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*"The World for Christ."*



# Monthly Letter Leaflet

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA  
(WESTERN DIVISION)

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VOL. X.      TORONTO, MARCH, 1894.      No. 11.

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## Subjects for Prayer.

MARCH.—Special prayer in prospect of our Annual Meeting that all our Auxiliaries and Mission Bands may begin the year with renewed vigour and increased numbers. Thankful acknowledgment of the Lord's goodness in extending the work, and confession of our shortcomings.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

"And lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."—Matt. xxviii. 18-20.

## HOME DEPARTMENT.

### Letter Leaflet.

The LETTER LEAFLET year ends with the April Number. All orders for the May issue must be in the hands of the Secretary of Publication not later than April 12.

### Annual Meeting.

Members of the Society are specially requested to read carefully the following notices :—

The Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (Western Division) will be held in Bank Street Church, Ottawa, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 17, 18 and 19, 1894. On Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock there will be a devotional meeting in the church, at the close of which delegates will be enrolled and billeted. The Nominating Committee will also meet on Tuesday afternoon at the close of the meeting. On Tuesday evening a conference of the Board with Presbyterian Secretaries and Treasurers will be held, beginning at half past seven, at which questions may be asked and subjects of interest to the Society considered. On Wednesday and Thursday the proceedings will be in much the same order as last year.

A cordial invitation is extended to delegates from every part of the Society throughout the Western Division.

In past years considerable difficulty has been caused the Billetting Committee through the names of Delegates not being properly certified to and forwarded in time, the Board has therefore decided to appoint a COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS, the Convener of which is Miss Isabella L. George 277 Jarvis Street, Toronto, to whom the names of all delegate

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must be sent by the Secretary of the Society they are to represent, giving also the Presbyterian Society to which the Auxiliary or Band belongs.

The following representatives from each Society, in addition to the thirty-six managers, are entitled to entertainment: From the Presbyterian Society—the President, Secretary, and one delegate; from the Auxiliary—the President or her substitute, and one delegate; from the Mission Band—the President or her substitute.

In accord with Article 8 of General Society Constitution and the decision of last Annual Meeting, these delegates must be members of the General Society to be entitled to vote.

These names must be sent in not later than April 10th, as they have all to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Billetting Committee at Ottawa, that entertainment may be provided. Secretaries are also requested to provide their delegates with a copy of their credentials to present at Ottawa.

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### Railway Regulations Regarding Reduced Fares To Annual Meeting.

Delegates and members of the Society attending the Annual Meeting are requested to give special attention to the following points:

1. The railroad companies have agreed to the following terms, viz.: *One way first-class fare* for round trip, if 300 or more delegates attend, who at the railway station, on starting, obtain from the ticket agent a standard certificate of purchase of first-class full fare one way ticket, and on return present the said certificate at the railway station, duly certified and signed by the Home Secretary at the con-

vention. *One fare and a third, if the delegates number from 50 to 299, and one fare and two-thirds if less than 50 attend; the return trip to be made by the same route as the going trip.*

2. All delegates, therefore, travelling by rail, even if the distance be short, will, on starting, ask from the agent, *at least ten minutes before the train is due to leave, a "standard" certificate of purchase of ticket. No other form of certificates will be recognized.*
3. *If more than one Company's line is travelled over, an additional certificate should be obtained on purchasing ticket at point of junction. ASK YOUR AGENT FOR A THROUGH TICKET.*
4. "Certificates procured from the agent at starting point more than three days (Sundays not included) prior to commencement of meeting (April 17th), and certificates presented more than three days (Sundays not included) after date of close of meeting (April 19th), will not be honoured for tickets for return trip."
5. "Certificates that bear date of purchase of ticket for going trip after the last day of the meeting will not be honoured for return passage."
6. "Certificates are not transferable, and the signature affixed at the starting point, compared with the signature to receipt for ticket, will enable the ticket agent to detect any attempted transfer."
7. "No refund of fare will be made on any account whatever, because of failure of the delegates to obtain certificates or to observe the requirements of the same."
8. All members of the Society attending the Annual Meeting can secure the reduced railway rates, but only credentialed delegates will be provided with entertainment.

## NOTICES.

Presbyterial Secretaries are reminded that it is very desirable that all their reports should be forwarded to the Home Secretary not later than the second week in March. They are also requested to take notice that again *this year* no new Life Members, Auxiliaries nor Mission Bands will be entered in the Presbyterial Reports after the reports have been adopted at the annual meetings of Presbyterial societies.

Auxiliary Secretaries and Treasurers are requested to be particular when sending in their reports and statements, to send the reports and statements of the juvenile bands separate from those of their auxiliaries, in order that the young folk may have full credit for what they have done.

Secretaries of Auxiliaries and others who write to Secretaries of the Board should give their *full address*. Attention to this would often save trouble and ensure a more prompt reply.

### Notice of Motion from Last Annual Meeting.

Presented by Mrs. Fisher, West Flamboro: To reduce the number of delegates to the Annual Meeting, the reasons being: (1) The great and increasing difficulty of billeting so large a number as now attend; and (2) The difficulty of arriving at an intelligent decision without loss of valuable time when so many have the right to speak.

Presbyterial Societies, Auxiliaries and Mission Bands are reminded of Note 1 in the By-laws:—"Any member of this Society desiring to bring up matters for discussion at the Annual Meeting, is requested to give notice to the Board of Management one month before the time of meeting; or when such notice is not given, the matter will be referred to a Committee named at the time."

### Life Members added in February.

Miss Bertha Nelson Kerr, Wayside Gatherers Mission Band,  
St. James Square, Toronto.

Mrs. D. J. McLean, Arnprior.

Mrs. Nicol, Unionville Auxiliary.

Mrs. S. Cline, Mrs. J. D. MacLennan, Cornwall.

Mrs. Matthew McKendrick, Kincardine.

Miss Toye, Morrisburg Auxiliary.

Mrs. J. T. Hardie, Ayr Auxiliary.

Miss Annie Prentice, Cooke's Church Auxiliary, Toronto.

Miss Mary Morrison, Old St. Andrew's Auxiliary, Toronto.

Mrs. Wm. Stewart, Wardrope Auxiliary, Chalmers Church,  
Guelph.

Mrs. Jessie Robertson, Woodstock.

Miss Mary Ferrier, Caledonia.

Miss Agnes B. James, Walkerton.

### Correction.

A misprint occurred in the list of Life Members in the Jan-  
uary LEAFLET, Mrs. Jas. A. Brown, Agincourt Auxiliary, ap-  
pearing as Mr. Jas. A. Brown.

### Increase.

#### LANARK AND

RENFREW..Perth, Knox Church Auxiliary.

“ “ Perth, St. Andrew's Church Auxiliary.

“ “ Pembroke, " Faithful Workers " Mission  
Band.

HURON ..... Seaforth, " Sunshine " Mission Band.

BARRIE ..... Tottenham, " Shining Light " Mission Band.

OTTAWA ..... Ottawa, Bank St. Church Auxiliary.

“ ..... Ottawa, Knox Church Auxiliary.

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PARIS ..... Brantford, Zion Church " Missionary Students " Mission Band.  
 HAMILTON..... Hamilton, Central Church " Senior " Mission Band.  
 CHATHAM ..... Bothwell, " Paton " Mission Band.  
 BRUCO..... North Normanby Auxiliary.  
 TORONTO ..... St. James Auxiliary, Stouffville.

**Treasurer's Statement.**

Jan. 9	Balance in Bank .....	\$1,091 52
	" Glenallan M. B., Guelph Pres. Soc ..	10 00
10	Limehouse Aux., Toronto Pres. Soc	20 00
15	Snow Road Aux., Kingston P. S ..	10 00
	" St. Paul's Aux., Banff .....	10 60
16	Sub. Mrs. Stewart, Southampton ..	2 00
18	St. Andrew's Aux., Sherbrooke, Q.	35 85
22	A Friend, for Trinidad.....	10 00
23	Columbia Aux., B. C .....	109 00
25	Life Member's fee, Arnprior, Lanark and Renfrew Pres. Soc. ....	25 00
31	Barrie Pres. Soc.....	1,036 75
Feb. 1	Laskay Aux., Toronto Pres. Soc....	10 88
2	Whitby Pres. Soc., Sub. from their late President, M. Gordon ....	23 60

**EXPENDITURE.**

Jan. 9	Home Secretary's account :		
	Postage on Reports and		
	Records.....	\$2 05	
	" Letters.....	1 70	
	" Postcards .....	25	\$4 00



16 Tract Society's account for Bibles and Commentary presented to Missionaries .....	\$25 70
23 Lithographing 200 Life Member Cer- tificates.....	11 50
Feb. 6 Balance in Bank.. .....	2,264 00
	\$2,305 20 \$2,305 20

## FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

### CENTRAL INDIA.

### A Trip to Southern India and Ceylon.

FROM MRS. RUSSELL.

*Mhow, Nov. 7, 1893.*

We have just returned from our trip through Ceylon and S. India, and I feel that my first duty is to try and overtake some of the letters which have been accumulating since Mr. Russell's illness.

My first year in India is drawing to a close, with its many varied experiences, but this morning as I write I have room for nothing but thankfulness to our dear Father for His loving kindness and tender mercy toward me in the days that are past. In the darkest hours of sickness and loneliness, Christ revealed Himself to me as never before, and had it not been for His divine presence and sustaining help, this my first real trial in India would have been more than I could have borne; but with Him at hand even the darkest hours become bright. Then, too, in so many little things we see His loving care, and in this distant Eastern land He has given us so many loving and kind friends, who have not only helped us by loving words but in many other ways. Our experience of and connection with the English people in Mhow has certainly been of the very pleasantest, and we hope to interest them deeply in our work.

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70 Our trip has done Mr. Russell a great deal of good, although  
he is still far from being strong, and will need to be careful for  
50 some time yet. We spent six weeks with Rev. Dr. and Mrs.  
00 McKichan of the Free Church Mission in Bombay, six very  
20 happy weeks ; we found them delightful people, so kind, and,  
above all, so deeply interested in their work. Mr. Russell and  
Dr. McKichan spent many hours talking over the work of the  
different Mission Stations, and it was with regret that we at last  
bade them good bye, and started off with Drs. McKellar and  
O'Hara on a sea voyage to Ceylon. We left Bombay on the  
steamer Rajpootana about the 28th of August. I cannot say  
that the first three days were very pleasant, since sea-sickness  
held sway over all but Dr. O'Hara, even Dr. McKellar, who  
has always been such a good sailor, succumbed.

3. There are so many things I would like to tell you about this  
d S. trip, and all the wonderful sights we saw, but in this letter I  
ome must confine myself to one or two. Our steamer was a coasting  
ell's vessel, and every day we stopped at a port on the way, generally  
many spending the whole day in port and travelling during the night.  
n for I think you will be interested in hearing something about Cochip,  
cind. on account of it being the place where the White and Black Jews  
In are residing. We landed at Cochin early the fourth morning  
Fim- after leaving Bombay. Our first visit was to the Jews' quarters.  
ivine. When we arrived we found the people all assembled in the syna-  
India gogue, and, from what we saw and could learn, found it to be  
Him their day of atonement. We went as far as the door of the syna-  
in so gogue of the Black Jews ; not being invited to enter we did not  
start like to intrude, but contented ourselves with standing at the  
ends, door for a short time. From here we went to the synagogue  
other of the White Jews, and here were more fortunate, being invited  
1 peo- to come inside. It was a strange sight to see these people of  
nd wa

God's own chosen people worshipping, in this distant land, the God of their fathers, and as they chanted forth in mournful cadence the old songs of Israel, we thought of the words, "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land."

These people have been in this place from time immemorial. In the year 388 A. D., they received from the Brahmin prince of Malabar a copper grant conferring the place upon them. The synagogue is a plain edifice, with a small belfry and clock about 200 years old. The floor is neatly paved with china tiles, and at one end of the room there is a gilt recess veiled with a rich curtain ; behind these are folding doors, and within are five copies of the Pentateuch in silver cases, with covers of rich brocade. The copies are written in Hebrew on vellum. Separated by a hall from the room where the men worship is a smaller room in which the women sit, apart from the men hidden with railing and net-work. I believe there is much bitter feeling between these two classes of people. The Black Jews claim that they were the first to land in the place, whilst the White Jews claim a like honour. Looking at the people, one would be inclined to decide in favour of the White Jews, as they seem to have preserved very markedly the Jewish caste of face, whilst one would judge that the Black Jews had intermingled in marriage with the surrounding people. They marry and inter-marry among themselves, but a White Jew would not marry a Black Jew, and *vice versa*.

Coming out of the synagogue we were met by a young Syrian Christian, who is engaged in Mission work among the Jews. We had quite an interesting talk with him, not only about the Jews, but also concerning his own people.

You know the Syrian Christians claim that Cochin was the place where St. Thomas landed and built his church ; they claim to be direct descendants of the church. We visited with him

their church, a little place standing apart from the busy street, and as we looked around, we could not but think on the strangeness of it all. We had just come from the synagogue where some of God's chosen people were worshipping, and now we stood in the church supposed to be erected on the site of the church erected by St. Thomas. How far this latter is true we cannot say, but we know that these Syrian Christians have been in existence for many years, and whilst they have become almost heathen at times in their form of worship, through all the long years they preserved at least a dim light of the great truth contained in our Gospel. How passing strange it seems that these his peoples, types of the old and new dispensation, should have existed alongside of one another for so many years surrounded on all sides by heathenism. The Church of England is now working among these Syrian Christians, and we cannot but believe that there is some grand purpose hidden in this seemingly strange and wonderful situation. God grant that soon they may become strong burning lights for our Lord Jesus Christ, and be the means of bringing in many to His Kingdom.

I would like to go on and tell you more about our trip, but I must not weary you with too long a letter. In Ceylon, Jaffna and South India we visited all the Mission Stations we could ; it has been such an encouragement and help to us. In Palamatta, S. India, it was our privilege to be present at a service of the C. M. S., where we saw over 1,000 native Christians present at one service. We visited the station of the London Missionary Society at Nagercoil and Neyor, and here we again saw large congregations of Christians. In this Mission they have over 200,000 Christians and nearly all the churches are self-supporting. And now we return to our own field of labour, strengthened and encouraged by the sights we have seen of the success of Christ's Kingdom in other parts of this land, knowing that if we are

faithful we too will have the joy of seeing many turned from darkness unto the marvellous light of our Saviour. "Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

We are engaged in a work in which there is no uncertainty, for are not all His promises sure? We sow the seed of Life, assured by the Divine promise of an abundant harvest.

We are counting the days until our new missionaries arrive; we expect them to land on the 20th (in about two weeks' time). Gladly will we welcome them to our hearts and homes. Mr. Russell and I feel that we have a very special cause for thankfulness in the coming to us of our brother.

I am sorry Miss Ross is not very well, but we hope in a few days she will be able to once again take up the work so dear to her: We all sympathize with Dr. Fraser in her deep sorrow. Mr. Wilkie has not been very well for some time; all the other missionaries are enjoying good health.

I do not know what we would do in Mhow without Miss Calder, she is so bright and helpful. And now, my dear Mrs. Harvie, I thank you and all the ladies of the Board for the loving words of sympathy which came to me in your letter, and for which I am deeply grateful.

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### First Impressions.

FROM MISS DOUGAN.

*Indore, Dec. 8, 1893.*

We have been in India two weeks and are already beginning to find it quite home-like, though in rather a different way from what I had expected. It is hard to believe that in every way the customs of one country can differ so widely from those of another. I cannot recall one thing here that brings thoughts of home to my mind, unless it is the scenery of the Ghauts,

which in one part forcibly reminded me of a drive near Thorold that I have taken hundreds of times, looking down over the low-lying country to the blue waters of Ontario in the distance.

Yet there are some things that in their way approach Canadian life. I attended for the first time this week a meeting of W.F.M.S. The meeting was exceedingly interesting both from the link it formed with the workers at home and the earnestness of the native Christians themselves in spreading the glad news.

A Y.M.C.A. was formed about a month ago. Last evening we were invited to one of their social meetings, which was quite interesting. It was entirely in English, which was a treat to us. Of course the English of some of the natives was rather amusing; though no more so, I suppose, than ours is to them. The remarks of one young man especially attracted us. He mentioned the objection some had found in the name, preferring to call it Young Men's Indian Association. "But why," he asked, "should we object? Is it not but a branch of the great work these Christians are doing for us?" He himself is a Hindoo, but appears to have leanings to our religion. His face is expressive of character. Many indeed of the natives have faces strongly attractive. And often we see striking resemblance to our acquaintances at home. Some of them, too, are very fond of assuming English habits and dress.

They have great regard for Mr. Wilkie; every word of his secures their close attention. I believe the blessing that has been bestowed on his work is but an earnest of what is to follow. I am glad the Council have granted him his much needed rest, if rest it will be. The amount of work he accomplishes is surprising. I believe he intends to sail early in March, or possibly February.

*NORTH-WEST INDIANS.*  
Evidences of Progress.

FROM MISS RUSSELL.

*Indian Industrial School, }  
Regina, Jan. 9, 1894. }*

Mr. McLeod told me some time ago of your request that either Mrs. Leckie or I should write you. Mrs. Leckie has very little time for letter writing ; so I shall endeavour to give you an account of the progress of our work.

Now that the holidays are over, we are getting back to the old routine of work. It is a great pleasure to see these boys and girls advancing not only in their studies, but also in appearance and bearing. With the new year we began the study of the International Sabbath School lessons, and it does give one a feeling of fellowship with the whole world. Up to the present time, the lessons have been selected by the Principal, the Rev. Mr. McLeod, and these have been taught in the simplest and most interesting manner. But the pupils have made such advancement in their study of the English language, that we are now enabled to unite with our friends in Ontario, and in other parts of the world, in studying the same portion of Scripture on the Sabbath Day. We also take up a collection, and you will perhaps wonder how we mean to dispose of it. Many of the boys and girls are deeply interested in the children over the seas who have never heard of Jesus ; so we mean to devote the money to the support of a native missionary in some foreign land. There are ways and means which enable the boys and girls to earn a little pocket-money, and all willingly give of their means, and those that haven't it to give are in full sympathy.

It is encouraging to see the sympathies of these children extending to their brothers and sisters in need.

We have long been contemplating organizing a society for mission work among the girls, and we hope at a very early date to be in working order.

Lately the boys and girls seem to be developing a greater taste for reading. The long winter evenings are spent in various ways, in singing, reading, debating and games. There is now a band among the boys, but they have only been practising for a short time ; so we have not been able to hear them play yet.

A boys' brigade is about to be organized.

We have been comparatively free from sickness for the last few months. A number seem to have had *la grippe*, but not in a severe form. During the summer we had a great deal of sickness.

Two dear little boys from among our Indian children were taken home. They were great play-fellows, the older one always seeming to have such a protecting care over the younger. Their companionship was not interrupted for long—not quite one week. Then when we dared to look up and hope that death had departed from our midst, he laid his cold hands on the little household pet, John Meredith McLeod. For the short time that he was with us, he twined himself so around our hearts that it was very hard to let him go. Even yet visions of what he was, with his bright eyes and merry, joyous laugh, rise before us and

“ We long for the touch of a vanished hand  
And the sound of a voice that is still.”

He was indeed a little flower, that had shed its fragrance around many lives, and which God saw fit to pluck for His own garden.



## Christmas at Alberni.

FROM MISS MINNES.

*Alberni, Jan. 9, 1894.*

Your letter reached me a week ago, and I will try, as you wish, to tell you something about our Christmas. Two of the officers of the "Maude" sent us a box of oranges, two good-sized packages of candies, one of nuts and one of raisins; and three Chinamen who have attended our Sunday school all summer, and for a few weeks have been coming over three evenings in the week to learn to read, also gave us oranges, nuts and candies for Christmas; so we were well supplied.

We invited the children belonging to both our Sunday schools to dinner but did not ask their parents, as we had to have them indoors, and thought there would hardly be room. We were very busy Christmas morning decorating the room and tables. At about twelve o'clock our visitors began to arrive, and, notwithstanding the fact that the grown people were not invited, we had fifteen children, three infants and fifteen grown people. We had to set one of our tables twice, for, of course, when they came we had to make them welcome. We had for them: beef, potatoes, turnips, bread, buns, Christmas cake, oranges, nuts, raisins, and candies. After dinner, which all seemed to enjoy very much, we sang some hymns, then all went away but our own children.

I spent part of my vacation with Mrs. Guillod, wife of the Indian agent, and nearly all the children were at their own homes for a few days.

When I returned, Miss Johnston told me a most amusing incident which had taken place during my absence. Our two youngest, Susy and Hialth, were the only children here. It is usual, when 'all our girls are here, for some to go upstairs to do the work there and some to remain down.

The first morning our little ones were here alone Miss Johnston noticed a consultation being held after breakfast, and the result was that Hialth, who is nearly five years old, took the broom and dust-pan and went upstairs to do the rooms, while Susy, a little six-year-old, prepared to wash the dishes. This is encouraging to us, as it shows what training will do.

We received from Victoria, the last time the "Maude" was in, a box of gifts for our children. A Mission Band called "The Willing Workers," who have been interested in our mission from its beginning, collected \$5, which they gave to Miss McGregor to spend on presents for our girls and boys. There were games, dolls, aprons, toilet articles and toys in the box. These we gave to the children last Friday, as they did not arrive in time for us to have a Christmas tree. All were much pleased with their gifts.

We opened school yesterday, and are at work once more. We are enjoying a snow-storm at present, which makes us, Ontario people, feel quite at home. Many thanks for your kind wishes for 1894.

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## SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

### Acknowledgment of Clothing and Gifts.

FROM MISS LAIDLAW.

*Portage la Prairie Mission School, Jan. 8, 1894.*

You will be glad to hear that our Christmas tree and Christmas dinner passed off pleasantly. The parents of the children attending school were invited to the Christmas tree, each receiving some small gift. Our trouble was amply repaid by their happy faces. A skirt has always been given to the old grandmothers. One crippled with rheumatism and not able to

walk without crutches came displaying her rags and saying, ‘*Suksuncha seche*,” which means “dress no good.”

On Christmas Day between fifty and sixty Indian men and women were here for dinner. I felt the pleasure in serving them to be greater than I had ever experienced on a Christmas day.

Our attendance at the school keeps as usual. There are some children at the *tēpeēs* now old enough to come, and as we are doing all we can to get them, we hope to add to our number before spring. There were six children went home for a few days, but their parents brought them back.

We find the woodshed a boon. Miss Fraser wonders how they got along without it so long.

There is a good deal of sickness among the children at the *tēpeēs* ; indeed, two died last week, and there is still a mother whose life is despaired of. One of the medicine men has been ill for some time ; he was for a time unwilling to accept of any attention, but now we are welcomed, and “*Thank you*” is heard from him before the basket is opened.

A temperance meeting was held on Thursday night and there are eight who have signed the pledge.

Although the work is encouraging, there remains much to be done, and I know I need only to mention this to you to have the aid of all your prayers.

Miss Fraser and I wish to be remembered to all the ladies, and hope '94 may bring to one and all of you a year of rich blessing.

---

FROM MR. G. G. M'LAREN.

*Birtle Indian School }  
Birtle, Man., Jan. 9, 1894. }*

Your favour of Dec. 28th reached me Jan. 2nd, and the box of which you wrote arrived two days later. The contents were

in good condition and most suitable in kind and quality ; this is not the first box we have received from Salt Springs We have always found the goods to be of the most suitable kind. I regret the omission of the P. E. Island box in my last ; I cannot understand how it occurred. I wrote quite a long letter to their pastor, whose name was given in the letter already mentioned, but I fear it did not reach its destination, as it certainly would have conveyed to them all the information necessary. We thank them all for their kind assistance, which I often think we do not fully appreciate.

Our school is moving quietly along with 22 children. There are a few more ready to come, but I have not been able to take the time to go for them. Our new building is very convenient ; we find it much easier managing the children in a well-appointed building than in the other houses we occupied.

We have had some severe winter weather, but have had no storms.

Kindly convey to the friends who sent the goods our hearty thanks.

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FROM MISS ANNIE CAMERON.

*Prince Albert, Jan. 17, 1894.*

Yours of Jan. 11th just received, containing copies of shipping bills of clothing sent by the Maitland Presbyterial Society for the Indians at Prince Albert. I am glad to say I received the four boxes, ten bales and sacks some time ago, all in good condition.

The contents were everything that could be desired. Every article is useful and of an excellent quality. The abundant supply of men's and boys' clothing is much appreciated. At Christmas I gave all the little boys new suits and the girls

new dresses. It would have warmed the hearts of the kind friends who sent them if they could have seen the look of delight on the bright little faces. The supply of quilts is abundant, and they are a great blessing to the needy Indians here in protecting them from the cold north wind. The stockings and mittens also were much appreciated. I heartily thank all the kind Christian women who have exerted themselves so much for the comfort of the poor and destitute. I am very sorry I did not acknowledge receipt of the clothing sooner, and hope my delay has not caused you any trouble.

Miss Baker left last October to visit her friends in the East, and I am carrying on the work alone until she returns; so you see I am kept very busy. I like the work very much and we are getting on nicely at school, notwithstanding the many trials and discouragements; but there is sweet comfort in the words "Lo, I am with you always," and to know we have the sympathy and prayers of so many kind friends who are all engaged in the same good work for the Master.

FROM MISS RUSSELL.

*Regina, Jan. 9, 1894.*

First of all I shall tell you about our Christmas tree, which was laden down with the gifts contributed by the many kind friends in Ontario. Christmas Day had been eagerly looked forward to by the large as well as small, and their delightful anticipations of what Santa Claus should bring them seemed fully realized, as each one came proudly forward for his or her gift from off the Christmas tree. They had fared sumptuously all day, and that is quite an item in the lives of Indian children, as well as in those of white children. During the afternoon the Christmas tree had been made ready, and by half past seven o'clock the lamps were lit in the school-

room, and also a number of little candles peeped out here and there from the Christmas tree, making it look quite brilliant. Christmas mottoes decorated the walls, and when the children marched in, nicely dressed in their Sunday best, a more pleasant room or a happier-looking group of children would have been hard to find. After a short entertainment of about an hour in length, the distribution of the presents took place; and, as the tree was robbed of its beauty, each child seemed too much absorbed in admiration of his own possession to care. Every child went to bed apparently happy after his day of enjoyment. Now we have all kinds of music; in fact, we are a very musical family.

I am sure the friends who contributed towards our Christmas tree will feel repaid in knowing of the pleasure it afforded these children.

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FROM REV. A. W. LEWIS.

*Snake Plain P. O., Aldina, via Duck Lake, }  
Saskatchewan, N. W. T., Dec. 23, 1893. }*

Day before yesterday, December 21st, was a red-letter day for the school children. When the goods came I laid aside a large supply of the beautiful, the comic, and the useful, for a Christmas tree. We thought it best to encourage the children to attend school; so the Christmas gifts were for the school. Perhaps the careless may gain inspiration for the future.

Wednesday evening the large evergreen was put in place and loaded ready for the morrow. It was curtained off to await the close of school on Thursday. The agent had sent rice, apples and syrup. These I cooked and mixed ready for use. Thursday at noon I took over a large preserve kettle full, to the delight of the children. The Chief enjoyed it with them. He seemed

much pleased with the presents I gave him, and he told the children they ought to be good and learn all they can. At three o'clock the Christmas tree was unveiled. All eyes were fixed upon it. Joy beamed from every face. Murmurs of delight came from many lips. The girls received dolls, aprons, hoods, bright yarn, handkerchiefs, scarfs, etc. The boys got hats, caps, balls, glass alleys, mouth-organs, etc. Three large cloth scrap-books were given to the three girls that swept the school-house the oftenest. A Bible was presented to the one attending Sabbath school the most regularly. This fell to the lot of a very bright girl of eleven or twelve years, Jemima Johnson. Two Bible picture-books were given to the two coming next. Bright pictures were given to all and their hands more than filled with candies. They were a happy group. It was a pleasure to see their bright, sweet faces. It was comical too, to see them do up their parcels in their shawls and put them upon their backs. When a short distance from the school-house they sat down in a cluster and spread their treasures in the snow, to have another look at them. How children imitate their parents!

Our new teacher has just finished her first quarter, and the improvement in the school is greatly to her credit. I often drop in, and it is a pleasure to see their eager faces, bright looks and tidy appearance. The punctuality is a marked advance, and so is the order. The way in which unseemly habits are being abandoned and gentle behaviour is learned, forms a strong argument in favour of *lady* teachers.

The tick of the new clock is a cheery accompaniment to the work of the day. Though the Christmas tree is robbed of its glory, we trust it will long be green in the memory of the children of Mistawasis.

Jan. 20.—Your kind favour of Dec. 12th received some time ago. It was a pleasant surprise to know that there were more

boxes and bales of goods on the way to our cold mission. The first supply was an abundant one ; yet the most serviceable things were soon disposed of. They were sure to ask for just the things we did not have—pants and overcoats for men, and dresses for women. The day before yesterday I received and unpacked your additional supply. The box of clothing from the *Maitland* Presbyterial Society contained a large number of disposable overcoats. Formerly the general complaint was that they were too small. These are large enough for the most ambitious. The pants also are suitable.

The most serviceable supplies also sent from Ottawa, Brockville, and Howels, P.Q., are gratefully acknowledged. The Christmas gifts sent by the Mission Bands of the Toronto P.S. are *excellent*. They came too late for Christmas, but that did not matter in this instance. Those just received we intend keeping for *Easter*. The presents then will depend upon regularity, good behaviour, etc., at school during the coming three months.

During the Christmas holidays our school house was repaired inside by the Government. A new floor, a ceiling (instead of the bare, rough rafters) and a new stool give the room a respectable appearance and make it comfortable.

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## MISSION STUDIES.

BY MISS FERRIER, CALEDONIA.

*Seventh Paper.*

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A BRIEF SKETCH OF SOME OF THE EAST INDIAN CONVERTS.

The history of Lal Bihari, so long connected with the San Fernando Mission, will, I think, be interesting to my readers. He was born near Benares in India and had from early childhood deep religious feelings and longing for light. His father died



when he was sixteen years of age. And being cruelly treated by relatives he resolved to go to Trinidad as a labourer, hoping to save money enough to enable him to return to India and obtain an education. When his term of service was over, he set out in a sail boat for Port of Spain to procure his free papers, but the boat was driven by adverse winds far out of its course, and, after enduring much privation and loss, he finally succeeded in returning to San Fernando, where he resumed his work as a labourer. Just at this time Mr. Grant first met him and spoke to him of Christ, and from being an interested hearer he soon became, as we have already stated, one of the first band of professing Christians. A year or two after he was made an elder of the then small congregation, and from that time forward has been earnest in labour for the evangelization of his countrymen. In 1878, yielding to a longing desire to see his mother, he resolved to go on a visit to India, but the ship in which he set sail was wrecked next day in the Gulf of Paria, and, though the lives of all were saved, he regarded the occurrence as the hand of Providence barring his way, and returned to his work in the mission. His mother joined him the following year, and soon became a Christian. In 1882, after the necessary course of study, he was ordained to the office of the ministry and has since been Dr. Grant's able co-adjutor in the oversight of the San Fernando district.

The Rev. Charles Ragbir, the second native minister, received his early training at the school in Princetown, and then went to the United States to study for the ministry. After finishing his theological course, he was employed at Couva, whence he was transferred to a part of the San Fernando field in which there were four preaching stations and a fine opening for mission work. There are many Roman Catholics in this district, and Mr. Ragbir tells of a great image of the Virgin, styled the Queen

of Heaven, which thousands of people from all parts of the island came to worship, bringing offerings of oil, silver and gold. He truly says "How can we tell the heathen that God's command is, 'Thou shalt have no other gods before Me,' when they see those professing to know the Bible setting up images and worshipping them? 'Knowing God, they have glorified Him not as God.'" Mr. Ragbir worked faithfully in this district for eight months, when, on account of his having had repeated attacks of fever, he was removed to another part of the field equally good for mission work, where he continued to labour with much diligence until recently, when it was decided that he should go to the island of Grenada as missionary to the Coolies labouring there. Mr. Ragbir is married to an American lady, with whom he became acquainted while studying in the States, and she has aided him in his work by instructing the women, visiting the day schools, and teaching young women to sew and cut out work; she has also assisted Mrs. Grant in her weekly class for sewing in San Fernando.

Mr. Soodeen and Mr. Annajee have laboured for many years as catechists, and have been most faithful and helpful in the work, and as previously stated, there are now thirty-nine Hindoo students preparing for the ministry, all of whom are employed as catechists during their intervals of study.

Every effort is made to make the converts familiar with the Scriptures. In the Bible classes and Sabbath schools the International system of lessons is universally used. Lal Bihari reports one of his methods thus: "After explaining the lesson we call one man to the platform, and all the rest in turn ask him questions. When he fails to answer he sits down, and whoever put him down goes to the platform. This plan is lively, pleasant and makes everybody sharp."

Mr. Sammy, a young man in business, gave two nights weekly to teaching a class of young men, three of whom were thus trained for teachers. The same gentleman for five months gratuitously superintended the building of the new college, and thus secured a better building at less cost than could otherwise have been obtained.

The liberality of many of the converts is most exemplary. One, for example, swept the church he attended, trimmed the lamps, supplied the oil, weeded and ornamented the church lot, and besides contributed a dollar and a quarter each Lord's Day,

and that continuously for six years, at the end of which time he and his family, who were all Christians, returned to India, and there doubtless continue to adorn their Christian profession.

The system of weekly offerings for the support of ordinances seems to be largely followed, and a considerable portion of the yearly expenses are thus defrayed, but the work of the mission is extending so rapidly that it demands an ever-increasing expenditure, and a corresponding increase of liberality on the part of its supporters in Canada.

### NOTICES.

The Board of Management meets on the *first Tuesday* of every month, at 3 o'clock p.m., and on the remaining Tuesdays of each month at 10 a.m., in the Board Room of the Bible and Tract Societies, 104 Yonge Street, Toronto. Members of Auxiliary Societies, or other ladies interested in the work and desiring information may attend a meeting if introduced by a member of the Board.

Letters concerning the organization of Societies, and all matters pertaining to Home work, are to be addressed to Mrs. Shortreed, 224 Jarvis Street, Toronto. The Home Secretary should be notified *at once* when an Auxiliary or Mission Band is formed.

Letters asking information about missionaries, or any question concerning the Foreign Field, as to Bible-readers, teachers or children in the various Mission Schools, should be addressed to Mrs. Harvie, 80 Bedford Road, Toronto.

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

All requests for life-membership certificates should be sent to Miss Bessie MacMurchy, 254 Sherbourne Street, Toronto, to be accompanied in every case by a certificate that the fee has been paid.

All correspondence relating to the sending of goods to the North-West or other Mission fields, will be conducted through the Secretary of Supplies, Mrs. A. Jeffrey, 142 Bloor Street West, Toronto.

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Miss Shortreed, Assistant Home Secretary, 224 Jarvis Street, Toronto, will conduct correspondence with Mission Bands, and will be glad to receive items of news or helpful suggestions relating to this branch of the Society's work.

All letters to the Board not directly bearing upon work specified in the above departments should be addressed to Miss Haight, Corresponding Secretary, Morvyn House, Jarvis Street, Toronto.

The President's address is, Mrs. Ewart, 66 Wellesley Street, Toronto.

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For above apply to Mrs. Telfer, 72 St. Albans Street, Toronto

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Applications for Reports to be made to the Home Secretary, Mrs Shortreed, 224 Jarvis Street, Toronto.

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### Directions about the Monthly Letter Leaflet.

1. The year begins with the *May* number. 2. Subscription, cents a year, *payable in advance*. 3. Subscriptions may begin any time (one cent a copy), but must end with the *April* number. All orders and money to be sent through the Presbyterian Secretaries to Mrs. (Agnes) Telfer, 72 St. Albans Street, Toronto.