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Monthly Letter Leaflet.

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.
(WESTERN DIVISION.)

VOL. V.

TORONTO, JULY, 1888.

No. 3.

MISSIONARIES FOR HONAN, CHINA.

Dr. and Mrs. Smith sail from Vancouver, B.C., for China, on the 31st of July.

They will be accompanied by Miss Harriet Sutherland, a distinguished graduate of the Toronto Training School for Nurses.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING.

In accordance with the request of a number of the Presidents of the Auxiliaries, a Special Meeting of the Board, for conference about matters connected with the general work of the Society, will be held in the Lecture Room of Knox Church, Toronto, on Thursday, September 13th, at two o'clock.

Presidents of Presbyterian Societies, Auxiliaries and Mission Bands are entitled to attend.

Ladies who require homes provided for them will kindly notify Mrs. Hugh Campbell, 194 Richmond Street, W., Toronto, during the month of August.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Ten thousand copies of the Twelfth Annual Report have been sent to Secretaries for distribution. It is desirable that every family connected with the Society should receive one. If, in the interests of the work, more are required, they can be supplied by the Home Secretary.

FOREIGN LETTERS.

TRINIDAD.

"Jesus Tested."

(Extract letter from Miss Copeland.)

SAN FERNANDO, TRINIDAD.

Every year shows a decided improvement. The attendance at the schools is increasing, too. Every day this week there have been 140 children present in my school. This is the largest attendance we have ever had, except, of course, on special occasions, but even then it was never more than 150 or 155.

Some of the Brahmin priests are greatly excited at present. One of them, just from India, has brought out a book called "Jesus Tested," in which all the points in the life of Our Saviour, which they think are difficult to explain, and which appear on the surface to be contradictory, are taken up and criticised. They have had several meetings lately, and are studying the book carefully, and sent for Lal Bihari to go and answer their questions. We cannot say what the issue will be, but we do pray that they may be led to seek this same Jesus whom they now ignore, and trust in Him as their Saviour. I suppose the reason they have got this book out is, that among our books, written in Hindi, are "Rama Tested," "Ganesh Tested," and many more." So they think they should try now to deliver their countrymen who have accepted Jesus to get them to return to their idols. Remember them in your prayers, and us, too. We work on, trusting that much good is being done. Sometimes we see little results for our work; but there is so much encouragement from it, too, at other times. Sometimes, when we least expect it, we find that the seed sown has fallen into good ground, and "after many days" has brought forth fruit. For this we thank God.

INDIA.

School and Zenana Work.

(Extract letter from Miss Rodger.)

INDORE.

I received your welcome letter a few weeks ago. I am sorry I have so little to report about the work of the past year.

At the beginning of it, Miss Knight, finding that she could not get a suitable house in Indore for the rent she was able to pay, went to Mhow to live. For a time she came in every day by train from Mhow, and tried to keep up her work in this way. But she found this very inconvenient besides being very expensive, and as I could not allow her for travelling expenses, she had to give up her work. Miss David, a native Christian girl, has since helped me in school, but as she wishes to go on with her own studies this cannot be a permanent arrangement, and it has already greatly interfered with her doing so. If there had been proper accommodation for her to live on the premises this need not have been the case. What has been done in the Zenanas throughout the year has been done after school hours. The women have often told me, though, that I have not visited them as often as formerly. Not the least encouraging feature of the school work is the way in which the Scripture lesson is now listened to by the girls. It has come to be regarded as a pleasant part of the day's work. As in former years, reading, writing, arithmetic and geography have been taught, and decided progress has been made in all these subjects throughout the year. Their ideas of the earth have changed since they have studied geography. Mrs. Shome, a B.A., of Calcutta University, has lately come to Indore with her husband. I proposed starting an entrance class, if she would assist me. There are two girls ready for it. As there was not suitable accommodation for the three girls left in my care, and, as I did not think it wise to keep them here under the circumstances, we agreed to send them with another Christian girl to the boarding school in Masserabad, in connection with the U. P. Mission. Their names are Jane, Dinah, Reshi and Wani. Jane was not in school here, but it was only because I would not agree to take her or any other. The two former are studying English and Hindi, the latter only Hindi. Masserabad is 150 miles from Neemuch, and that is not far in India, where distances are so great. They have an excellent school there, although it has not been quite six years since it first started.

Extract from Report of Miss Ross.

INDORE.

I have felt in the past year that I got nearer to the people than ever before; they trusted me to a greater extent, and expressed their thoughts more freely. Invitations to visit houses I had never been in came to me frequently. I had a very good Bible

woman, yet we together were not able to visit all the homes that invited us. The Bible woman was originally low caste, and she on that account would not be received in every house, but for a length of time I have been surprised at the warm welcome given to her by high caste people.

I find that prejudice against the Mission has decreased greatly. Mr. Wilkie's High School has done much to disarm suspicion. I have again and again met with persons in the city who spoke favourable of Christianity because of the knowledge they gained of it in the High School.

Notwithstanding the light that is being diffused, there is still a great deal of thick darkness, and the line upon line has to be given very often before they understand and remember. In my last report I referred to the oft-repeated statement, "Your religion is good for you, our religion is good for us." I must speak of it again here; as yet I find that I must often go back to the beginning and tell them there is but one God and one way of salvation; that we are all the children of our first parents Adam and Eve; that when man sinned he did not wish to obey God, but followed the evil desires of his own heart. Many made idols, and said these are our gods. When the people became numerous they had to spread and go to different countries, and that although the colour of our skin differs according to climate, yet we are all the descendants of Adam and Eve, and cannot divide ourselves up into castes. But they say God made caste, I say no, but that when man ceased to obey God one began to say to another I am superior to you, you cannot associate with me; that some were richer than others, and as they did not fear God, they gratified their pride, and thus people got divided into castes. Some at once say we believe that is true, others shake their heads and try to maintain that it was instituted by our Creator. I ask if their gods do not sin, quarrel and fight, the answer is in the affirmative. I then wish to know if it is likely that God who made man such a wonderful being, the world and all it contains, is a sinner. When they look at it in that way they think it highly improbable. I go on to tell them, that as they wish their children to love and obey them so God who is the Father of us all wants us to love and obey Him. That He has revealed His will to us in His own book, and His words are all consistent, that even now evidence is being exhumed which testifies to the truth of Christianity; many look interested and convinced, others still doubt.

More than once natives have spoken to me about the superior wisdom of the English, how they brought in the telegraph and the railroad, and were influencing the people of India, and that

they themselves could not invent any such valuable conveniences. I asked to what did England owe her greatness, and related the story of what the Queen said when the same question was put to her. I told them that obeying God, meeting the object of our creation, lifts man higher than anything else does, and spoke of how the people of India do not understand what Christianity is. They think it a system coming in that seeks to break their caste and destroy their customs, and do not see that it is their Creator's message to them to return to Him.

Extract from Joint Report of Drs. Elizabeth Beatty
and Marion Oliver.

INDORE.

You will be surprised to hear that we have a hospital. Three weeks ago Yeshadabai, our Bible woman, volunteered to go and live in the house where we have our city dispensary. Besides the dispensary and waiting rooms, together with the rooms required for herself, husband and their two children, there still remained three rooms; these can each be made to accommodate two patients, provided they are of the same caste. At the most we can have only six beds, and if the patients are all of different castes then only three. We expected that it would be up hill work for some time, overcoming the prejudices of the women against living in a strange house, but fortunately our two first patients were Brahmins, who came from a distance, and had either to return uncured or consent to go into the hospital. They soon grew accustomed to it, and even in these three weeks the example of a few high-caste patients is telling. To-day we divided one of the rooms with a curtain in order to make it accommodate a Brahmin and a Rajpoot. Though they might lie sick in the same room, yet neither could take food before the other without breaking her caste, and we would but cause sorrow and trouble without any good resulting therefrom, if we did anything to separate them from their own people, unless we could bring them into the fold of Christ. How much we need Zenana workers! What is our work more than a great charity, if when we open the doors there are no Zenana workers to keep them open? Our experience is daily strengthening the early formed opinion that with every medical woman you send out you ought to send two Zenana workers. We cannot make our medical work incidental, any more than can a busy doctor in a large city at home. It must occupy our time and thought or prove a failure. What is the result? Direct personal talking with the women

about the way of life—the medicine for the soul's healing—has to be largely left to the Bible woman. What avails the healing of the bodies if their souls be not rescued from eternal darkness?

We have taken the oversight of Miss Ross' school with the hope of saving it until some one is sent out to take up her work. Of the three Christian women who are teachers in it two have begun the study of medicine with us, so that we have now a class of three to whom we give lectures daily after the regular medical work for the day is over. We may never make M.D's. of them, but we can train them so that they will be able to earn their livelihood and be very useful to us as compounders or hospital assistants. Judging from our short three weeks' experience of a hospital we will very soon be obliged to endeavour to secure a larger building. The promised site is still only promised, and nothing can be done about it at present; but we wait patiently, knowing that as soon as the papers are handed over not an hour need be lost in setting about its erection. The lesson which our Lord has been teaching us during the year, that the work is not ours but His, ought to keep us patient and strong of heart whatever befall us or the work in our keeping.

LETTERS FROM THE NORTH-WEST.

Thanks for Clothing.

FILE HILLS, FORT QU'APPELLE.

MR. AND MRS. TOMS,—The goods sent by you all arrived in good order; we were at the time on the point of moving; two days after moving I was taken sick or I would have answered your kind and thoughtful letter long ago. The things you sent were just what we most needed, and I cannot express how thankful we feel for all your kindness. It is indeed a difficult matter for us to get clothing, and our stock was small, coming from a warm climate. I do not know what we would have done without so many nice warm things. You must thank all the ladies "for me" who have had any part in sending the good things both to ourselves and the Indians.

The things were good, very good, and the packing so well and neatly done, I am sure the patience and self-denial exercised must have been something great.

Some of the Indians are very thankful for the things sent ; some are not thankful for anything you may give them or do for them ; they do not seem to know the value of learning to help themselves, but I hope and pray that it will not be always so.

Our family consists of three boys, the eldest nine and youngest four ; and as the school is four and a half miles from here, which distance Mr. Toms has to travel every day in all kinds of weather, I have undertaken the teaching of our own boys, and as many Indian children as we can get to attend. The children like to come, but the parents and friends have such strange whims and fancies that it is not the teaching but trying to persuade them it is for their own benefit to send their children to school. I find them bright and clever children, but they are so very dirty, it is not always pleasant to come in contact with them. I hope you will forgive me for my seeming neglect in not answering your very kind letter sooner, with many thanks for all your kindness.

The things sent by the ladies in the Paris Presbytery were very suitable, and I cannot thank them enough for their magnificent gift of clothing. The more unshapely the garment (for Europeans) the better they seem to fit our poor heathen sisters on these reserves. The bright colours were in great demand, and it was very pleasant to hear them say, "Very good, very good" (Mewasin, mewasin). At first they thought that quite a number of their white sisters must have died, as the quantity of cast-off clothing was so great, and they thought that the garments had belonged to persons now deceased. I had much difficulty in persuading them that you were alive and often asked how they were getting along. The illustrated Sabbath school lessons are very useful indeed, and enable me to make the poor Indians (old and young) understand many of the Bible stories, and they are beginning to understand Christ's great love for them ; but the bonds that sin has forged are too strong to be broken easily, and so although some desire to be better they have not the strength, nor can they look to Christ who is all and in all for strength to help them. The children are doing fairly well, but the home influence is a serious drawback to the progress of our boys and girls.

I will try to be a better correspondent in the future. Do not judge our neglect in too harsh a spirit, because I am sure were you here you would understand the difficulties better. Pray, dear sisters, that God may give us bodily strength and holy zeal to work for His honour and glory. God bless you all.

From Indian Children.

FILE HILLS, March 13th, 1888.

DEAR LITTLE BOYS AND GIRLS,—We are only little Indian children, but we love the white children, who send us such nice things. We are trying to love the dear Saviour. Pray for us. Our minds are very dark. We write for our little Indian friends. We all love you. Good-bye.

Your friends,

BRIDGET BELLEGARDE,
JANE PREEKUCH.

Assiniboine Reserve.

INDIAN HEAD.

MR. JOHN MCLEAN.—The lively and sincere interest which you take in our work is a source of much encouragement to us. The abundant supply of clothing, the kind words and the prayers of our Christian lady friends in the east materially assist us in our conflict with the Powers of Darkness which still hold sway among our Indians. All are yet pagans. Some, however, are becoming somewhat interested in Divine things. They will listen attentively and passively acquiesce, but like the morning dew their impressions soon vanish. Others will laugh and scoff when the Word is read in the Sioux dialect (the Assiniboine dialect has not yet been reduced to print), but such conduct is not new in the history of missions among heathens. It is evident that it will take patience, perseverance and much earnest prayer and work before much fruit will be apparent. But when the Spirit of God "breathes upon the dry bones," and the Sun of Righteousness shines, the darkness will be dispelled.

The general outlook, however, is encouraging. The school is increasing in interest; the children attend much more regularly of late, and consequently their progress is gratifying. As a number of pupils are off the reserve and others sick, the average attendance does not exceed nine, with twenty-one names on the roll. The Chief has become interested in the school; he sends his little children every day, and he expresses himself as well pleased with the progress they are making. He expressed a desire to the agent, in the event of the Indian Department insisting on the removal of the Indians from the village, that he should receive a plot of ground in close proximity to the school, so that his children might have the advantage of a good education.

Though he 's not an arbitrary ruler, but leaves his subjects to their own desires, yet his influence cannot fail to have the desired effect.

It made me feel sad, a few days ago, to lose from our school two fine little girls, one of them particularly bright and interesting. They were but eleven or twelve years of age, yet they were sold by their parents as wives to old men fifty or sixty years old. I expect they were the highest bidders. They are fond of their children and very indulgent to them, yet for a supply of tea and tobacco they will often part with their dearest.

With regard to the clothing, the only suggestion I have to offer is that a good deal of it be sent unmade. A few weeks ago we got a box from Nova Scotia, containing two webs of cloth. It appears the ladies gathered the yarn, coloured it the same colour and got it woven. Though it does not please the Indians as well, yet I believe it will be more profitable to them than any other box we received. Our object should not be so much to please them as to benefit them. If they got their own way they would do little else than smoke and drink tea the whole day.

Mrs. McLean cuts the cloth for them and teaches the women to make coats, vests, pants, etc. As she worked four years at tailoring, she is equal to the task. Besides teaching them to make their own clothing and encouraging industry, it has a tendency to make them appreciate the clothing to a greater extent, and as it costs them an effort they will be more careful of it. I would suggest that the unmade clothing be sent at the beginning of the season, before their wants are otherwise supplied. As they can already knit well, yarn would be more beneficial to them than socks and mits.

Thanking you again for your abundant supply of clothing and kind interest in and prayers for our welfare, and desiring a continuance of the same.

Extract from Rev. G. A. Laird's.

COTÉ'S RESERVE.

Our work nearer home is full of interest. The clothing has been just what the people needed. It is very much appreciated. We trust such gifts will incite them to greater industry, so that in time they will be able to provide comfortable clothing for themselves. If possible, in future we would like some of the clothing sent unmade, so that the women may have something to

do. Many of them sew very well, and most of them are learning to knit.

The magic lantern has arrived safely, and is of the greatest use—quite a treat, and a means of instruction to the people.

Good Crops. The People More Comfortable.

BEULAH P.O.

MR. J. G. BURGESS:—The quantity of clothing required is rather difficult to estimate. This winter we had rather more than was required. I should think that six good-sized bales would be amply sufficient. The women require clothing most; good warm things for the cold weather. The quilts and blankets were most acceptable; they were also very glad of the wool, which they make into mits and socks. The men, of course, are able to work and buy things at the store. But their ambition is to have a black coat to go to church in on Sunday. The attendance at school for the winter has been from ten to twelve. The houses are, some of them, over four miles apart, so that in cold weather I have to drive to them, or go on snow shoes where the trails are bad, as the children could not cross the plain in windy weather. The Sioux Indians love the open prairie, and never build their houses in the bush. The people have been much better off than usual this winter, owing to good crops in the fall; but we have had much sickness. Mr. McArthur, of Shoal Lake, has been appointed minister to our reserve and Beulah. We are all so glad to have a settled minister again. I hope to go to England myself next winter, not having been home for five years; but Mr. McArthur will no doubt distribute the clothing.

CORRECTION.

The contribution of Park Avenue Church Auxiliary, London, of \$61.05 was, by mistake, credited to London South Auxiliary in the printed annual report.

INCREASE.

Ottawa Presbyterian Society:—An Auxiliary at East Gloucester, May 31st, by Mrs. Thorburn.

Toronto Presbyterian Society:—“Golden Rule” Mission Band, at West Toronto Junction, June 1st, by Mrs. Brimer.

Huron Presbyterial Society :—An Auxiliary in connection with Bayfield Road Church.

Sarnia Presbytery :—An Auxiliary at Forest, May 28th.

Chatham Presbyterial Society :—“Loyal Mission Band,” at Blenheim.

NOTICES.

The Board of Management meets on the first Tuesday of every month, at three 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. In Mrs. MacLennan's absence, till 1st September, address Mrs. Ewart, Rossin House.

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.

12 cents per doz.

- No. 20. Our Mission Fields.
- “ 18. Five Cents in a Tea-cup.
- “ 13. Thanksgiving Ann.
- “ 10. For His Sake.
- “ 9. Pitchers and Lamp.
- “ 8. Life of Kashibai.
- “ 7. Mrs. Pickett's Missionary Box.
- “ 3. Voices of the Women.

8 cents per doz.

- No. 17. Why we should keep up our Auxiliaries.
- “ 12. What is in thy Hand?
- “ 11. Preparation for the Master's Work.
- “ 4. The Importance of Prayer.
- “ 2. Giving, and Giving Up.

Frec.

- No. 1. Self-Questioning.
 - “ 5. Questions Answered.
 - “ 6. Two Cents a Week.
 - “ 14. Suggestions for holding Missionary Meetings.
 - “ 16. How to Organize an Auxiliary or Mission Band.
 - “ 19. Our Plan of Work.
- Prayer Cards.
Envelopes to Auxiliaries formed since Annual Meeting.

Mite Boxes, 1 cent. each.

Envelope, one large, containing 12 small, 1½ cents each.

All postage prepaid.

For above apply 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.