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"Whatsoever he saith unto you do it."
P.S.
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MONTHLY LEAFLET

OF THE

Canada Congregational Woman's Board of Missions.

Vol. II.
No. 4.

MONTREAL, MAY, 1896.

Price 10c
a year.

SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.—May.

"Lord increase our faith."—Luke 17.5, Matt. 9.29, Heb. 11.1-6, Heb. 12.12.

TOPICS FOR AUXILIARY MEETINGS IN "LIFE AND LIGHT."

May—Ahmednagar, India. The Boarding and Day Schools; the Bible Women's Training School; the Village Work.

June—Madura, India. A Day with the Bible Women; a Day with the Doctor; a Day in a Missionary's Home.

THE MONTHLY LEAFLET.

All communications and letters from the missionaries intended for publication should be addressed to the Editor, Mrs. Sanders, 125 Mackay street, Montreal, P.Q.

EDITORIAL PARAGRAPHS.

— The treasurer's accounts for 1895-96 will close on May 20th. All remittances must be received before that date to insert in the Tenth Annual Report. One of the advantages of having "a Woman's Board of Missions" is that a record may be kept of what is being contributed by the women of our churches. In "union there is strength," and by showing others the success and progress of our united efforts we stimulate and arouse them to take part in the mission work. All the Branches, Auxiliaries and members should be loyal to the Board and send their gifts, whether for the Board's regular work or for special objects, through its treasury, so that they may be entered on the Treasurer's books.

From Mrs. Moodie, 185 Mance St., Montreal.

Leaflets cheer and stimulate workers and often silence objectors. So let a large distribution of the memorial issue of "Our Missionary Revival" by our late treasurer, Mrs. Ella F. M. Williams, be made in all our churches. 25c per doz, post paid.

ARCHIVES

Notice.—C. C. W. B. M. Annual Meeting in Kingston.

The Tenth Annual Meeting of the Canada Congregational Woman's Board of Missions will be held in the First Church, Kingston, Ontario, on Thursday and Friday, June 4th and 5th. The invitation comes from a joint meeting of the ladies of the First and Second Congregational Churches, who will entertain the delegates. Kingston is a central point, therefore it is hoped that there will be a large attendance of delegates from Ontario, Québec and Manitoba. Appoint your delegates. See "Constitution," Article 6, Ninth Annual Report, page 35.

From Rev. W. T. Currie.

CISAMBA, W.C. Africa, June 5th, 1895.

We have often been requested to send a list of articles such as would be useful in our work out here. I take the liberty of sending you the following, which has been made out in conference with the ladies:—Boys' cotton shirts, not very wide in body or long; boys' cotton coats; girls' cotton or print jackets, plain, loose, short sleeves; girls' waist cloths, hemmed at both ends, each two yards long. If single width, about 40 inches, or about 22 inches two widths together; soap, plain washing, not toilet; combs, strong, large toothed, not fine or fancy; eedles, Nos. 5 and 6; thread, in skeins, or No. 40 spools; children's dresses, for children, from 1 to 5 years.

Please notice.—Soap should be packed by itself, or the duty will cost us four times its value. (Carriage of 60 lb. boxes from Benguella to Cisamba, \$4.25.)

CISAMBA, Feb. 20, 1896.

DEAR FRIEND,—Your letter of Oct. 25th, 1895, reached me by last mail, and was welcomed. Many thanks for the Leaflets. The ladies will try to send you a letter every month. I hear you are going to raise funds to build an hospital in memory of Mrs. Williams at this station. Good! You could not do better. Our station now needs an hospital. Send us the funds, and we will do our best to raise a substantial memorial to that grand, good woman. We want to mark the grave of that worthy daughter of our Canadian churches who laid down her life for the work of this station. (Miss Clarke.) Will not the ladies of Canada help us place a small, neat stone at the head of the grave? I wrote to Mr. Hill in regard to this matter last month. Miss Melville has not been very well lately. She must

go for a little change to one of the other stations. All the rest of us are well, and our work is moving along quite nicely. With gratitude to the Lord and glad hearts, we press forward.

From Mrs. (Rev.) W. T. Currie.

CISAMBA, Feb. 20, 1896.

DEAR MRS. SANDERS,—It appears to be my turn to write to you this month. Do you know, we have now nine married couples among our young folk? The last pair were married the early part of this month. Kumba was the bridegroom, and Ngeve the bride. We were surprised to see what an interest was taken in the event by the villagers around us. The school-house was pretty well filled with the guests.

It is the custom here for the prospective bride to go to her own village a couple of days previous to the wedding, accompanied by one or more girls as attendants. On the day of the wedding the best man and four or five friends of the bridegroom go and fetch the bride from her village to her new home. In this instance Ngulu acted as best man and led the procession, playing the native flute, of which he is a skilful performer. When they arrived at Kumba's house the young men stood aside till the bride and her attendants, one with a basket containing a few household articles and cloth on her head, passed within, and then went in search of the bridegroom to inform him that she had come. The procession was rather later in coming than we had expected. I asked Kumba, a little later, the reason of the delay. He replied that "Ngeve was getting her hair done." He is not the first young man who has had such a complaint to make, and if the young damsel had seen how anxious and nervous the boy was becoming, she would have hurried the hair-dressing performance, although it is an operation needing considerable time, if done in accordance with the prevailing fashion. Over the forehead, and extending almost from temple to temple, the hair is braided in tiny plaits, ten to fifteen in number, lying close to the head. Running back from these to the back of the head is another band of small plaits. At each side are somewhat larger plaits, sometimes hanging loosely, sometimes connected at the ends by beads, or interbraided. At the back of the head the hair is braided round and round in a circle from one and a half to two or three inches in diameter.

But to return to the wedding. After the guests had partaken of food, of which there was no stint, for the women had pounded plenty of corn, Kumba bought and killed a good sized pig, and presents were made of beans, chickens, etc. The bell was rung, and all assembled in the school-house—all but Nalembe, wife of

Mbembele - whose baby girl was born the preceding day. The villagers listened to the service most attentively. Some of the men must have thought it hard lines for Kumba to promise to love and cherish one woman only to the exclusion of all others. His own father has two wives. But the Christian marriage service must surely have some influence on the natives around us. Each wedding seems to bring a larger crowd than the preceding one.

Two Sundays ago Nalembe's baby was baptised after morning service. Its name is Minnehaha after Miss Clarke. It was an impressive service. The church members all sat on the platform, and when Mr. Currie charged them to look after the little one to be its fathers and mothers, if either of the parents was taken away, a thoughtful, reverent expression was seen on many faces, and many earnest prayers were and are being offered for the little children among us. There are five altogether - Jessie, aged nearly three, a pretty, well behaved little mite, everybody's pet; Yose, a sturdy boy, aged two and a half; Kolé, Ngulu's and Cinofila's wee boy, six months' old; and now there is Minnehaha; Na Uti, 18 months old, born near Sakanjimba. His mother died at his birth, and the grandmother, who lives with us, has taken the child as her own.

The Misses Melville are now staying with us. Their house is anything but rainproof, and therefore a productive cause of fever. They join me in love to you all.

From Miss Harriet W. May.

WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS,
Boston, Mass., April 27, 1895. }

Boxes are sent to W. C. Africa about April 1st and October 1st, and should not weigh more than 56 pounds each. It is better to send goods here whenever they are ready so that in case of an extra shipment they can be sent.

From Miss H. J. Melville.

CISAMBA, W.C. Africa, Jan. 1st, 1896.

MY OWN DRAB LOVED ONES, - I wish you all a very happy new year, although the year will have lost its newness when this letter reaches you. I have made an early start with my writing this month, but I wanted to tell you how we spent Christmas day. We were busy for two weeks before making shirts and clothes for the young people. We also had some soap, which was very useful - sent by the Toronto ladies - good, plain washing soap, which pleased the boys much. Then the other things sent were divided, and all got a nice little present - the boys a

shirt apiece, and the girls a loin cloth, such as they wear. Of course, it was a good deal of work and some expense, but it is a good investment. An ox was killed and the villagers invited to a feast. The chief men had the meal pounded and sent us their share of the feast. Our own girls prepared the food, which entailed a good deal of work.

Two days before Christmas Mrs. Shindler, Miss Skinner and Miss Irwin arrived on their way to the far interior. We had never met them before, and it was quite a pleasure. They remained until the day after Christmas. On the 24th Mr. Currie was called away to see the captain, who was ill, and he did not get back until Christmas evening. When we got up in the morning it was raining, and it rained, or rather poured, all day long. We had intended having an early prayer meeting and giving the young people their things, but it rained so steadily that we gave up the idea. About ten o'clock the bell rang, and all gathered in our dining room. Mrs. Shindler read, and spoke a few words. We had a nice little meeting. Then the gifts were distributed and everyone seemed pleased. The rain still poured, so a feast was out of the question, and we decided to leave it until the following day. Next day was beautiful and bright. About five hundred assembled, and Mr. Currie gave them an address, after which was the feast, and ample justice was done to the good things provided. The captain was here today, who is taking a large number of convicts to settle in Nakaudunda, not ten minutes from the station of the English mission. I feel sorry for them; it must interfere with their work. These are not the kind of people who help us. The captain told us that five had escaped—two convicted of murder and three thieves—and if we saw any of them to secure them, and send them to the fort. We are still busy at work. The medicine hour has been changed to 7.30 in the morning, and then the boys come at 12.30 when the bell rings to stop work. It will be better for the people, and we find it very nice to have an early tea and a long evening. That is the only change in the order of our work. The boys are doing good work in the villages. They need our prayers, for they meet many temptations and much that would lead them back to their old lives, but they are earnest lads, and have their work very much at heart. They also see a good deal of the rum curse, so much is now brought into the country. Sometimes they go to a head village and find the chief and all his old men drunk. How much evil this rum trade can do!

Jan. 7th.—I will write a few more lines. Yesterday was our communion. Two of our girls were baptised and received into

fellowship. Nalembe, the wife of Mbembell, and her cousin, Nasinde, a bright girl, who came to the station over a year ago. She has done well at school, passing several who were here long before. She is an earnest Christian, and has a very kind, gentle disposition. This makes seven of our girls who are church members.

Jan. 20th.—We are having very wet weather. I have been here during two wet seasons before this but they were nothing like this one—heavy, steady rain day after day. The roof of our house is beyond repair. We will really have to get a new one. We thought of it last year, but with the building of the school-house there was enough to do, and I did not feel that I could afford it, but the rain has settled the matter, for it poured in, and we had a touch of fever. We would get better, and then have another attack. So Mr. Currie at last ordered, or rather advised us, out of the house. So we are now boarding with them. It was so kind of them to open their house, but I will be glad when the rain ceases, so that we can get home again. The girls feel so badly about our being away - they seem lost—but it is only for a little while, and it seemed the best thing to do, for I promised to be good and take care of myself, and I will try and take care of Maggie. We are to have a wedding this week, "My boy"—Kumbu—he is to be married on Wednesday, and I wish you could all see him. He is so excited, and is so young, about sixteen or seventeen years; but the bride's mother has been urging it for a year past; her village has moved away; she is very fond of her daughter, and is anxious to see her settled before she goes to join her own people, especially as she is getting such a good husband. I have had the wedding garments to make, and we will have a pretty bride, for she is a nice, graceful girl.

From Miss Margaret Melville.

CISAMBA, Jan. 21st.

Extracts from letter to Miss Miatt, Toronto:—

We had a very pleasant time on Christmas—if the rain did pour down—for there was much sunshine in the homes if there was none without. Mr. Currie had been called away to attend some sick Portuguese, and did not return until Christmas night, about seven o'clock, just as the plum pudding was brought in. The friends from the English mission who are visiting us have forty days' march from here. That is twice as far as we are from the coast. The rains are so heavy and the streams are so high that it is very difficult travelling. Well, on Christmas after prayers, we distributed the shirts, with soap, pins, needles,

shoe laces, little shoes, etc., etc., from my basket, or the box sent. Each boy and girl got something. No one opened their parcel there, for that would not be proper (and all the natives stand on great ceremony.) They were all delighted with their presents. Next morning, about ten o'clock, we went to the new school-house, which had no windows or doors, but the day was fine, and we did not mind that. Fully five hundred people were present. When the last bell had rung Mr. Currie came along, three of the boys, playing their flutes, walking before him. They entered the school and stood in a row until they finished the native piece which they were playing, while Mr. Currie took his seat. It was amusing, and yet touching. He spoke of the great gift of our Saviour, and how we gave gifts in remembrance of that great gift. Ngulu followed, speaking on the same subject. Everyone seemed to be much impressed. The attendance on Sunday has been very good lately. Yesterday the boys said that the old men were talking about what they heard in the morning. It was the spreading abroad of the nations after the flood. Mr. Currie has been preaching on the Creation, etc. It is all new to them, and they are much interested. Our cook, Kumbu, is to be married on Wednesday. His intended, Ngeve, went to her home this morning with her friend Njengelo, where they remain until the bridal morning. Kumbu is much excited about it, and I don't wonder, for it means a good deal of expense to him. He needs two pigs and a great many chickens, besides presents of cloth for her friends and for his own. Then he has to give her her clothes, and, of course, supply himself also. He bought one pig, and paid 84 yards for it, at about 7½ cents a yard. His father has helped him, as he is well off, and the boys have given him eleven yards as a present. It is as great an expense, too, for the bride's father here-as it is at home.

Treasurer's Acknowledgments—March 20th to April 20th, 1896.

TORONTO BRANCH.—Stouffville, for "outfit," 50c.

OTTAWA BRANCH.—Lanark, for Home Missions, \$5.

PARIS AND HAMILTON BRANCH.—Hamilton, Immanuel, for Home Missions, \$5; Paris, Y. L. M. A., for outfit, \$5.

ONTARIO (not connected with branches).—Watford, 4 subscriptions to M. L., 40c.

MANITOBA BRANCH.—Winnipeg, Union Auxiliary for Foreign Missions, \$20, and for "outfit," \$8.

NOVA SCOTIA.—Mrs. Godfrey, Brooklyn, 6 subscriptions to M. L., 60c.

QUEBEC PROVINCIAL BRANCH.—Point St. Charles, 4 subscriptions to M. L. (additional), 40c; Montreal, Calvary, for C. O. M. S.

Debt Fund, \$10, for Home Missions, \$30, for *Witness* Armenian Fund, \$20, and the late Mrs. Ritchie's bequest to Foreign Missions, \$50; Montreal, Emmanuel Y.P.C.E.S., 5 subscriptions to M.L., 50c; Mr. Charles Alexander, for Foreign Missions, \$5; Mrs. Madley's S.S. Class, 2 subscriptions to M.L., 20c; Emmanuel, 1 subscription (additional) to M.L., 10c; Danville, for "outfit," \$5; Granby, for "outfit," \$5; Sherbrooke, for "outfit," \$2; Miss Robertson, 1 subscription to M.L. and postage, 25c; Montreal, Zion, "Eva," per Mrs. Moodie, for Memorial Fund, \$5; Montreal, Emmanuel, for Home Missions, \$2, for Foreign Missions, \$1; and for Memorial Fund, \$20.75.

Total for Ontario, \$15.90; Quebec, \$157.20; Manitoba, \$28; Nova Scotia, .60c; grand total, \$201.70.

(Mrs.) FRANCES A. SANDERS,

125 Mackay street, Montreal, Que. Treasurer C.C.W.B.M.

N.B.—Up to date total received:—For "outfit," \$128.20; balance due, \$121.80; "Galene," Smyrna, \$1.60; Home Missions, \$149.57; Memorial Fund, \$44.30; "Armenian sufferers," care Mrs. (Rev.) F. W. McCallum, Marash, Turkey, \$52.87; this is forwarded to Frank H. Wiggin, Treasurer of the A.B.C.F.M., Boston; the *Witness* Armenian Fund, \$20; Monthly Leaflet, \$118.02 (1,180 subscribers); March and April can be supplied to new subscribers. The M. L. should be kept on file for reference. Montreal Calvary Auxiliary has adopted the plan of drawing a blue line under its contributions, so that all may quickly see the acknowledgments.

Picture Talk.

The tribes on the West African coast have some very picturesque names for things. An umbrella is a "rain ketch," or "sun ketch;" school is a "hook place;" spectacles are "look things;" a bell is a "bambam."

"Staff talk," says Dr. Day, "is the name given to speeches made in a court of justice; no one daring to open his mouth until the presiding officer has handed him the staff signifying that it is his turn.

Alas! their language is poverty stricken in words that would express the highest and deepest feelings of the soul. Love to God and man, chivalry, patriotism, self-abnegation, these are precious things of which they know neither the name nor the substance.—*Mission Studies*:

DIRECTIONS FOR MONTHLY LEAFLET—Subscriptions, 10 cents a year, payable in advance; all orders and money to be sent to the Secretaries of the Auxiliaries.

The MONTHLY LEAFLET of the Canada Congregational Woman's Board of Missions is printed and published at the "Witness" building, corner of Craig and St. Peter Streets, Montreal, P.Q.