

Monthly Letter Leaflet.

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.

(WESTERN DIVISION.)

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FOREIGN NEWS.

DR. MARION OLIVER'S ARRIVAL IN INDIA.

INDORE, December 29, 1886.

I am not going to write you a letter of any length till I have been here a little longer, and able to write to some degree intelligently on Indore, and our mission work. To-night I just send a few lines to say that I've got here, got my own and the mission boxes and organs all here in good order. Got Miss Wilson converted into Mrs. Murray; got a snug corner in Miss Beatty's rooms for myself; ay, and in her heart too; got myself and belongings pretty well in order, so that I shall be able to begin the regular study of Hindu on Monday next. We finished the end of our 8,000 miles' journey in good health, but glad, very glad, to find ourselves *at home* after so many weeks of journeying. How pleasant it made the voyage for me that I had Mrs. Murray for a companion. We reached Bombay on the afternoon of the 13th. Miss Beatty, Miss Rodgers, Mrs. Wilson were all in Bombay, and as a conference of the different Presbyterian Missions was being held that week, all the gentlemen except Mr. Builder were also there, so we had a large as well as a most hearty welcome. Next day was an important day, as at 4 p.m., in the Free Church, the pastor (Rev. Mr. Forgan), assisted by Rev. Fraser Campbell, united Mr. Murray and Miss Wilson in marriage. Rev. Mr. Wilson gave away the bride. Prof. Alexander, of Bombay Free Church College, and myself, supported the bride and groom. The members of our own mission then in the city, the Presbyterian Missionaries in Bombay, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Valentine, of Agra (who were fellow passengers with us), comprised the guests. After a wedding breakfast at the bungalow of

Rev. Mr. Forgan, the bride and groom went off to a hill station near Bombay to spend their honeymoon. We remained in Bombay till the 16th, as Miss Beatty had much business to see to. Arrived at Indore on Saturday, the 18th; found everybody belonging to the Mission, whom we had not already met, in good health. Am more than agreeably surprised with the Mission, with India, and with my surroundings. Miss Beatty's hands are more than full; but, as yet, my tongue is tied, and that means practically my hands too, so I can give her little help. I am trying to pick up fresh words every day. Have been in several native houses with Miss B., and seen many sick women and children, the sight of which makes me long for the gift of tongues. This is anything but a missionary letter, but, next to Missions, what could interest a woman more than a wedding?

ADDITIONAL MISSIONARIES FOR THE NORTH-WEST.

The Foreign Mission Committee have recently made the following appointments to fields in the North-West:—1. Mr. Toms, to be missionary teacher to the Indians on the four reserves on the File Hills. 2. Miss Jenny Wight, to be missionary teacher for the band of Sioux Indians near Portage la Prairie. 3. Rev. Alexander Urquhart, Regina, to be missionary to the Indians on the three reserves of Piapot, Muscowpetung, and Pasquah, near Regina. Mr. Toms has already entered upon his work at File Hills, and Miss Wight at Portage la Prairie.

FROM MR. TOMS.

FILE HILLS, December 22, 1886.

Yours of the 13th inst. (*re* clothing for Indians) duly at hand. I feel deeply grateful to my kind Christian sisters, and I can assure them that we (the Foreign Missionaries) feel that Amalek shall be defeated, and God's name honoured and glorified, because by such a kindly interest as you take in our work, and the prayers that you offer for our success, together with the feeling that we have (as branches of the True Vine) a common sympathy, we are encouraged to plod on amidst the many discouragements by which our lives are surrounded, knowing that in the end we shall reap if we faint not, and that, although isolated, we are not alone, but have our faithful sisters present with us in sympathy. I will give you a short sketch of the work done at the File Hills

Indian Mission. I arrived at the File Hills on September 15th, 1886, and found my Indian friends encamped near the Agency Buildings, in order to receive their annual allowance of *treaty money*. I had, therefore, an opportunity of seeing them all at the same time, and studying their habits and peculiarities. I (through the interpreter) asked them about sending their children to school, and the answer I received was this, that they did not want a school, and that if they sent their children to school, they would be conferring a favour on the Government. I was told by the interpreter that they had met in council, and had resolved not to have a school on the reserves. You will, therefore, be able to judge what my feelings were at that time, but I was not discouraged because my trust was in the *Lord of Hosts*, and I prayed to God to open up a way for me, which He, in His infinite mercy and goodness, saw fit to do. I had to wait about three weeks before the school-house, which had been damaged during the war, was put into proper repair. I then attempted to get scholars, but they did not come for a time; at last, after praying to God, begging the natives, and trying to show them that our Church was their friend, I succeeded in getting one pupil, a poor, dirty, ragged little fellow, who seemed to think that some terrible calamity was going to happen, and therefore, he stood trembling from head to foot, while his eyes seemed starting from their sockets with fear. I gave him a hard biscuit and some tea, which he seemed to relish very much, and then I suppose his feelings could stand the strain no longer; he rushed out of the school-house, exclaiming, *Kee-way, was-ki-e-can-nitche!* (I am going to the house, brother!) This was my first day at teaching Indians. The next day I got four boys, and the same fear seemed to possess them, so I tried to find out the cause, which I succeeded in doing, and which is as follows: The children had been told that white men delighted in punishing them, and that a teacher was one of the worst men in this respect; you will, therefore see what a task I had before me in trying to make them believe I was their friend and brother, and the usual salutation I got from a new scholar was striking his or her hand on the body, and exclaiming: *Na moia, tapis cooh* (you will not whip us like this). Having been assured that I did not intend to whip them, they would come into school and sit down near the door, but if I only took up a piece of firewood to put into the stove, they would rush out at the door, and then I would have to coax them in again; but that feeling has died out, and now they come without fear, and some of them are beginning to take a great interest in their work, but the majority come only because they

get something to eat and drink. Sometimes I invite them to dine with me, and then I take the trouble, although I have to do all my own work, to make it as much like a Christian meal as possible. We say grace, and then we commence our meals, at which the children use their knives, forks and spoons, instead of their fingers; after they have finished, I show them a few pictures (all I have) and try to explain them to my visitors; then we say good night, and I have to put the room straight and wash the dishes, etc., and put them away. Sometimes I feel very tired, but when I open God's Word to read before retiring to rest, I find such cheering passages as these: "Inasmuch as ye have done unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done unto Me;" "According unto thy day so shall thy strength be;" and although my body may be weary, my soul is strong, and my thoughts go out after God. I give large quantities of tea and sugar, and sometimes I make food for the sick, but I have had some heavy losses, and my wife and family could not come up from Algoma this fall, owing to sickness in the family, and there is no communication with the district in which they live, except by dog teams; therefore I shall not be able to get them until spring, and I can assure you, dear sisters, that I need my wife's help very much, and when I got the letter saying that they could not come, I felt very much discouraged, but God said: "I will be with thee, My rod and My staff shall comfort thee," and I humbly said: Father, Thy will be done.

The Indians are passionately fond of pictures, and I can get them to understand what I mean much more readily by means of a picture, so that any old illustrated papers or books will be of great service to me, as they will make the lessons more attractive and pleasant. I have been trying hard to raise money to purchase a magic lantern,* in order that I may get the parents and children together sometimes, and let them have a pleasant evening. I could also, by means of pictures illustrating sacred things, give them a better idea of Scriptural truths. My Indians are all heathen, except one family of Roman Catholics. The File Hills Indians are considered to be one of the worst tribes in the North-West Territory, being lazy, greedy, thievish, liars, and very immoral; but then, we must take into consideration that they have never had the Gospel preached to them, and their children have never been educated. I have only been amongst them about three months, and I can see a great difference already.

*Mr. Toms has succeeded in getting a magic lantern in Winnipeg since the above was written.

I am sadly hindered in my work, because I have not a fair chance to acquire the language. I cannot get any works on the Cree language. My dear sister, if your society can help me in this matter, I shall be glad. I ought to have a Cree grammar, dictionary and New Testament. If you can get them, kindly let me know. I have got them to work a little, by working with them myself. We have dug a beautiful well, and God seemed to bless our labours, because we struck a beautiful spring at about seven feet, and this supplies all the families in the vicinity with pure, sparkling water; and I am glad to be able to state that we have not much sickness on the reserve. In morals, I see the dawn of improvement, because I find they do not like me to hear them speaking in an evil manner. Mine is not a boarding school, but I wish it were, because I am convinced, by my experience here and in other lands, that you can do more good in one year at a boarding school than you can in six with a day school. Dear sisters, help on the boarding school system among the Indians. There are about sixty-seven children on the four reserves, but only about twenty-eight of these can attend the present school. I have taken the first step toward Christianizing the children, viz., by giving them Christian names. I have had a difficult task. They all answer to their names, and the parents are beginning to call them by the same names. I have also got names for some of the older ones that I am best acquainted with. I am trying to teach them to be frugal, by example as well as precept. Sometimes I get them at the school-house and show them how to cook, and try to impress upon them the necessity of regulating their consumption of food. At present it is a feast and then a fast. I have not had one pound of butcher's meat since I entered upon my duties, and I content myself with rabbits, etc. For nearly three weeks I had nothing but biscuits and bacon, so that you will see a missionary's life is not plain sailing and comfort. I have no house, but live in the attic of the school-house. My dear sister, your letter is like cold waters to a thirsty soul, and I feel all the stronger for having it. I wish I could come down and tell you more about it, but that is impossible. I forgot to tell you that sometimes the poor children come to school blue with the cold. In conclusion, I must say I feel deeply grateful to you all for your prayers, kindly expressions, and interest. May God bless you.

MISS ROSE, PIAPOT'S RESERVE.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION, Dec. 4, 1886.

MY DEAR MRS. HARVIE, —There are so many things to say in this letter, I fear I will forget some of them. With regard to clothing—two excellent bales from Ayr, well assorted and carefully packed. Two large bales from Lindsay Presbytery, in many parcels, seemingly from a number of Auxiliaries, all good—excellent.

From Toronto—1 barrel of books, papers and pictures. I beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the elegant book, "Ben Hur," which my dear mother and I have read with delight. The pictures I put in the school-room, and many an old Indian man and woman spend hours looking at them with wonder and admiration. This barrel of books was a good investment. The Lord bless the dear young people of the East. The goods came in to me in one load—are piled in the school-room. The Indians, who generally cart them from Regina, perhaps twenty or thirty Indians, all around me at once, clamouring for food and clothing, etc., etc.; all is confusion. The Instructor and helper came over and opened up down stairs, and carried all up the stairs for me. They are left in piles for me to sort. It is by no means easy to be explicit about the clothing. The clothing was all given out, except the webs, before I saw the shipping bills. Of course you cannot understand the work and worry all this entails, to sort all into order, to know when, where and how to give, to feed, to teach, to cook, to keep fires, to do everything at once, and then to be asked to be "explicit."

I would need a private secretary. I have at this moment, lying by me unanswered, thirty letters, all wishing for missionary news; and I love to write, but can only do so much. So my dear Mrs. Harvie, and dear ladies all, you will pardon me if I fail in details. There are, while I write, ten Indians talking to me, each one wanting something. Yes—No. 1 wants mitts; No. 2 wants clothing for his papoose; 3, pants; 4, coat; 5, a blanket; 6, medicine; 7, a rope; 8, biscuit; 9, tea; 10, a warm cap. I do not pretend to hear, but write on. They say: "she is not understand." I pray to be guided each step of the way, and go on, not knowing.

The women are very degraded, more so than the men. Have they further to fall?

The poor old women are very grateful for the clothing, and sending the clothing is a good, good work. And the Master does own and bless, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, ye have done it unto Me." This is my comfort, day by day.

DEPARTURE OF MISS ARCHIBALD FOR TRINIDAD.

On the evening of November 16th, a missionary meeting was held at Truro, Nova Scotia, to bid farewell to Miss Minnie Archibald, who goes as missionary teacher to Couva, Trinidad.

Miss Archibald, who is an experienced teacher, will be a valuable addition to the band of workers already in that field.

REPORT OF SUPPLY COMMITTEE.

(Continued from January Leaflet.)

Glen Gordon Auxiliary contributed to the Mistawassis reserve, and Ripley Auxiliary to Assiniboine Reserve.

The donation to Indians forwarded to Mr. J. G. Burgess, although prepared on very short notice, weighed over 600 pounds, 540 being from Charles Street Church, Toronto, 60 from West Nissouri Auxiliary, and a good sized box from Mosa Auxiliary.

Brandon and Rugby Auxiliaries sent parcels to Rev. Geo. Flett's Indians.

Winnipeg Auxiliary, in addition to the donation to Edmonton, which included one sack of new clothing for children, prepared by the Mission Band of St. Andrew's Church, forwarded to Rev. Geo. Flett one sack clothing, one sack oatmeal, donated by Mr. Nairn, and one keg of molasses; and to the File Hills reserves 180 pounds clothing. Total, 11 sacks.

Toronto—additional donation. In response to a request for bedding for the school at Portage la Prairie, and clothing for File Hills reserves, the Toronto Societies connected with the churches, Central, Chalmers, East P., Erskine, Knox, Old St. Andrew's, St. Andrew's, St. James' Square; also "Burns" Auxiliary, Mrs. Harvie's Bible Class, St. Marks Mission S. S., \$15, Mrs. Gunther, Mrs. Gregg, Zion Church (Congregational) S. S., Band of Mission Helpers, and "Ivy" Mission Band, Lindsay, heartily contributed.

The bale for Portage la Prairie, addressed to Rev. A. Bell, contained warm blankets, comfortables, sheets, etc.; 250 pounds.

Four bales, addressed to the new missionary, Mr. Toms, File Hills, contained a large quantity and variety of warm garments suitable for all ages, warm blankets, etc. Gananoque Auxiliary assisted in this by sending a large donation, and of excellent quality. Total, 640 pounds.

The ladies in connection with Rev. P. Lindsay's congregation, New Richmond, Que., have forwarded 130 pounds of warm

clothing for the reserves lately taken charge of by Rev. A. Urquhart, Regina. An aged Christian of 97 knitted some socks, and tiny maidens were proud to knit little mitts for the Indians.

NEW SOCIETIES.

Ridgetown Auxiliary, Chatham Presbyterial Society. Chalmers Church Auxiliary, Woodstock; Princetown Auxiliary; "Willing Hearts" and "Lakeside" Mission Bands, Dumfries; and St. Andrew's Church Mission Band, Ingersoll, Paris Presbyterial Society. Wingham Auxiliary and "Willing Workers" Mission Band, Kincardine, Maitland Presbyterial Society. Knox Church Auxiliary, St. Marys, Stratford Presbyterial Society. Central Church, MacNab St. Church, and St. Paul's Church Auxiliaries, Hamilton. "God's Blossoms" Mission Band. Port Perry, Whitby Presbyterial Society. St. Peter's Auxiliary, Madoc, and Juvenile Foreign Mission Band, Picton, Kingston Presbyterial Society. Pleasant Valley Auxiliary organized, and Woodlands reorganized, Glengarry Presbyterial Society, Chelsea, Que., Auxiliary, in Ottawa Presbytery.

HOW TO MAKE MISSIONARY MAPS.

First select a piece of white cotton, with one side finished as smooth as possible for drawing on with pen or pencil. Suppose the map to be copied from your missionary book or magazine is six inches long and three and a half inches wide.

Then, in order to produce a good wall map, every measurement on your cloth should be seven times greater than shown in the book.

Your map, therefore, would need to be at least forty-two inches long, and twenty-four and a half inches wide. Having cut your cloth to the required size (allowing enough on edges for a hem), stretch it smoothly on a large table or wall, and proceed to trace with a *lead pencil* an outline of your map, according to a scale of seven to one.

First draw the lines of latitude and longitude, which serve as guides for all subsequent measurements. Next mark with the pencil the sea-coast, islands, lakes, mouths of rivers and boundaries of provinces, or countries. Now tack this pencilled outline to a frame or on a rough board wall. Instead of oil paints,

which are slow in drying, use Diamond Package Dyes. A mere pinch of the dye powder, dissolved in water, gives sufficient colour of one kind for one or even two maps.

The lighter shades (obtained by thinning the dye with more boiling water) are preferable, because the black letters are more legible on light coloured backgrounds. We recommend Eosine Pink, Lemon or Canary Yellow, Green and Bismarck Brown as best calculated to effect a contrast with the black lettering. By using these four colours on various sections or provinces of a map a fine effect is gained.

Having secured the desired shade of colour, a little mucilage may be mixed with the dye to prevent the colour running in the cloth. Moistening the cloth with a sponge before using the dye also tends to check such spreading of the colour.

Be careful *not* to dye the sea or lakes, as their being left white presents a better contrast.

To put on the dye, narrow or broad bristle brushes may be used, according to the size of the section to be coloured.

The filling in of the map follows *when the colours are dry*. The coast-line, rivers, towns, mission-stations, etc., should now be inserted with pen and ink, or with a fine brush and lampblack, or black dye with mucilage. When drawing, one must never forget the *scale* by which he started to work, otherwise the map, when finished, will be out of proportion.

The best Missionary Map of the world on cloth, we think, is that issued by the Presbyterian Board, 23 Centre Street, New York. It is twelve by seven feet in size, beautifully coloured, and sells for \$4, postage prepaid. The writer can speak from experience of its usefulness and attractiveness in Sunday-school room and church.

A missionary map may also be drawn with soft lead pencil on one or more sheets of printer's blank paper. Such a map may be made very quickly. But a coloured cloth map, once made, is more attractive, can be put in one's pocket, and used for years.

SPECIAL NOTICE—ANNUAL MEETING.

The eleventh Annual Meeting of this Society will be held in Old St. Andrew's Church, Jarvis Street, Toronto, on Tuesday and Wednesday, 12th and 13th April.

It is confidently expected that every Presbyterial Society, Auxiliary and Mission Band will be represented on this occasion.

The ladies of Toronto extend a cordial invitation to all members and friends throughout the Western Division. It is also earnestly hoped that friends from a greater distance may join the gathering, as ample accommodation can be provided.

Ladies who expect to attend will kindly send names and addresses to Mrs. Thomas Kirkland, 402 Jarvis Street, Toronto, who will provide homes for them during their stay in the city.

Certificates to travel at reduced rates will be furnished on application to Mrs. Hugh Campbell, 194 Richmond Street W., Toronto.

NOTE.—The reprinting of the *Missionary Letters* is reserved by the Board of Management.