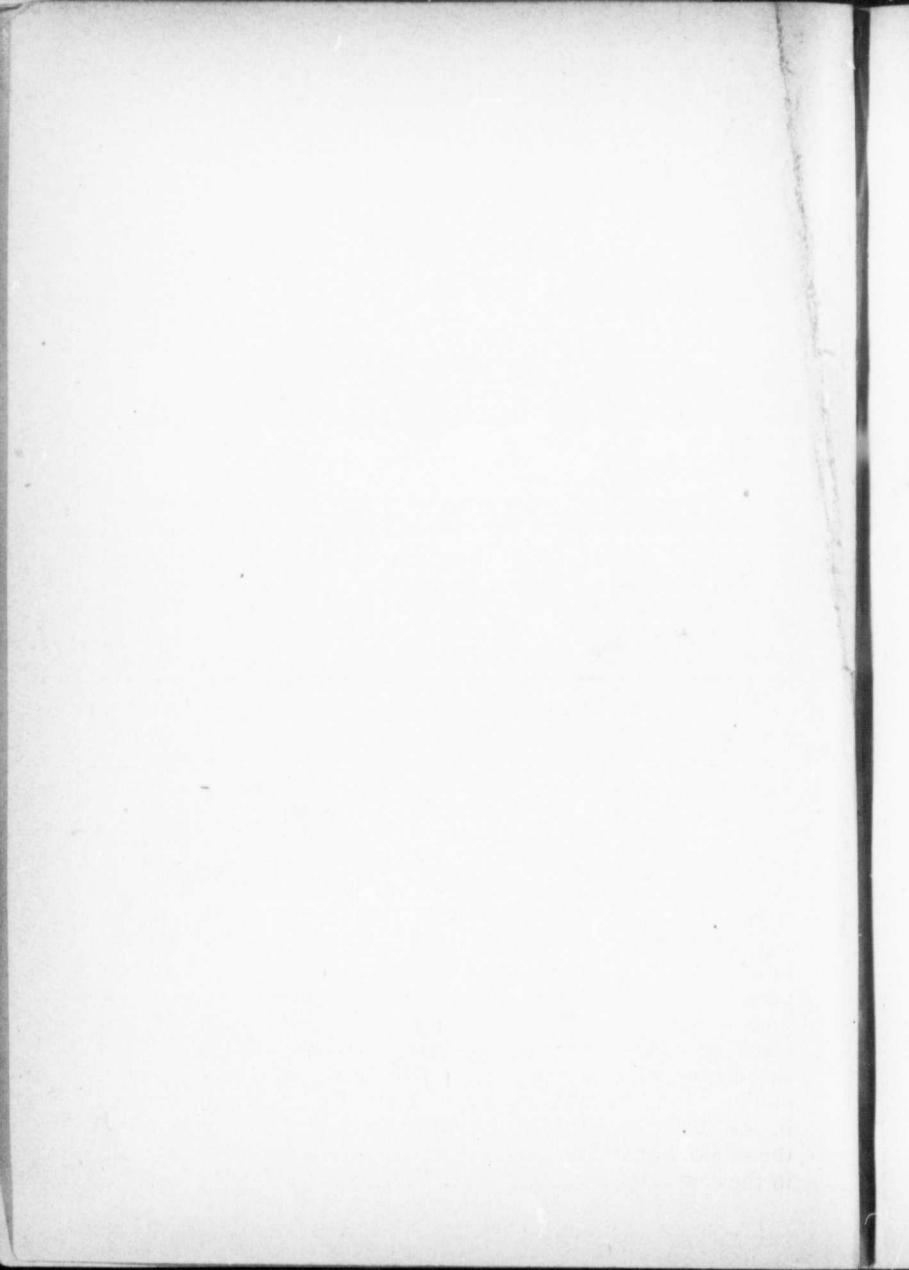


Aug-185



W. F. M. SOCIETY





Foreign Letters, issued August 1st, 1885.

FROM MISS RODGER.

INDORE, CENTRAL INDIA, May 7th, 1885.

MY DEAR MRS. HARVIE,—

I should have answered your last letter sooner, although I had not much to write about. Just now my school is closed for a month, as the heat is very oppressive. Since I last wrote the boarding school has been begun. As yet there are only three girls, and they occupy one of the rooms in our own house. Until accommodation is provided more cannot be taken, but others are willing and wishing to come. It was only because Miss Ross was away at present in the hills that there happened to be a room for these three girls. Before she returns the new houses will be ready, and better arrangements can be made. Two of the girls are daughters of Miss McGregor's Bible woman, and as their mother is a widow, she was only too glad to have her daughters taken into the school; she was obliged to leave them so much alone when out at her work. The third one is Dinah, the daughter of Rebecca, who was formerly in the mission, and who now supports herself by doing ayah work. She has a woolly, curly head, showing plainly her African descent, and is very sharp. However, her mother has promised \$2 per month towards her support. Only those who cannot afford to pay full will be helped, and all will require to give something. The present idea is to build houses for the boarding school on the compound where my school is, and the two can be worked together. The situation is a very desirable one for a girls' school, as most of the Parsi and Bengali families in the camp reside in the neighbourhood. They can come to the school by a back way, which is a decided advantage, especially in the case of some of the larger girls.

Lately Saturday was given wholly to knitting and fancy work, instead of doing a little each day, and the plan worked well. The women as well as the girls are anxious to learn to knit, and one man, whose house I visit, was delighted when he found his wife could knit a stocking. He declared she was not at all dull, and was loud in her praise.

Our text for this morning, is: "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand; for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good." With kindest remembrance,

Yours sincerely,

MARGARET RODGER.

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FROM MISS MCGREGOR.

—
INDORE, May 13th, 1885.

MY DEAR MRS. HARVIE,—

As for the staff here, we are not doing much, only keeping in-doors out of the heat. We live like owls, creeping out in the twilight to get a little fresh air.

We have thus far been spared the scourge of cholera in Indore, but in Mhow it has been very bad. It was caused in the first place by the great méla or fair at Oojien, and soon spread to the adjoining stations. There have been only a few cases at Indore.

Our new houses are going up rapidly; in fact, they are nearly finished now. We hope to move into them before the monsoon sets in.

Miss Ross and Mr. Builder and family are away at the hills.

Our schools are all closed during this month. We are looking for a report of your meeting; hope mine reached you in time.

I am alone here all day, as Miss Rodger and Dr. Beatty go down to a room they occupy in the bazaar. The other end of this house is not comfortable for the hot weather.

My principal work at present is the translation of a Marathi book, or rather an English book into Marathi. It is called "The Outlines of Christian Doctrine."

I am glad to hear that the Kingston society has joined. The work will, I am sure, be helped not hindered by so doing.

I am sure we are all well pleased to know that there is peace between France and China again.

Our war news is more reassuring for the last few days; I hope it may continue.

I hope you are in good health, your family likewise. With kind regards to the ladies, and love to yourself,

I remain,

My dear Mrs. Harvie,

Yours very truly,

M. MCGREGOR.

—:—:—

FROM REV. JOHN MCKAY.

PRINCE ALBERT, June 30th, 1885.

MRS. JOHN HARVIE,

For. Sec. W.F.M.S.

MY DEAR FRIEND,—

Your letter of June 6th is to hand. I will say that, as you mention in yours, I was surprised, but it was very agreeable. I most unfeignedly thank you for the interest you take in our work. I trust and hope that your whole committee will be richly blessed for your labour of love. I am happy to know that you are doing so much for our poor Indians, and trust that this year a portion may reach us. In answering your question, allow me to say that any kind of clothing will be suitable; warm clothing much needed for school children in winter, and would very much assist us in our work. The best time to send would be as soon as possible, as freight charges are lower in summer. You would address them to me through the Superintendent of Missions, Rev. Jas. Robertson, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

It was with many regrets we left our mission March 28th, in company with our Indians, who, I am very happy to say, were good and loyal to a man. We all feel sadly how this unfor-

fortunate rebellion has acted as a destroying agent in this our fair land. We lost a good deal of our personal effects. The crop prospect for this year was blighted, as our Indians could not get back to the reserve in time to put in a crop; this I fear will tell on our work. I sincerely trust that the Government will liberally assist all loyal Indians, in this substantial manner showing their appreciation of their conduct during the past months of disturbance and bloodshed. We intend leaving for home the day after to-morrow. After we again begin our work I will write you more fully, for I know our poor Indians will be more destitute than ever, and will be more in want than Indians more favourably situated, who were not obliged to leave their homes on account of the rebellion. In conclusion, allow me to thank you and all who take an interest in our work.

I remain, yours very sincerely,

JOHN MCKAY.

Address—

REV. JOHN MCKAY,
via CARLTON, SASKATCHEWAN,
 MIS-TA-WAS-SIS' RESERVE.

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FROM MISS MCKAY.

PRINCE ALBERT, June 29, 1885.

MY DEAR MRS. HARVIE,—

Your very welcome letter just to hand. We are very much pleased to know so many of the Toronto ladies are interested in our North-West Christian work. I have taught the Indian children four years; they are getting on splendidly; they all like to come to school.

I like to teach the poor little ones when I see how they do love to learn. They are very much in need of clothing.

We left the mission on March 28th, with our Indians, to get out of the hands of the rebels. It was a blessing that our Indians were loyal; they have all gone back to the reserve.

We are also going on Thursday next, where I shall again reopen the school. I shall be most happy to correspond with you every mail. I have no doubt but you will do all you can to enable these poor people to clothe their children for school. Most of the little ones cannot come to school in the winter, it is so cold, and they are not clad warm enough.

The things most needed are yarn and knitting needles. Most of them know how to make stockings and mitts; I have taught all the school girls, and they make them nicely. Send the dress goods of thick material, and flannel, cotton, thread, needles, hoods, blankets, or shawls; the latter would be the cheapest. Any cloth of any sort would make pants or coats for the little school boys; old clothes, dresses, underclothing suits; you will know how needy those poor Indians are, and they are always so thankful for any good deed that is done for them.

The Government gives the school, the books and slates, but very few, not enough to keep us well; we often get out of copy books, and many other articles we are mostly in need of. There are a great number of old women and orphans on our reserve, and all so destitute.

I hope, Mrs. Harvie, you will not think my letter too long for my first. I will be at home the next I write, and will be able to tell you a great many other things, and when this war is over I will be able to see and talk to them once more; we will be so happy to get home, and settled in peace and quietness among our loyal Indians. I thank you very much for the kind work you are doing for us. Pa and Ma heartily join me in wishing to be kindly remembered to all the dear ladies that are so kind.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

C. B. MCKAY.

N.B.—Our Auxiliaries and Mission Bands can have extra copies of the Monthly Leaflet sent them at four copies for 5 cents. By remitting to Home Secretary 25 cents, five extra copies would be sent for four months.

NEW SOCIETIES.

Brampton Auxiliary, in Toronto Presbyterial Society, organized by Mrs. Harvie.

Hampstead, East Zorra ("Burns' Church"), and Brooksdale Auxiliaries, in Stratford Presbyterial Society, by Mrs. Gordon.

Langside Auxiliary, in Maitland Presbyterial Society, by Mrs. Leask.

Warton and Chatsworth Auxiliaries, by Miss Scott.

East Lancaster Auxiliary, in Glengarry Presbyterial Society, by Mesdames Fraser and McRae.

"Busy Bees" Mission Band, Ashburn, in Whitby Presbyterial Society, by Mrs. McClelland.

NOTE.—The reprinting of the missionary letters is reserved by the Board of Management.

