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→ W. F. M. SOCIETY ←

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W. F. M. SOCIETY.

INDORE, June 14th, 1884.

My dear Mrs. Harvie,—It is somewhat difficult to know what to write about, as life here during this hot season is so monotonous. We must keep near the punkah in order to support existence. As I write the thermometer stands at 88°, with all the appliances we can use for cooling the house. You will be glad to learn, however, that we are all well, that is, Miss Rodger, Miss Ross, and as far as I know, the remainder of the staff, both here and in Mhow. By-the-hye, I understand that some of our friends at home think that Mhow is only $\frac{1}{4}$ miles from Indore. It is a small matter, perhaps, but Mhow is $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles away by rail, and Oogien, where our missionaries are to open a new station, is, I think, 33 miles away. Thither two of our native Christians are to go in a short time in order to preach the Gospel there. It is interesting to notice that our native Christians have undertaken to support these two brethren themselves. They have the privilege of voting on the matter, that is as to who shall be sent to out stations, and they are quite enthusiastic about it. We have been expecting to receive the report of your Annual Meeting, but none has come to hand yet. I hope you have not forgotten us.

We have 10 native Christian women in Indore, besides plenty of children growing up, I hope to be bright and useful. Two of the women are Bible readers, three are teachers in the schools, and are doing good work.

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less than before. Whenever and wherever he can throw obstacles in our way he does so, and upheld by the half-hearted, weak policy of the British officials, he can do a great deal. However, the matter will in the end be settled by the great missionary bodies in England, as public opinion is turning that way now. The leading newspapers in this country express their opinions freely on the subject. This morning the native magistrate in one portion of the city called me to his house, and told me I was not to teach the Christian religion. I told him I meant still to do so, when he said he would put me in jail. I very sincerely wish he would, as it might bring matters to a crisis, but he will not do it. He also threatened to throw my school furniture out on the street, and lock the door, but that he has not done. Mr. Wilkie sang "Victory to Jesus," a native hymn, while they were hustling him in the crowd not long ago, and so it will be victory to Jesus in the end. Let us pray more earnestly and work more faithfully, looking for that glorious consummation.

We visit the villages in this hot weather, and one old lady out there said to me very earnestly, "Come yourself, but do not bring any men with you." This arose, we found out, from her horror of the English soldiers, whom they say are *so bad*. What a foul blot on our Christianity.

You have heard, I dare say, that we had a prospect some time ago of getting a comfortable house. The Resident, Col. Bannerman, gave his sanction, and the owner wanted badly to sell. The matter was referred home, and the Committee telegraphed "Buy." Then the occupant of the house raised such a disturbance, and induced others to sympathize with him, so as to block the sale, until I fear we have not now the chance of getting it. You can scarcely believe, I dare say, that such a thing could be, but it is so. Arrangements are so peculiar here, and government servants have so much in their hands.

You will be glad to hear that Mr. Wilkie has at length been able to open a school for boys in the camp. It is prospering so nicely too, every day new scholars come. This, too, has been done in the face of ridicule and opposition which are hard to bear. Whatever is done seems to bring on us the enmity of our neighbors, until we could count our friends (in the station) on the fingers of one hand.

I must send this letter away as quickly as possible, as it is late. I hope that my report reached you in good time.

Now with kindest regards to all who are interested in us, and our work.

I remain, my dear Mrs. Harvie,
Yours very truly,

M. MCGREGOR.

TAMSUI, June 7th, 1884.

Dear Mrs. Harvie,—The weeks are flying—thank you for two letters yet unanswered. We are so glad and thankful to see reports of Annual Meeting. You ask for account of opening of Girls' School. Word has come that you have received Dr. McKay's report, so I need not refer to it. I only wish you could all see the building—some people think it even more handsome than Oxford College. The night of the opening we had up the British flag beside the Chinese, and Chinese lanterns hung from green arches all round the grounds. But if you could only know the converts—sometimes I'm so glad to think you will meet them all and know them by-and-bye.

There are now forty in the school, the youngest about ten years old. Four are pastors' wives, the rest converts or children of converts. All but five are Pi^a po'-hoans from the East. Six or seven preachers' wives are yet to come; to be here even for a short time better fits them to be companions to those whose ideas of life become so greatly changed during their course of study.

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The girls have not yet been here four months and thirty-three can read fairly well.

Including Dr. and Mrs. McKay six teachers are daily at work, each in turn with different classes in both schools. Occasionally Dr. McKay is called away, but the work goes steadily on.

By God's blessing some trying operations lately in Hospital have been successful.

For some time a Tâoist priest has been watched and prayed for; in the chapel at his home last Sabbath he asked leave to speak, and with bold emphasis told his friends that all the tales he had been telling about spirits were *lies* to obtain their money. So he cut off his chance of earning bread. Do you wonder our hearts are glad? A Buddhist priest also is coming; the other day I saw him with no gentle hand pitch down a block of wood saying "That's Buddha!"

Now dear working friends—the best of all:—Two Pi^opo-hoan villages tormented the converts in one lying between them, and persecuted the preacher. One night at a prayer-meeting in Oxford College nothing was prayed for but these two villages: shortly after news came that both had surrendered and were crowding the chapel. There are people in the world who *pretend* not to believe in prayer. WE BELIEVE in it.

Go on, dear friends, in Jesus' name, "your labor is not in vain." God bless you this year *more and more abundantly*.

ANNIE S. JAMIESON.

Honour to a Missionary-elect.

A very large and pleasant public meeting was held on the 15th inst., in the Central Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, to bid "God speed" to Miss Helen Bell, who goes out to Central India as a missionary. The Rev. Mr.

Lyle, Rev. Dr. Hunter and Rev. Mr. Service, addressed the meeting, after which Mrs. Lyle, in the name of the congregation, presented Miss Bell with a purse, at the same time testifying to the high esteem and kind regard felt for her by all connected with the church in which she has been a most faithful worker. Miss Bell's brother spoke for her very feelingly in reply. The Pres., Mrs. Ewart assured her of the deep and prayerful sympathy with which the Central Board would follow her in all her future service for the Master. Mrs. Harvie, Foreign Sec., then gave an earnest address, dwelling more particularly on the self-sacrificing and yet soul-rejoicing nature of this service, to which Miss Bell will in future devote herself.

A Presbyterian Society in connection with the W. F. M. has been organized in the Presbytery of Maitland.

The following are extracts from the report of the secretary of that Society :

"As the Board already knows, arrangements had been made with Mrs. Harvie to visit us. It was our privilege to meet her at the station and drive her to St. Andrew's Church, Lucknow, where her first address was to be given, and where the ladies were already waiting for her." She pressed "the claims of the Foreign Mission field as an outlet for the prayers, sympathies and liberality of women in this Christian land." The result was an addition of sixteen to the membership of their Society.

"We then drove to St. Helen's, where your representative received quite an enthusiastic reception. Quite a large congregation had assembled, and after a most interesting address, seven new members were added to the Society. That by no means represents the good done ; Mrs. Harvie's words will be helpful in the F. M. work here for years to come.

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“Next morning we left for Kincardine, where the Presbytery met that day, the Clerk having intimated to us that he would bring up our business. At half-past two we assembled in the basement of the church with the Presbytery, and Mrs. Harvie was, on motion, invited by the Moderator to address the Court, which she did on the formation, object, aim and results of woman’s work for women in heathen lands, and before resuming her seat asked leave of the Court to organize a Presbyterial Society. They granted her request. After a few fitting and most touching words from the Moderator, the representatives of auxiliaries adjourned to the church and formally organized themselves into a Presbyterial Society. Officers: Mrs. Cameron, Lucknow, *President*; Mrs. Ross, Brussels, and Mrs. McNabb, Lucknow, *Vice-Presidents*; Mrs. Leask, St. Helen’s, *Secretary*; Mrs. Murray, Kincardine, *Treasurer*. Mrs. Harvie then gave an address to the ladies of the Kincardine auxiliary, on our Foreign Field. I trust that this Society may in time be able to bring many sheaves to the Master’s feet.”

NOTE.—The following Societies have been organized during the past month:

London East Presbyterian Auxiliary, in London.

Avonbank Auxiliary, in connection with Motherwell Society.

Huron Auxiliary, in connection with Maitland Presbyterial Society.

“Hopeful Workers” Mission Band, Maxville, in Glen-garry Presbyterial Society.

