.

Mr. McLeod, the missionary at Princes-town, has been very poorly; we are cheered to learn that he is improving rapidly.

Our life here is neither all sunshine nor all clouds. We always catch a gleam of sunshine while singing the Psalms at family worship; always we are sustained with the thought that God is with us. Pray for us that we may save many for Christ and His kingdom. I feel very much for the coolie women and children, their temptations are so great. God pity and save them by the Gospel of our Master.

Yours very sincerely,

FLORENCE WRIGHT.

LETTER FROM MISS ROSS.

INDORE, July 5th, 1884.

MY DEAR MRS. HARVIE,—

We are thankful that it is much cooler since the monsoon has broken; now we can go out any time in the day. During the latter part of May and the greater part of June it was almost impossible to do any zenana visiting or teaching except in the morning or late in the evening, as the temperature was so high and overwhelming.

I have had encouraging visits in the homes of some of these poor people; although they cling to their idols, in many cases it is not because they believe they derive any benefit from idol worship, but because it is the custom. I will give you an instance of a person thinking that the god in the idol hears and answers. One little girl whose name is Seta informed me one day that they had had a large god in their house for a few days, that God was in the idol, that her mother bowed to the idol a great many times, that the god entered into her mother, and that her neck became greatly swollen, that she

bowed again and again and recovered. The same mother always receives me cheerfully when I go to read to her from the Bible.

One morning a little Mohammedan was very earnest in her entreaties, that I would come and visit her mother. After school I went; she received me kindly, but was too busily engaged to listen; however, she generally pays attention. She said that one of her sons was nineteen, that his beard was beginning to grow, and that they would have a gathering of friends in the evening and asked me if I would come. They maintain that as all the prophets had beards, that it is God's light upon the face, and always celebrate the day when it begins to appear. I went before the celebration was to commence, and found several women congregated in the court before the door. They were seated on pieces of old carpet spread on the ground. I read to them and told them about Jesus Christ giving His life to save sinners. One of them sharply said, No, no, that was not their religion; that they believed that Jesus Christ was only man, and succeeded in distracting the attention of most of the others. The Mohammedans put Christ on the same level as David, and say that he was one of God's prophets.

Still some of the stones are falling out of the great wall, and we trust that sooner or later it will crumble down and the King of Kings enter in and keep the city.

In the hot season the attendance at school was greatly reduced, as the little girls were on the roads picking up fuel or gathering the unripe fruit for food. There are a great number of fruit trees on the plains; the owners of them in many cases sell the fruit on the tree while it is yet green; the party who purchases it sets a watch, sells, or uses it as it falls or ripens. On the night of the 31st of June a watchman was killed by men who came to demand fruit; the robbers escaped in the night. That occurred here, in the British part of Indore.

The numbers are again increasing at school. I went to the home of one little girl who had been absent quite a length of time after her marriage. She had previously told me that she would come after she was married. A woman that sat near her mother said that black people had no need of learning. I was surprised, as Jushody had been coming so regularly. Her mother said that her father-in-law did not want her to go to school. I tried to point out to her the import-

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ance of being able to read ; she replied, that she would send her again. She has since come one day ; I hope she will soon come more regularly. She does not go yet for some time to the generally much dreaded home of the mother-in-law. Several of the girls in the city school also are married. The parents are poor and they cannot afford to stay in the house, so they come to school as well as run about to other places. In a new school it is a very difficult thing to get native girls to attend to their work, as they are not accustomed to study.

Yours sincerely,

J. Ross.

Extracts from a private letter from Mrs. Morton.

TUNAPUNA, B. W. Indies, July 1st, 1884.

MY DEAR MRS. MACLENNAN,

Your welcome letter with its good news was well worth waiting for. We are rejoiced to hear that your society contemplates coming to our aid. You will remember that while at home we collected for a church at Princetown ; it will shortly be completed to the great joy of the missionary and his flock. We had a debt on our own Tunapuna buildings which has lately been paid off by our Board, but besides the Aronca school house we had to go forward immediately with one at Tacarigua which is now completed and was opened for worship on Sabbath last. We had the pleasure of having a gentleman from P.E. Island with us who was much delighted with all he saw. You will easily believe that we need all your help for these school houses, more especially, as our Board already in debt, will be burdened with the support of an additional lady teacher for one of these schools, probably Aronca. Your Society must certainly be blessed of God. How good He is, and how we should be encouraged to find that He condescends to own and bless our feeble and unworthy efforts. We sympathize with the trials of your Indore missionaries. My husband believes that good will come out of the present contest. We all believe that, but he thinks h sees it.

SARAH E. MORTON.

FROM MRS. MACKAY.

FORMOSA, June 27th, 1884.

MY DEAR MRS. HARVIE,—

I never get tired looking at the girls' school, it is so pretty? It would look nice in any part of dear Canada. I was so happy seeing it go up. I used to run out at night with warm rice for the men who mixed mortar and put brick above brick and stone above stone. Then I would go back to our house and after seeing the children all right, I would go out again and stay with my husband and *Siam Chberg Hoa* till our clothes would be wet with dew. Sometimes we were out nearly all night. The men at work would sing songs (being heathen) and we would sing our sweet hymns. Some folks said we were crazy. I don't care what they said. In February last I went all over my native Formosa in the north and got girls to come to the school. In March thirty began to study. O what work to teach the poor girls from the East coast, (not Chinese). I worked and worked away getting them to learn to read. When they came they were like wild creatures, running all over. Those who taught in Oxford College came every day to help; but my husband could teach them more in one hour than we would all day. He did every thing to get them to *think*. Well now, last evening at 7 p.m. all went to the college and we closed the girls' school for two months. *Siam Chberg Hoa* and my husband will take all home in a day or two. Tell dear Canadian ladies that though hard worked for four months, now we all feel so glad. The 30 girls came dirty, wild and could not read one letter; now they are clean, nice and can read and write in the Romamized Colloquial. For our sweet hymns they can sing them all. After this it will be easier, and when Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson know my native tongue they will help us. Didn't our True God help us? I can't forget Canada. God bless dear Canada and all the noble women who pray for us.

Yours sincerely,

MINNIE MACKAY.

TAKING LEAVE OF OUR LADY MISSIONARIES.

On very short notice, an informal gathering of members of the Board resident in Toronto took place on September 17th, to bid Miss Beatty (medical missionary) and Mrs. Wilson farewell and "commend them to God."

The hymn beginning, "My faith looks up to Thee," was sung, the 91st Psalm read, earnest prayers were offered. Several ladies expressed their good wishes for the missionaries, and a copy each of God's Word, according to the usual custom of the resident members of the Board, was presented for Miss Bell and Miss Beatty, for which the latter thanked the ladies.

Mrs. Wilson spoke a few cheerful, hopeful words, characteristic of the energy with which she has worked in this Missionary Society at home, and an earnest of the devotion with which she, with her husband, is now about to engage in missionary labor abroad.

The Assembly's F. M. Com., then in session in Knox Church, joined the ladies and held a short service, presided over by Rev. Dr. Wardrope. After devotional exercises, Rev. Dr. McLaren addressed Miss Beatty on her duties as a missionary, and said that in practising the healing art, as well as her more important duty of ministering to souls, she follows closely in the Saviour's footsteps.

Miss Bell sailed for Britain on the 23rd August; Miss Beatty, M.D., on the 20th September. They will (D.V.) meet Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson in England, and together proceed to Central India.

Extract of a letter just received from Miss Beatty.

"I was much interested in the magazine, *India's Women*, which you sent me. I will soon know some of India's Women for myself. Oh, that they might read in me the epistle of Christ written with the Spirit of the living God! If I did not know that the prayers of Canada's women go up for the work I have to do and for me, I would not dare to go to India even now; but I do know and am satisfied. "Lo, I am with you alway," is a sure promise.

Sincerely yours,

E. R. BEATTY.

NEW PRESBYTERIAL SOCIETY.

On the 6th of September a Presbyterial Society was formed in the Presbytery of London, recognized and sanctioned by that Presbytery.

Mrs. Harvie, Foreign Secretary, represented the Board on this occasion and also embraced the opportunity of visiting all the auxiliaries, where most satisfactory meetings were held. It is confidently expected that the result of these visits will be most beneficial, both in point of numbers and interest, and that this new departure will be the harbinger of a great work in the London Presbytery. We record with pleasure the cheering fact that the attendance at all these meetings was large, and although the weather was very warm, many of the ladies *walked* a great distance in order to be present.

In this highly interesting district there are now four auxiliaries, and it has been arranged that Mrs. Roger and Mrs. Ball will visit the different congregations with a view of organizing others. The office-bearers are : Mrs. Roger, *President* ; Mrs. Ball and Mrs. Murray, *Vice-Presidents* ; Mrs. Thompson, *Treasurer* ; Mrs. Chisholm, *Secretary*.