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W. B. M. U. TIDINGS.

TWENTY FIVE CENTS PER YEAR

Vol. 5.

Amherst, N. S., December 1897.

No. 46

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR.
"Workers together with Him."

PRAYER TOPIC.

For the work and workers at Bobbili. For the new converts that they may be steadfast and bring many more to a knowledge of the true God.

Corrections in Miss. Band Notes of Nov. Tidings.

Miss Newcombe is not at Vizianagram but with Mr. and Mrs. Morse at Bimlipatam. Mr. Schutt did not go out with the missionaries this autumn. Also population of Parlakimedi is 350,000 instead of 35,000 and that of Parlakonda 210,000 instead of 230,000.

Suggested Programme for December.

SINGING.

SCRIPTURE, Isaiah, 44 : 1-18.

PRAYER.

SINGING.

READING Tidings.

PRAYERS.

DISCUSSION. What gifts can we as a Society give to the Christ for this work this Christmas season?

CLOSING prayer.

Suggested Programme for January.

PRAYER.

SINGING.

SCRIPTURE, Psa. 30. Read responsively.

THANKSGIVING prayer for souls won during the past year on our Telugu fields.

READING Tidings.

SINGING.

PRAYER for our Mission Bands and their leaders.

DISCUSSION. How can we help our Bands to raise Mr. Morse's salary?

Dear Tidings :

In looking over the Thirteenth Annual Report of our Missionary Union, I have been impressed to state a few facts and make a few suggestions, with special reference to our Home Mission work.

FACTS.

From the Year Book we learn there are 195 churches in N. S. besides those of the African Association. No church in the African Association has an Aid Society. While 195 churches in the other Associations of N. S. there are only 149 Aid Societies. When it is known that some churches have more than one Society, it must be that there are about 50 churches with no Aid Society. Of the 149 Societies four are not reported to have given anything to any work. Forty-one others as giving nothing to Home Missions, leaving only 104 to contribute to the great whitened fields at home. Of these three have given less than one dollar each to Home Missions. These were not reported to have been either. In N. B. there are 176 churches and only 64 Aid Societies. Of N. B. Societies according to the Report 6 give nothing to any cause and 30 others nothing to Home Missions, leaving only 146 to contribute to the home work.

Of the 149 Societies in N. S. 14 are new or re-organized since the Report of 1896. But 7 of the twelve re-organized in H. M. In N. B. 18 are re-organized and 14 of these since 1896 to H. Missions. Now the question is wrong when 7-12 of such Societies in one

Province and 7-9 in the other start life with so little manifested interest in the work at our own doors.

P. J. Island does better. She has 27 churches and 22 Aid Societies. But five of these are reported as giving nothing to any work, and four others nothing to H. M., leaving only 13 interested in the work at home. These are the facts. Now what are the

SUGGESTIONS.

Suppose each Society would take a monthly collection for H. M. If but 25 cents were obtained per month it would be \$3.00 a year. That would be as much or more than 25 of the Societies in N. S. that now give to Home Missions do, and only 24 in N. B. do more than that.

If the 63 Societies in N. S. that now give less than \$1.00 and the fifty churches that have no Aid Societies would each give \$1.00 it would amount to \$339.00. This would not a month's

work, but it would be a great step towards the goal of our work.

Do not expect intensification of the home work and from God.
MARGARET B. HALL.

Nov. 1897.

Notes from Nova Scotia

A few weeks in September and October were spent by the Secretary in

visiting among the Societies. The first place visited was Belmont where the County Convention for Colchester was held. Then to Lower Economy and Five Islands where we held our meeting on Sunday morning. Meetings were also held with the sisters at Acadia Mines, Parrsboro and Port Greenville. Amid some difficulties the sisters in these places are doing good work. Some new members were added, and we trust good done by these services. At Oxford, Cumberland Co., a Mission Band was formed with twenty-one members. Pres. Miss Robb; Vice-Pres. Mrs. Tait; Sec'y Miss Gussie Hunter; Treasurer Roy Brown. The name of this Band is "Honest and Earnest."

Meetings were also held in Annapolis County. The first with the Aid Society at Nictaux, and in the evening a public meeting at the same place. This meeting was conducted by the two Mission Bands, "Sunbeam" and "Co-Workers," the one working at Nictaux, the other at Nictaux Falls, and presided over by Miss A. Cahoon and Miss Hattie Morse. The exercises of both Bands showed careful training. Our sisters are engaged in a good work and the reward is sure.

Two meetings were also held at Torbrook, one in the afternoon with the sisters of the Aid Society and a public meeting in the evening. Although they have as yet no Band here, the children had a large part of the exercises and the result must be an increased interest in the work of missions.

On Sunday afternoon a meeting was held with the Band at Lawrence town, when Miss Edith Phinney was elected President and Miss Alice Y. President. That same evening I was privileged to attend and address a meeting of the B. Y. P. U. at South Williamsburg. This service commenced with the young people singing. The Rev. Mr. [unclear] was the speaker. Four of the sisters saved their names to join the Aid Society at Lawrence town.

The next week the County Convention for Lunenburg County was at Bridgewater. Mrs. Reid, our Sec'y, is the right woman in the right place. Miss Arehivald was with us, and we had excellent papers from Miss Lenotte and Mrs. D. W. Crandall.

On Wednesday afternoon a Mission Band was organized in Dartmouth with fifty members. Miss Johnston, Pres.;

Miss Hume, V. Pres.; Miss Nellie Keolor, Sec'y; Mr. Harry Eisener, Treas.

Dartmouth has lately for some years had its Mission Band in the Sunday School, but this not succeeded very well so we have returned to the old order of things. The name of the Band is "Willing Workers."

A. E. JOHNSTON,
Prov. Sec'y.

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For Tidings  
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Bobbili, Oct. 16, 1897.

My Dear Sisters:—
The programme for "Tidings" for the coming year arrived last mail, and as I see that I am down for December's letter, it behooves me to get it off this week.

What shall I tell you? Many things come to my mind to write, and it is hard to choose, but as the beggars seem to absorb more of my time and strength now, than most any other one thing, perhaps a few words about them may not be amiss.

However, I must begin my letter with thanksgiving to our dear people at home who have made it possible by their gifts, for us to do something to alleviate the great distress around us though we often feel that all we do is but "as a drop in the bucket" compared with what is needed to be done for them.

In July and August, our first months on the plains, after being to the cool and quiet of the hills during our greatest heat, the government had a relief camp at Bobbili where hundreds were daily fed, and other camps at towns and villages in the vicinity, in all of which thousands were fed daily. Also relief works established at which thousands could obtain work and pay. Then the numbers came to us to beg, and as we

could not get any more relief for beggars to come and bear the gospel and afterwards get rice, we concluded to continue this for people who would not go to the relief camps on account of their caste prejudices. But in September these camps were shut and the relief work stopped, which turned an increasing number of beggars on to the public, or upon private charity. We have not felt, with the means at our disposal, that we could have more than one day a week, in which we could have the whole army of beggars come to us, for there are still three month

of great scarcity ahead of us, if not more. So we have an extra quantity of rice prepared for that day, and when the rice runs out in the distribution, we go on with small pieces of money. Often 300 come and when we are through with the distributions we are about tired out.

Such loathsome sights come before our eyes and make the air redolent with impurities, as we pass around among the people, for many are literally decaying with leprosy and other diseases. And such clamoring for more! More! that we are often sick at heart as well as tired out when we get through the ordeal, for we are painfully conscious that the supply falls far short of the necessity.

But do you think we are done with beggars for the week after this distribution is over? No; not even for the rest of that day. Often many of these will come around the house afterwards clamoring and shouting that they were not present when the rice was given out. And as soon as one succeeds in getting a small piece of money from us, others will rush in calling out that they too have received nothing yet, and it is impossible to remember the faces of those to whom you have already given; and this they keep up for hours. Next day and the next, and every day, they are coming round calling out and showing their sunken stomachs and crying for food; and some are almost walking skeletons. And so you keep giving a kance to this one, an anna to another, and a cloth to another, and so on. I have been surprised to see women of very respectable families in Bobbili coming to beg, and some with scarcely rags enough on to cover their persons.

One will come to the front verandah and call Ummah, Ummah! till you have to go and get something for her. And you go, and get it, and you will find another voice comes ringing from the back verandah, and there is a mother with three children and no support. You give them something, but before they are out at the gate another call Ummah! Umma-ah! comes and you find a little girl who says both parents are dead and she is starving, or it may be an old woman who has thrown herself down on the verandah crying because she is so hungry, or a woman in dirty rags with a wailing emaciated babe guiltless of even a rag. These we

that God has provided through the death of His Son.

We therefore engage to send bread of life by the hands of collectors and missionaries to those even in our own land, bow down to the works of their own hands.

We further engage to do all in our power for the spread of the gospel to the earth, that Christ's Kingdom may come."

Responsive Reading, Matt. 2.

Minutes of previous meeting.

Roll Call. Each answering by repeating a verse containing the name of Jesus.

Singing. "The Gospel Bells Ringing."

Christmas Lesson, Found in Tidings.

The Lord's Prayer (in concert.)

Dear Girls and Boys of our Mission Bands:

Let me wish you a very joyous Christmas and a happy New Year. May the new year upon which you have nearly entered be the brightest and best in all your lives.

I trust that it will be a year in which

many shall give your young hearts to the Savior, and work more faithfully for Him than you have ever yet done.

And while you may receive many gifts from dear friends at this happy season, do not forget the Great Giver, and remember that the little heathen girls and boys do not even know of our joyous Christmas.

Yours Sincerely,
Mrs. J. M. Parker.

BAND LESSON.

Leader—Where was Jesus born?

Ans.—In a manger in Bethlehem.

Leader—Who were watching their flocks near the place where Jesus was born?

Ans.—Shepherds.

Leader—Who appeared to the Shepherds?

Ans.—An Angel.

Leader—What did the Angel say to them?

Ans.—"Fear not, for behold I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

Leader—What song did the angels sing at the birth of Christ?

Ans.—"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Leader—Did the Shepherds visit the Babe in the Manger?

Ans.—They did.

Leader—Did the infant Jesus have any distinguished visitors?

Ans.—Yes, Wise men from the East.

Leader—What was their first act on seeing Jesus?

Ans.—They fell down and worshipped him.

Leader—In what way did they honor him?

Ans.—By presenting to him gifts.

Leader—What were the gifts?

Ans.—Gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Leader—What does this lesson teach us?

Ans.—That we should worship God, and freely give to him of our substance.

Leader—How can we give our gold and silver to him?

Ans.—By supporting the gospel at home and sending out missionaries to teach the heathen.