

Jan 1885



W. F. M. SOCIETY.



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Dear Friend
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W. F. M. SOCIETY.

CIRCULAR LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT TO THE
AUXILIARIES AND MISSION BANDS.

TORONTO, Jan. 1st, 1885.

DEAR FRIENDS,—

The Foreign Mission work has now become a part of the personal history of each member of our large Society; in our joy, in our sorrow, its interests abide with us; at this season of the year when we naturally recall the past and look on towards the future, we take counsel with our hearts and ask, "What more can be done? What can I do (whose life is 'crowned with loving kindness and tender mercies,') to advance this important cause?"

The return of the New Year reminds us that we are nearing the close of the Missionary Year. Just at present there is much to be done, so that our Secretaries may be put in possession of full returns.

It may be that a member has been overlooked, or in the multitude of household cares has forgotten us for the time,—we must not forget her. Some thank-offerings have yet to be brought in, some orphan or widow's mite still to be added,—let each lady consider how, by her efforts, the work of the year may be brought to a creditable close.

We attach very great importance to the fact that during the coming years, as in the past, we will, with one heart, pour out our petitions for the extension of The Kingdom, this, of itself, will bring us very near to Our Father in Heaven, and infuse "health and wholeness of spirit" into our organization. We rejoice in receiving many tokens that our work

is *growing*, the seed has been sown in much weakness and with many misgivings,—sown by some who are here no longer, but there is no mistaking the evidence constantly accumulating that growth and extension are going on, indicating that there is *life* among us, this being so we must still grow, and that growth will bear some proportion to the faith and the love of each individual member.

In the name of the Board we wish you a Happy and Blessed New Year.

C. S. EWART, President.

M. J. MACMURCHY, Secretary.

LETTER FROM MRS. GRANT.

SAN FERNANDO, Trinidad, Nov. 17th.

DEAR MISS CAVEN,—

I have just opened and examined the box which you kindly sent us, and now hasten to thank you for its valuable contents.

The garments for children are trimmed to taste, and they will be most serviceable. We have a large number of young men and women also who can read the monthlies for *warded*, such as *Good Words*; reading matter of this character will always be welcome. We are quite impressed with your thoughtfulness in sending the cretonne for the windows of our new house; we hope to get into it before Xmas, and will certainly use the material as you suggest. At present we occupy a room on our premises to *save* rent. We can manage for a time in our straitened place, as we have the prospect of occupying a *cool*, convenient house in so short a time. The muslin dresses fit our children nicely. The piece of cotton will be of great use, and even the smaller pieces, unmentioned by you, are of real value, as we teach needle-work in nearly all our schools. Mr. Grant has been away all day examining some of our schools, and he reports seeing five children entirely naked in one school and eight others with little shirts scarcely covering their stomachs. Little garments from our hands help to awaken kindly feelings and to impress upon them the propriety of wearing clothing. We left New York on the 17th of October, and regretted not meeting Rev. Mr.

and Mrs. We felt them to them fac their goi needs are so thoug moved ab sionary. to have t able men With Mission

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and Mrs. Wilson, who were to leave for India on the 18th. We felt a special interest in them as we almost expected them to come to Trinidad, and hence were anxious to meet them face to face. We cannot, however, express regret at their going to Central India, its population is vast and its needs are great. We were much pleased with Mr. Gibson, so thoughtful and kind, securing friends for himself as we moved along. A winsome manner is important in a missionary. Our regret was that he came *alone*. It is pleasant to have the *West* looking *South*, and to have two such valuable men from Knox College.

With every good wish, and craving for ourselves and our Mission your daily prayers,

Believe me, &c.

EXTRACTS OF LETTER FROM NORTH-WEST.

BIRTLE, Man., Nov. 1884

TO MRS. J. HARVIE :

My Dear Madam,--In regard to those boxes of clothing for the poor Indians of this neighborhood, so generously consigned by your Society, I received one by stage from Elkhorn, on the C. P. R., on Wednesday last. There are some thirty families of Indians on the Reserve, and they are very poor. I visited their school some time since. The teacher says their attendance is not very regular, and you can understand how it would not be as frequently the little fellows would have no dinner, and have to catch gophers and dig wild turnips as substitute. Think of children in highly favored Ontario pursuing an education under such difficulties. Then those families have apparently a large measure of contentment; many of them are, I believe, Christians. They know our Presbyterian Church well, and love her too. They call on me frequently, and greet me very warmly when we meet.

Please convey to the Society, of which you are Secretary, my personal gratitude on behalf of the poor Indians.

I hope the good people of Toronto, who have so kindly assisted you and enabled you to give practical expression to your sympathy for those poor people, will find ample reward

in the Great Master's promise, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these," &c.

Perhaps you will be pleased to learn that our Indians here are not only Presbyterians, but that though they are poor and destitute, yet by common consent they are known to be the most industrious and most progressive band in the entire North-West. They are not pensioners on the bounty of the Government either, as they were not recognized in the treaty. I will be able to give you more definite information when I have a little more time, and after I have distributed your bounty to the poor families of the Reserve.

Rev. Mr. Robertson will be able to give you any information you require about the place, people, and circumstances of the people. It is a matter of great thankfulness on the part of all of us that the Gospel is elevating, civilizing, and more—saving the poor Indian.

Only last winter, at another reserve north of this, toward the Riding Mountains, a poor old woman was deserted by her relatives and died in an open shanty where she sought shelter, and where the body was allowed to remain unburied.

But enough! The poor people need the clothing your bounty supplies, and I shall be most happy to do anything in my power to help to minister to their comfort.

Please express my gratitude to the Society, and allow me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

W. HODNETT,

ARRIVED AT BOMBAY.

The steamer in which our missionaries, the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, and Miss (Dr.) Beatty were has arrived at Bombay. The following extract is from a letter written by Mrs. Wilson: "An Indian gentleman—a Judge—who sits at our table, seems to be one of the pleasantest of our party. He is a Christian, and very much interested in Mission work in India. He knows most of the missionaries in Bombay, and also in other parts of the country. Narayan Sheshadri he knows very well. * * * There are a good many Indian nurses (Ayahs) on board. Miss Beatty has been making friends with them, and is picking up some Hindostani. They are great talkers and are glad to get any one to listen to them."

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NOTE.—Miss Bell was detained in Scotland by illness, but is slowly improving and longing to be at work.

FOR THE N. WEST.

In addition to the clothing for Indians already reported, boxes, some of them large, have been sent from Indian Lands, St. Helens, Lucknow, and Carleton Place Auxiliaries.

NEW SOCIETIES.

Mrs. Harvie, Foreign Secretary, and Miss Wylie, Secretary of the Presbyterian Society of Lanark and Renfrew, last month visited auxiliaries in that Presbytery, and organized the following new ones, viz : Pembroke, Renfrew, Ramsay, Smith's Falls, and Perth. Mrs. H. was much assisted in her work by the admirable arrangements made by friends in the different places. The meetings were generally well attended and interesting, and many members were added to our Society. Sunderland auxiliary in Lindsay Presbyterial Society formed.

NOTICE.

Let all Secretaries kindly remember that their Annual Reports should be sent in not later than the middle of March, to be in time for the Annual Meeting, which takes place this year in Ottawa, on the second Tuesday of April.