

June/84 - 2nd printed

W. F. M. SOCIETY.

TUNAPUNA, TRINIDAD, B. W.I.,

March 26th, 1884.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,—It is just about two months since I wrote you last. The interval has passed with us much in the usual way. Perhaps the only thing at all unusual was an entertainment for the general public given by ourselves in the Tunapuna Mission School House. Following out the principle of entire consecration we made use of the musical ability that is in us to raise a few dollars for our funds. Miss Semple has a fine voice; she and our daughter sing well together; three ladies and a gentleman of the neighborhood kindly assisted them; I officiated at the piano, and two of the juvenile missionaries (8 and 10 years of age) played a duet. Rev. Mr. Falconer, of Port of Spain, kindly gave us an entertaining and instructive address, and there were two readings. We made \$27.48. Nearly all the white people of the district were present, some coming as far as five miles, and a number of the darker shades. All said they spent a very pleasant evening, and some hoped we would repeat what had proved a very successful entertainment. This we hope soon to do in aid of the school house now building at Aronea. I suppose most of the people could build a school house if they had the money. It is a little harder to do it when you have no money, and to undertake it when you are already heavily burdened with debt is more formidable still, and that is just what we are doing. Perhaps some will say, "Why could you not wait another

year?" The best answer to this would be to allow the unlucky enquirer the privilege of sitting in the present school room during a wet season shower. After flitting from bench to bench in the vain endeavor to keep dry, and taking observations of the weather through the holes in the roof, he would be decidedly of the opinion that we had better build at once, and, doubtless, he would put his hand in his pocket, too.

Since writing you last we have received notice of a donation of \$30 from the W.F.M.S. of Kingston, Ont. What would we do without the women? Let no one for a moment suppose that there is any implied reflection here. Gentlemen do sometimes surprise us in the same way. Only last week a young gentleman of West River, N. S., sent us \$5 to buy "tools" with.

One of our young men, John Allahdua, with his wife and two little ones, has gone to live at the Island of St. Lucia as Hindustani interpreter. We are sorry to part with them, but hope they will be made useful there; there is abundant opportunity. There are about 1,300 Coolies on the Island, but none of them understood English, nor could anyone speak to them in Hindustani. Allahdua is very steady and well behaved, but he never developed any capacity for school work. He was a pupil in our first Mission School.

My work among the women is going on as usual. It is a work from which much visible fruit may not be expected and especially in a new field such as this. There are so many different places to be visited that we cannot see the same people very often. At Orange Grove Estate, which has had fortnightly services for a long time, we were not satisfied with the attendance. A good many children came and those of the sick who were able to walk from the Estate Hospital, about 100 yards off, but very few came out from the barracks; we therefore changed our plan, and instead of calling them out, we go to their homes, while our

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daughter, assisted by Geoffrey Subaran and others, teaches the children every Sabbath in the school-house. In this way we feel that we are getting at the people more effectually. On this Estate on two occasions lately I have seen very hard faced women weeping while looking at a picture of the Crucifixion and hearing of the love of Jesus. On one occasion when I had finished I said to them, "Achchhé-âbât?" that is, "Are those good words?" They all assented, and one said in broken English, "All man hear 'em petite cry" (hearing them we all cry a little). Another said, "Hearing such words many thoughts come." I told you while at home what an ordinary circumstance it is for a Hindoo woman to desert her husband, or to be deserted by him. Lately I heard a woman taking great credit to herself for not having left her husband when he fell sick. She said everybody told her, "Leave that papa, he's too much sick," but she resisted the temptation. A woman on St. Clair Estate, where I have visited a good deal, but without any apparent fruit, told me that her present husband was not her married one. I asked her where was her married husband? She answered that he was living on the same Estate, but had become blind, so she had left him. I told her it was wrong; she knew that quite well, but what could she do, there was no one to give her even a drink of water. This is the way they look at it. She was a young, strong woman, but women are in demand, and too often those who can bribe the highest carry them off. On the other hand, the husband is frequently the offender, as in another case where quite a young woman had taken her third. She was married in childhood, and when the time had come for her to go to her husband's home, his affections being otherwise engaged, he would not have her. She was "like crazy" she said for seven months, and then consoled herself with another, but he drank and ill-treated her, and so she took a third. This kind of soil is a hard one for the seed of the pure Gospel. Mr. Morton's health is good now; he has

recovered his strength, though the cough still remains at night. I have need to remind him sometimes of our respected Secretary's injunction, "Do thyself no harm;" but given one missionary among thousands of such heathens as we have been speaking about, and then tell him not to overwork, is it likely he will be very particular on that score? The best tonic I know for restoring and retaining the strength of missionaries is zeal and liberality on the part of the Church at home, but it is one that is greatly out of use in some quarters—thank God! not everywhere.

Here are some crumbs for the children. I asked a very little one, showing her a picture of the Child Jesus, "Who is that?" "Jesus loves me," said the little one very sweetly; she was thinking of the hymn, "Jesus loves me, this I know." A mother refused to let her little daughter come to school, saying, "If a girl learns to read she will die." "Oh, no!" I said, "look at Fanny; I taught her to read and she is not dead yet." Fanny was with me at the time; she is wife to Geoffrey mentioned above, and is very helpful to us. One of Miss Semple's little girls was asking her for candy. Another said to her in English, "Greedy fellow." This was very amusing, because I don't think they know twenty English words between them. A nice little boy, about nine or ten years old, smoked tobacco until he became insensible and then fell into the fire and got badly burned. I want Miss Semple to write to the little boys and girls and tell them about her school. I think she will do so soon, but the children keep her very busy.

Yours truly,

SARAH E. MORTON.

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DEAR MRS. HARVIE,—Thank you for letter of the 6th December, with card inclosed.

About the end of February, Dr. McKay, Mrs. M. and A'Hôa returned from a three weeks' visit to the East Side. Rain all the time, but, as Dr. M. says, "no matter, when we have good news."

Crowded meeting, and, considering the short time and many difficulties, pastors have accomplished much in the way of teaching the people; where they are very poor and have to work hard all day they learn at night.

Two more villages ready for work. Is Canada ready to give them the Gospel?

Thirty girls and two or three preachers' wives now in the new college. Twenty-six students in Oxford College. I wish you could see them marching in order down to the Chappel on Sabbaths—always under care of the older teachers.

Everything goes on just the same in Dr. McKay's absence as when he is present.

Just now he and Mrs. M. and Sunna are away south to visit six chapels in the Tek-chham district; we expect them back in a week.

For Canada we pray that "the Lord of the harvest may send more laborers into His harvest." God be merciful unto you and bless you, and cause his face to shine upon you. *In order that you may make His way known upon earth, His saving health among all nations.*

ANNIE JAMIESON.

TAMSUI, March 10th, 1884.

At the last annual meeting of the Philadelphia Board of the W. F. M. Society of the Presbyterian Church, U. S., on the 30th April and 1st May, the following statistics were given: 125 lady missionaries supported by the Society, besides girls' boarding schools in part in the different mission fields; also 125 day schools taught by natives, and 137 Bible women superintended. One lady has just graduated from the W. Medical College, Phil., and is ready to be sent out, and three others are studying there. They have also undertaken, in connexion with one or two other Woman's Societies to build a hospital at Chieng-Hai, in the Laos land, and a training school for nurses and hospital at Tokio, Japan. The contributions, after meeting expenses, were \$121,571.88, and it was unanimously determined to add 10 per cent. this present year. They have 52 Pres. Soc. eties, 1,291 Aux. and 1,017 Y. P. Branches and Mission Bands. The meeting was a most deeply interesting and enjoyable one, several returned missionary ladies giving most encouraging accounts of their Mission Fields, but one and all deploring the small number of Missionaries available, while on every side the cry is for teachers, and especially for Medical Missionaries. There are five Presbyterian W. F. M. Boards in the U. S., all of whom pay in the funds collected to the F. M. Board of the Pres. Church of the U. S. of America, and the amount paid in last year by these five Boards was nearly \$200,000, and it is expected to reach that sum this year. The largest contributors are the Phil. and North West Boards. The Pres. Church in the U. S. has flourishing Missions in Syria, Persia, Japan, Siam, China, India, Africa, Brazil, Chili, Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala, and among the Chinese and Indians in the U. S.

The key note of the whole was, "Shall we, to whom this glorious Gospel is committed, be faithful to our trust?"

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THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE WOMAN'S PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF MISSIONS,
OF THE NORTH-WEST.

MILWAUKEE, April, 1884.

In many respects this was one of the best meetings ever held by the North-West Board. The papers were not more interesting, nor the addresses more enthusiastic than in past years, but there seemed a deep spiritual presence, a fervor, a glow, which can better be felt than described, but which was beautifully accounted for by Dr. Freeman, pastor of Immanuel Church, in which the meeting was held, who, speaking of this spiritual influence, said: "Your meeting has been baptized in prayer beforehand." The presence, also, of a number of returned Missionaries, all of them full of zeal, brightness and devotion to their life work, was in itself an inspiration. There were the three beautiful, cultured girls, Agnes Carey, Jenny Anderson, and Fanny Cundall, from Persia, China and Syria, with Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, from the "Dark Continent;" Mrs. Van Hook, from Persia, and Miss Dougherty, who is resting a while from her work among the Indians. The pictures of mission life and work given by these dear friends were sometimes grave, gay, amusing or sorrowful, but all were hopeful and encouraging, and all testified to the power of the Gospel to dispel the gloom, ignorance and superstition of heathenism.

Miss Fanny Cundall had caught most perfectly the Muezzin call to prayer, and as she repeated for us, in Arabic, this weird, but still most musical call to prayer, which is heard in all Mohammedan countries from three to five times a day: "Our God is one. There is no God but one, and Mohammed is his prophet," our thoughts travelled

back through the centuries, and we heard from the mount our call to prayer: "But thou when thou prayest" . . .

Much of the interest of the gathering centred around the devotional meeting, in which more than five hundred ladies assembled previous to the ordinary session on the second day. Miss Grier, of Chicago, in a few thoughtful words, directed our minds to the blessed truth that we had a great Intercessor, and as request after request for prayer came to the platform, and some sister, with trembling earnestness, voiced these petitions, we felt that the room was a very Bethel.

The reports were more than usually encouraging. During the year 61 Aux., 55 Bands and 11 S. Schools had been organized. Total number of Aux., 1,410. Total receipts for the year, from all sources, being \$66,000. About 60 Missionaries are under the care of this Board, 10 having been sent out during the year, while a large number of schools, colleges, hospitals, Bible women, scholarships, etc., are supported.

Mrs. Hoge, the estimable President of the North-West Board, has, two summers ago, passed the "three score years and ten," but her form is as erect and vigorous, her heart as full of fire and energy, as when in early womanhood. The writer called attention to this fact, when the dear old lady said, "You know I always stand straighter at the Missionary meeting than anywher else." The meeting was fittingly closed by a Social Reception, after which Dr. Newman, the son of a martyred Missionary, and born on Missionary ground, led us earnestly and tenderly in prayer, and pronounced the benediction, leaving us comforted, refreshed and strengthened for another year of service.

L. J. HARVIE.

NOTE. Two Auxiliaries and one Mission Band have been organized since Annual Meeting, in Hamilton.