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Monthly Letter Leaflet.

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

(WESTERN DIVISION.)

VOL. IV. TORONTO, AUGUST, 1887. No. 4.

FOREIGN LETTERS.

EXTRACTS FROM MRS. BUILDER'S LETTERS.

MHOW, March 4th, 1887.

Your very kind and welcome letters have always arrived in good time, but ill health, babies and house cares have kept me from answering promptly. However, I am feeling so well since our visit to Dhar that I hope to do better. Mr. Builder has been in district work for three weeks. We pitched our tents at Dhar, and visited all the near villages about the city. Mr. and Mrs. Murray and the Misses Stockbridge were with us. We had such a good time. The gentlemen received a warm reception wherever they went, and had a large number of listeners. The magic lantern took well; the little organ lent much assistance, too, for which we thank the ladies very heartily. It will be used in the church services and also for Miss Annie's work, but Miss Minnie's work is so far from her sister's that she will not be able to get much use of it. She says that some day she will beg one for herself. They both play and sing nicely. They assisted very much in the village work when we were away; they have the language so well. Mrs. Murray and I entertained the native visitors and helped with the services held in camp. So we all did a part as best we could. The High School boys visited us quite frequently, and enjoyed conversing in English. We received an invitation from the Rajah of Dhar to attend the grand Durbar held in honour of the Queen's jubilee. We were presented to His Highness in great style. He asked Mr. Builder to make a few remarks and offer up prayer in the Queen's behalf. Was not this a most courageous thing for him to do in the presence of his people and high officials? If Mr. Builder can get the workers he hopes to start some schools in the poor villages near the city, and then visit them twice a year. The way is fast

opening up for much work. The greatest difficulty to solve is how to overtake it all. We were invited to a native Rbone (dinner) while away, but I have not time to describe it at present, as mail time is near. The work is moving along as usual here; you will be seeing the reports soon. Miss Annie's school is growing very large. Both of the young ladies have much to cheer them in their labours: but they can tell you all about it better than I can. They do not have much time for writing though; besides their school and visiting work, they are taking music lessons and working away at the language, and this is a good deal for them to undertake.

Now, a little about myself. Miss MacGregor will tell you all about my women. I closed the class for the hot weather. I had fifty rupees sent me a few days ago from a lady in Mhow who knew of my class. This I will put towards a home for some of the poor widows who have come to us for protection. I think that I will be able to put up a few rooms for them (which will answer quite nicely for the present) with local funds. I'm going to try, at all events. The Church at home has so many churches and bungalows to put up, which are much needed for the work here, that I do not like to ask more. I think in time that my scheme will prove a good one. One woman in my class who was taught how to do all kinds of work in the American Mission, is earning ten rupees a month in a native military school. Another who has a home with me can do almost anything that she sees others do, is taking in orders from ladies, and so kept busy; this one Miss MacGregor knows well, and used to almost keep her in clothes. Others are learning to sow and make stockings, and in time will be able to support themselves, I think. At present I'm trying to help them along; and my greatest hindrance is not having a place for them. The little houses on the mission compound are filled up; also on our own. Many in the class have their husbands. The few that I care for are homeless. However, the way will open up; lately it has been doing so more and more every day. I must now close. I hope to write you a long letter soon about the work, country, etc.

FROM DR. MARION OLIVER.

NEEMUOH, March 1st, 1887.

I cannot pretend to write you much of a letter, for as yet I am little more than an on-looker and learner in the busy little world known as "The Canadian Mission of Central India." During the

two months I have been in India I have often wondered if all newcomers had to pass through my experience of feeling themselves to be much more an annoyance than a help to the other missionaries. Miss Rodger and Miss Beatty must be heartily tired of my endless questions. I began the regular study of the Hindi language with the first Monday of the New Year, and have made some little progress. I'm sure my attempts to find out what diseases my patients are suffering from, must often be a source of amusement to them. But a native woman is much too polite and respectful to ever show that she is laughing at you. In the last week of January* Miss Beatty was seized with very severe fever, which kept her in bed for more than three weeks. Before that I had visited several of her patients with her and spent some time each day in her camp dispensary, watching her methods, and trying to pick up something of the language. During her illness I had quite an initiation into medical work.

The very first patient which I attended alone was an experience I am not likely to forget. It was an obstetric case, and you may imagine my more than amazement when, on going into the room where the sick woman lay, I found four men among the group gathered around her. You may be sure I soon got rid of them. Such a custom seems difficult to understand among a people who are shocked at the idea of having their women attended by a male physician. It is no unusual thing to find all the male as well as the female relatives in the sick room.

The natives are wonderfully kind to their sick, but they like to pay the doctor with thanks and presents of fruits or garlands of flowers rather than with rupees.† A common way of expressing their gratitude is by saying that we are like the gods in our kindness in coming to them. We can but answer that God has sent us.

Last week being as soon as Miss Beatty could bear the journey, we left Indore for a visit to Mrs. Wilson. Each day shows a little gain in strength, but it will yet be some time before she will be able to resume any part of her work. Mr. Wilson has lent me his

* Some weeks ago, Miss Beatty and Miss Oliver, with Mr. and Mrs. Wilkie and children, and Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, journeyed to Kashmir, about 1,200 miles from Indore, specially for the benefit of Miss Beatty's health. She remains there with Mrs. Wilkie and the children until September, when it is hoped her health will be fully restored. Miss Oliver has returned to Indore, and will, as far as possible, take up Miss Beatty's work.

† All fees received by our medical lady missionaries for medical attendance are paid into the Mission treasury.

pundit, so I am able to keep on with the study of the language, though often interrupt by long chats about Toronto, St. Mary's and all the home friends. Within the last few days the weather has become much warmer. During the middle of the day it is as warm as in July or August in Canada, but the mornings and evenings are always cool. A shower of rain would be a treat to see, only that rain at this season is said to be very unhealthy.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER OF MR. ROBERTSON.

DILLON'S BAY, EROMANGA,
NEW HEBRIDES, November 5, 1886.

I remember now your hearty laugh when we met in Canada, as I said I thought the New Hebrideans were originally Highlanders. Well, I wish you could now join me for an hour here, to laugh again, a good, honest, hearty laugh, when the natives, and the heat, and the flies, and the hard work are pulling me down, that would clear away the small blisters of humanity, and give me a lift out of the "blues." But I do not allow myself to get gloomy if I can fight it off. A gloomy man would soon destroy his health in such a sequestered spot as the New Hebrides, with such a dull and sluggish race, if God did not sustain him by His grace.

The natives are kind in their way, some of them specially so, but they are ungrateful (except for the time being), and easily offended, unreasonable, careless, dirty and indolent to the last degree.

You can teach a native a great deal, and he will take on the first steps of a rough kind of civilization quite rapidly, but he will not *go on rising*. It is therefore my opinion, gained during twenty-two years' experience, that our poor New Hebrideans will not take on civilization of a high order. However, between these two points—their awfully degraded state as heathens and savages, and the point of elevation attainable, there is abundance of work for us all, and very, very much to cheer and encourage. Our own work in Eromanga continues to go surely forward. We are happy in it, and God is blessing us and our poor people. Write—write—write!

FROM MRS. MORTON.

TUNAPUNA, TRINIDAD, B. W. INDIES,
June 3, 1887.

Nothing very unusual has transpired here since last I wrote you. We had a service of song in our new church. Miss Black-

adder kindly read for us, and Miss Archibald gave great assistance with the music, but the weather was showery enough to keep a great many away. We cleared eighteen dollars. We wish to make our church as useful as we can to the general population. In March Mr. Morton gave a temperance lecture; in April we had a missionary meeting, and at the Jubilee Mr. Morton intends giving a suitable and instructive lecture. The missionary meeting on Good Friday was the first ever held in Tunapuna. The Presbytery met through the day; Mr. Grant, Mr. Ramsay, of Port of Spain, and Mr. Muir, of Granada, kindly remained to take part in the meeting. Two of the speakers gave earnest warnings about Sunday selling, and there has been a visible improvement in our village in that respect ever since. Mr. Morton's services are all in Hindustani, but Mr. Dickson comes from Aronca to hold an afternoon service in English. This is quite a privilege for our own children, as the two younger do not understand Hindustani. On Sabbath, May 15, Mr. Morton dispensed the Communion. Five adults and one child were baptized, and two couples married. The church was well filled, notwithstanding heavy and continuous rain. One evening in the week Miss Morton devotes to hymn-singing in the church, with any who may come; this helps to keep up the interest in the English services, and gives us a choir for special occasions. They prepared carefully for the missionary meeting, and rendered very well a piece published about that time in the *Christian*, with refrain: "Go ye into all the world," etc.

The sugar crop season is over, and the wet season daily expected. Some showers have already fallen. The change of the seasons is not a healthy time. We have daily applications for medicine; we give only simple remedies, but they are eagerly sought for. Fever and ulcers are very prevalent. The dwellings of the poor among the people are low and dark, with earthen floors, and one or two small and solid board windows, always carefully fastened at night, thus securing bad ventilation. They also suffer from dampness, and from the uncleanly habit of all wing dirty and stagnant water to stand about their very doorstep. I often feel afraid to breathe in the atmosphere of their homes. Sometimes parents and children all sleep on one mat on the floor. Observing the meagre accommodations of one family, where there is a mother-in-law, I was told that "Pappa sleeps with the cow." I saw the resting-place of the pair, a small grass roof supported by a few bare posts. The Hindus love their cows; if they have a good one they seem to cling to it, but they think very lightly of changing their wives. At the same house referred to, the woman

told me quite carelessly: "Pappa does not want me now; he would rather live alone, he says, than have to work for so many." The eldest of her two small children belongs to a previous husband, who is living quite near her with a new wife. Next door lives a Mohammedan man with three children, whose wife has left him for another; the youngest child is not three years old. Just think what it is to work among such people; pen cannot trace it. Sometimes I feel quite powerless to speak to them. When they have no other excuse they say somebody put something in their food which turned their head. One effect of this evil meets us in the schools. Such parents do not care for the improvement of their children, therefore it is a heavy task to the teachers and to the missionary to keep up the attendance in the schools.

FROM MR. R. N. TOMS.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING.

WINNIPEG, June 15th, 1887.

Will you kindly convey my hearty thanks and the grateful remembrance I have of the kind treatment I have received at the hands of the dear sisters of Toronto during my loneliness, sickness and struggles with ignorance, superstition and moral depravity, to the W.F.M.S. My dear wife wishes me to convey to all her dear sisters her heartfelt gratitude for their kindness to myself and my work during our separation. Wishing my dear sisters a year of prosperity and spiritual blessing.

THE NORTH-WEST BOXES.

In order to receive the half rates, the boxes or bales must contain *chiefly* second-hand clothing for the Indians; if new clothing or material is sent in any quantity it must be placed in a separate package, and full freight charges paid on it.

INCREASE.

In Glengarry Presbyterial Society—"South Branch, No. 10," Auxiliary; "The King's Daughters" Mission Band and Children's Mission Band, of Knox Church, Cornwall, organized by Mrs. Donald MacEwen.

In Brockville Presbyterial Society—Farmersville Auxiliary, by Mrs. Blair and Mrs. Farrell, on June 16th.

In Orangeville Presbyterial Society—Primrose Auxiliary, by Mrs. McFaul and Mrs. McClelland, June 9th.

In Hamilton Presbyterial Society—The "Lend a Hand" Mission Band, of Haynes Avenue Presbyterian Church and Sabbath School, St. Catherines.

In London Presbyterial Society—Park Avenue Auxiliary, London, by Mrs. Roger and Mrs. Chisholm. Crumlin Auxiliary, by Mrs. Roger, and "Victoria" Mission Band, of Park Avenue Church, London.

In Stratford Presbyterial Society—The Millbank, Wellesley and Crosshill Auxiliaries, by Mrs. Gordon.

In Paris Presbyterial Society—The Juvenile Mission Band, by Rev. James Little.

In Sarnia Presbyterial Society—The "Jubilee" Mission Band in connection with Parkhill Auxiliary, by Mrs. Lohead.

In Chatham Presbyterial Society—"Little Workers" Mission Band, in connection with North Chatham Mission Sunday School.

NOTICES.

The Board of Management meets on the first Tuesday of every month, at 3 o'clock p.m., in the Managers' Room, Knox Church, Toronto. Members of Auxiliary Societies, or other ladies interested in the work and desiring information, being introduced by a member of the Board, are cordially invited to attend.

Letters concerning the organization of Societies, and all matters pertaining to Home work, are to be addressed to Mrs. Hugh Campbell, 194 Richmond Street West, Toronto. The Home Secretary should be notified *at once* when an Auxiliary or Mission Band is formed.

Letters asking information about missionaries, or any questions concerning the Foreign field, as to Bible readers, teachers or children in the various Mission Schools should be addressed to Mrs. Harvie, Wilcocks Street, Toronto.

Letters containing remittances of money for the W. F. M. S. may be addressed to Mrs. James MacLennan, Treasurer, 10 Murray Street, Toronto.

All requests for literature may be sent to Mrs. Telfer, 72 St. Albans Street, Toronto.

Certificates of life membership can be issued at any time, if the Home Secretary be notified.

LITERATURE.

<i>No.</i>		<i>Price.</i>
1.	Self-Questioning (leaflet)	Free.
2.	Giving, and Giving Up; or, the Test of Love. per doz.	8 cents.
3.	The Voices of the Women each.	1 cent.
4.	The Importance of Prayer in regard to Mission Work	per doz. 8 cents.
5.	"Why and How?" Missionary Questions for Women	per doz. 8 "
6.	Two Cents a Week	Free.
7.	Mrs. Pickett's Missionary Box	1 cent.
8.	Some Facts in the Life of Kashibai, a Brahmin Woman	1 "
9.	Pitchers and Lamps... ..	1 "
10.	For His Sake	1 "
11.	Preparation for the Master's Work	per doz. 8 cents.
12.	What is in thine Hand.....	per doz. 8 "
13.	Thanksgiving Ann	1 cent.
	Presbyterial Organization	Free.
	How to Organize and Manage a Missionary Society or Band	"
	Mite Boxes	each. 1 cent.
	Envelopes	Free.
	Prayer Cards.....	"

Orders for the above Leaflets received by Mrs. Telfer, 72 St. Albans Street, Toronto.

Applications for "The Monthly Letter Leaflet" (extra copies one cent each), and Annual Reports, to be made to the Home Secretary, Mrs. Campbell.

Every member of the Society is entitled to a copy of the Report free, extra copies are sold at 10 cents each.

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