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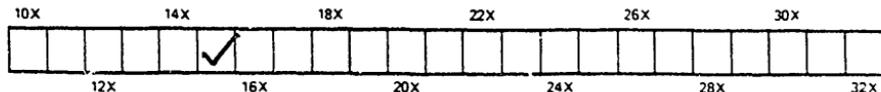
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*1/2 cent*  
"The World



for Christ."

# Monthly Letter Leaflet

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

(WESTERN DIVISION)

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VOL. XII.

TORONTO, MARCH, 1896.

No. 11.

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## Subjects for Prayer.

MARCH.—Special prayer in prospect of our Annual Meeting, that all our Auxiliaries and Mission Bands may begin the year with renewed vigour and increased numbers. Thankful acknowledgment of the Lord's goodness in extending the work, and confession of our shortcomings.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying: All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

"And, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."—Matt. xxviii. 18-20.

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## HOME DEPARTMENT.

### To Secretaries.

Presbyterial Secretaries are again requested to forward their finished reports to the Home Secretary as soon as possible after their annual Presbyterial meetings.

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### Annual Meeting.

The Twentieth Annual Meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (Western Division) will be held in St. Paul's Church, Peterboro', on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 21, 22 and 23, 1896.

A cordial invitation is extended to delegates from every part of the Society throughout the Western Division.

On Tuesday afternoon, at 2.30 o'clock, there will be a devotional meeting in the church, at the close of which the Presbyterial reports will be read. Afterwards delegates will be enrolled and billeted. The Nominating Committee will also meet on Tuesday afternoon at the close of the meeting,

On Tuesday evening a conference of the Board with Presbyterian Secretaries and Treasurers will be held, beginning at half-past seven, at which questions may be asked and subjects of interest to the Society considered.

Presidents', Secretaries' and Treasurers' substitutes will be welcome to the Conference, on condition that they are members of the society they represent. A pink badge will be provided for substitutes. Presidents' substitutes are not entitled to vote in the election of officers.

The programme of the Annual Meeting will be printed without names, in the April LETTER LEAFLET.

### Concerning Delegates.

The following representatives from each Society, in addition to the thirty-six managers, are entitled to entertainment: From the Presbyterian Society—the President, Secretary and one delegate; from the Auxiliary—the President or her substitute, and one delegate; from the Mission Band—the President or her substitute.

In accord with Article 8 of General Society Constitution these delegates must be members of the General Society to be entitled to vote.

These names should be sent in not later than April 8th, that entertainment may be provided. Secretaries are also requested to furnish their delegates with a copy of their credentials to present at Toronto.

In past years considerable difficulty has been caused the Billeting Committee through the names of delegates not being properly certified to and forwarded in time; the Board has therefore decided again this year to appoint a COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS, the Convener of which is Miss Isabella L. George, 277 Jarvis Street, Toronto, to whom the names of all delegates must be sent by the Secretary of the Society they are to represent, giving also the Presbyterian Society to which the Auxiliary or Band belongs.

In sending names of delegates, please be particular to state *whether or not a billet is desired*. In the case of any who may not wish to be billeted, the Secretary will kindly forward to Miss George the name and address of the friend with whom the delegate expects to stay. Miss George will forward all names to Peterboro'. Delegates will receive notice of the names and addresses of their hostesses from the billeting secretary in Peterboro', to whom replies should be sent in good time, stating explicitly, when possible, the train by which guests may be expected to arrive. The official billet does not extend beyond the three days of the meeting. It is hoped that in no case will the travelling expenses of delegates be paid out of mission society funds. Where it is found expedient to pay such expenses, a special fund should be provided.

### Railway Regulations Regarding Reduced Fares to Annual Meeting.

Delegates and members of the Society attending the Annual Meeting are requested to give special attention to the following points:

1. The railroad companies have agreed to the following terms, viz.:  
*One way first-class fare* for round trip, if 300 or more delegates attend, who at the railway station, on starting, obtain from the ticket agent a standard certificate of purchase of first-class full fare one-way ticket; and, on return, present the said certificate at the railway

station, duly certified and signed by the Home Secretary at the convention. *One fare and a third*, if the delegates number from 50 to 299, and *one fare and two-thirds* if less than 50 attend; *the return trip to be made by the same route as the going trip.*

2. All delegates, therefore, travelling by rail, even if the distance be short, will, on starting, ask from the agent, *at least ten minutes before the train is due to leave*, a "standard" certificate of purchase of ticket. No other form of certificates will be recognized.
3. *If more than one Company's line is travelled over, an additional certificate should be obtained on purchasing a ticket at point of junction. ASK YOUR AGENT FOR A THROUGH TICKET.*
4. "Certificates procured from the agent at starting point more than three days (Sunday not included) prior to commencement of meeting (April 21st), and certificates presented more than three days (Sundays not included) after date of close of meeting (April 23rd), will not be honoured for tickets for return trip.
5. "Certificates that bear date of purchase of ticket for going trip after the last day of the meeting will not be honoured for return passage.
6. "Certificates are not transferable, and the signature affixed at the starting point, compared with the signature to receipt for ticket, will enable the ticket agent to detect any attempted transfer."
7. "*No refund of fare will be made on any account whatever, because of failure of the delegates to obtain certificates or to observe the requirements of the same.*"
8. All members of the Society attending the Annual Meeting can secure the reduced railway rates, but only credentialed delegates will be provided with entertainment.

### Withdrawal of Notice.

The Notice of Motion for next Annual Meeting, from St. John's Church Auxiliary, Brockville, has been withdrawn by special request of the Auxiliary.

### Letter Leaflet Notice.

The LETTER LEAFLET year ends with the April number. All orders for the May issue must be in the hands of the Secretary of Publications not later than April 12. Will Presbyterial Secretaries please see that the printed forms sent them by Mrs. Telfer are filled in and forwarded by the above date.

### Life Members.

- Mrs. J. Fisher, Chatham.  
" Ferguson, St. Andrew's, Winnipeg.  
" E. W. Rathbun, Deseronto.  
Miss Lundy, St. Andrew's, Peterborough.  
Mrs. Wm. Campbell, Cypress River, Man.  
" Oman, St. Andrew's, Stratford.  
" Andrew Russell, Lunenburg.  
Miss A. E. Kirkland, Mount Healey.  
Mrs. W. N. Markell, Lunenburg,  
Miss Ellen E. Markell, "

### Increase.

*Presbyterial Society :*

LANARK AND RENFREW .....	Eauclaire Auxiliary.
CHATHAM .....	Jeannette's Creek, "Union Jack" Mission Band.
" .....	Leamington, Knox Church Auxiliary.
TORONTO .....	Parkdale, "MacKay" Auxiliary.
BRANDON .....	Glenboro, Mission Band.
LINDSAY .....	Wick, "Leask McMillan" Mission Band.
GOELPH .....	Preston Auxiliary.
TORONTO .....	Toronto, Southside Church, "Happy Reapers" Mission Band.

### Treasurer's Statement.

1896.		RECEIPTS.
Jan. 6th.—Balance in bank .....		\$1,891 61
" 10th.—Dovercourt Church Auxiliary .....		40 63
" "—"Anonymous," for W.F.M.S. ....		3 00
" 15th.—A Friend, to Foreign Missions.....		45 00
" 21st.—Mrs. Janet W. Carter, Elora, for support of native girl in India (per Miss Sinclair) .....		15 00
" 22nd.—Columbia Auxiliary, St. Andrew's Church, New Westminster, B.C .....		120 00
" 28th.—Church of the Covenant Auxiliary, Toronto .....		34 43
" "—Maple Grove Mission Band .....		8 00
Feb. 3rd.—W.F.M.S., Sherbrooke, Que.....		38 15
		<hr/> \$2,195 82
EXPENDITURE.		
Jan. 10th.—Stove sent Industrial School, Alberni.....	\$	30 00
" "—Freight on same .....		9 65
" "—Foreign Secretary's postage. ....		1 25
Feb. 4th.—Balance in bank.....		2,154 92
		<hr/> \$2,195 82

### Resolution on the Death of Rev. Dr. Reid.

"The Board of the W.F.M.S. desires to record its sense of loss in the recent death of the late Rev. Dr. Reid, Financial Agent of the Church.

"From the first organization of the Society, he was always ready to assist them with advice and information whenever appealed to, no matter how much he might be occupied with other important business. They also remember with gratitude how much trouble he took every year in examining and auditing the accounts of the Society, and his uniform kindness and courtesy in all his intercourse with them.

"The Board also desires to convey to Mrs. Reid and the members of her family their deep sympathy with them in their great bereavement, and to commend them to the God of all comfort—the Father of the fatherless, and the Husband of the widow."

## From Far Formosa.

From Far Formosa : The Island, its People and Missions. By George Leslie Mackay, D.D. Fleming H. Revell Co. \$1.50. We have just received from the publishers a copy of this valuable book. The author needs no introduction to Canadian Presbyterians, nor does the book itself require commendation from us. It has achieved a great success, and is receiving the highest praise on every side. The Sunday School *Times* says of it: "The book is as fascinating as a novel, and is a striking contribution to our knowledge of 'Southern Japan.'"

## Meetings of Presbyterian Societies.

HURON.—The eleventh annual meeting of the Huron Presbyterian, which was held in Seaforth on January 21st, was a very pleasant and profitable gathering. Large and appreciative audiences were present at all the meetings. Nearly every Auxiliary and Mission Band was well represented. The morning session was presided over by the President, Mrs. (Rev.) Colin Fletcher. The reports read by the different secretaries indicated a deep and growing interest in our Saviour's last command. Through the efforts of our indefatigable President, one Auxiliary, in Blake, and three Mission Bands have been added during the year: the "Willing Workers" Mission Band, Exeter, and "Lou Graham" Mission Band, Bayfield, named in remembrance of Miss Lucinda Graham, M.D., and the Gauld Mission Band, Kippen, designated in honor of Mrs. Gauld, of Formosa, who formerly belonged to that village. With one exception, every congregation within the bounds of the Presbytery is now represented by either an Auxiliary or Mission Band. The Huron Presbyterian comprises 14 Auxiliaries, with 330 local members, and 102 members of the General Society; also 9 Mission Bands, with a membership of over 400, and 18 members of the General Society. In addition to this there are some fifty Scattered Helpers, who have contributed \$30.83 to the funds of the Society. Four life members have also been added. The Auxiliaries raised \$1,134.39 for missionary purposes, and the Mission Bands, \$242.-87, making a total of \$1,377.26, a slight advance on previous years. Thirteen hundred pounds of excellent clothing, valued at \$509.30, have been distributed among the Indians of the North-West; \$105 was also expended by the McGillivray Mission Band in boxes of presents for the home and foreign fields. As our Presbyterian expense fund is in a very flourishing condition, it was unanimously agreed that a surplus amount of \$50 be used in making life members of two of our lady missionaries, who were to be selected from the home and foreign field. 358 LETTER LEAFLETS are circulated monthly, and read with much interest. Larger sums have been raised at the Thank-offerings this year than ever before. The election of officers resulted as follows: Honorary President, Mrs. Thomas Fair, Clinton; President, Mrs. (Rev.) Colin Fletcher, Thames Road; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. (Rev.) James Hamilton, Leeburn; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Carlisle, Hensall; Secretary, Miss H. I. Graham, Seaforth, P.O.; Treasurer, Mrs. A. Scott, Seaforth; Secretary of Supplies, Miss McTaggart, Clinton; LEAFLET Secretary, Mrs. J. G. Wilson, Seaforth. A large number of ladies assembled in the church at two o'clock. The principal feature of this meeting was an able address from the gifted Presi-

dent, Mrs. Fletcher, on "Self-Sacrifice." Master Reggie Wilson, a member of the Mission Band, recited a beautiful and affecting poem entitled "Poor Little Will." The Sunshine Mission Band favored the audience with two suitable choruses; and an excellent paper, prepared by Mrs. McKellar, of Plyth, was read, in her absence, by Mrs. Curtis, of Blyth, after which M.s. (Rev.) Neil Shaw, Egmondville, sang "Only a Beam of Sunshine," in a very expressive manner. An original poem, "Ships That Pass in the Night," was read by Miss Graham. Prayers were offered by Mesdames Irwin, McDonald, Kirkman and others. A resolution of thanks was conveyed to the retiring Treasurer, Mrs. M. Y. McLean, in recognition of the valuable services which, for a period of eight years, she has so cheerfully rendered this Society. Moved by Mrs. (Rev.) A. Stewart, Clinton, seconded by Mrs. (Dr.) A. D. McDonald, Seaforth, and carried: "That we approve of the suggestion regarding the reading of the Secretaries' reports, made by the Hamilton Presbytery." Moved by Mrs. J. W. Irwin, Clinton, seconded by Miss Polly, Goderich: "That we approve of the recommendation regarding the appointment of a Mission Band Secretary." Carried. The Secretary, Miss Graham, was appointed Presbyterial delegate to the next annual meeting, in Peterboro'. At the close of the afternoon service, the members of Presbytery and the delegates were entertained at tea by the ladies of Seaforth. At the evening meeting, the pastor, Dr. A. D. McDonald, occupied the chair. Excellent music was provided by the choir and others. Mr. Anderson, of Goderich, and other members of the Huron Presbytery gave interesting addresses. Rev. Colin Fletcher, on behalf of the delegates, thanked the ladies of Seaforth for their kind hospitality. Collection at the afternoon and evening meetings, \$28.66. Thus closed one of the most interesting and successful meetings of the Huron Presbyterial Society.

HANNAH ISABEL GRAHAM, *Secretary.*

HAMILTON.—The fourteenth annual meeting of the Hamilton Presbyterial was held in the school-room of the Central Church, on Tuesday, January 21st. There was a large attendance, 30 Auxiliaries and 16 Mission Bands being represented. At the morning session reports were received from Auxiliaries and Mission Bands; also reports of the Secretary of Literature and Secretary of Supplies. Several matters of business were discussed. Before the election of officers took place, Mrs. Grant, the retiring President, made a few remarks expressing her regret at severing her connection with the Society. Mrs. Woodruff spoke feelingly of the great loss the Society would sustain in the removal of Mrs. Grant, and moved a resolution expressing the sincere regret of the Society, which was seconded by Miss Ferrier, and carried by a standing vote. Prayers were led by Mrs. Steele and Miss Stewart, of Nelson. The afternoon session was opened with prayer led by Mrs. Campbell, 1st Vice-President of the Winnipeg Presbyterial Society. After reading the minutes of the last annual meeting, the report of the election of officers, Secretary's report and Treasurer's statement, the adoption of the reports was carried. The Treasurer showed that the sum of \$3,133.66 had been contributed during the year. Mrs. Roger, of North Pelham, led in the dedicatory prayer. After a song by Miss V. Findlay, the Society had the pleasure of listening to Miss Sinclair, who gave a most interesting and delightful address:

speaking of her work among the Hindoos, of their many and varied forms of religion, and of the labors of the missionary in educational, zenana, and medical missionary work. She drew a vivid picture of the lives of women and girls in India, giving several instances of the good results which had sprung from the teaching given in the girls' boarding school. Miss Sinclair is a very ready, earnest, and bright speaker, and her remarks were listened to with deep attention. A most hearty vote of thanks was tendered to her. The meeting was closed with prayer led by Mrs. Forbes, of Caledonia. The ladies of St. Paul's Church Auxiliary, assisted by the members of the "Home Circle" Mission Band, also of St. Paul's Church, entertained the delegates and their friends at tea at the close of the meeting.

FLORA M. FINDLAY, *Secretary.*

WHITBY.—The Whitby Presbyterial met in St. Paul's Church, Bowmanville, on Tuesday, Jan. 21st. Mrs. S. H. Eastman, of Oshawa, presided in the lamented absence of Miss Drummond, the President. The attendance was large, upwards of 100 lady delegates being present from all parts of the Presbytery. Reports were received from seventeen Auxiliaries, and six Mission Bands, with a total membership of 464. The contributions were slightly below those of last year, being \$1,034.64, but the quantity of clothing sent to the Indians in the North-West was much larger, viz., over 900 pounds, valued at \$319.03. Mission Bands sent also boxes to India valued at \$131. The programme included a Scripture reading, "Harvest Laborers," by Mrs. J. L. Rowe, of Orono; addresses by Mrs. R. Ross, Lindsay, and Mrs. Currie, Port Perry; a question drawer by Mrs. Eastman, and solos by Miss Park and Miss Morris, Oshawa. Greetings were given from the Disciples by Miss Manning, from the Methodist by Miss E. L. Rundle, from Trinity by Mrs. R. Freeland, also from St. John's, sister Societies in Bowmanville. Revs. I. Whiteman, B. A., and J. McLean and Mr. Morris conveyed greetings from the Presbytery. St. Paul's was well filled at the evening meeting, which was presided over by Rev. J. B. McLaren, Moderator of Presbytery. The choir of the church, assisted by some friends, furnished excellent music, which was further enriched by a solo by Miss Zelia Brimacombe, and a duet by Mr. H. J. Knight and Mr. H. Lascelles Simpson. Rev. Geo. B. McLeod, B. A., of Newcastle, and Rev. J. McMillan, B. A., of Lindsay, spoke; the latter, who has lately come east from Vancouver, B. C., giving some telling descriptions of missionary work and its results in the far west. The following are the officers for 1896:—Mrs. McAuley, President; Mrs. R. D. Fraser, 1st Vice; Mrs. S. H. Eastman, 2nd Vice; Miss Jessie Panton, 3rd Vice; Miss Galbraith, Bowmanville, Recording Secretary; Miss Thompson, Whitby, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Currie, Port Perry, Treasurer; Miss McGillivray, Whitby, Secretary of Supplies; Miss Bassett, Bowmanville, Literature Secretary. The next annual meeting will be held in Oshawa.

M. GALBRAITH, *Secretary.*

STRATFORD.—The twelfth annual meeting of the Stratford Presbyterial was held in First Church, St. Mary's, on January 28th and 29th. A large number of delegates were present from the Auxiliaries and Mission Bands. On account of the illness of the President, Mrs. Kossack, of Lucan, the 1st Vice-President, Mrs. Grant, St. Mary's, took the chair. The morn-

ing session of Tuesday was devoted almost entirely to business. A welcome address was delivered by Mrs. Cosgrove, St. Mary's, and a reply from Mrs. Leitch, Stratford. The reports of Secretaries of Auxiliaries and Mission Bands and the Presbyterial Secretary, though they did not show the advancement of previous years, were hopeful and encouraging. The Secretary-Treasurer of Supply reported a large supply of clothing sent to the Rolling River Reserve; also that a sewing machine was sent to the missionary's wife on the reserve. A proposal that the Presbyterial reports be read on the first day of the annual meeting in Peterborough was read, and the delegate to the annual meeting was instructed to act on the suggestion made. A proposal to appoint a Presbyterial Mission Band Secretary was not thought necessary, as there were so few Mission Bands in this Presbytery. An expression of sympathy for the President, Mrs. Hossack, in her long-continued illness was passed by the Society; special prayer was made for her recovery, that she might be able to take her place once more among them. In the afternoon the President's address was read by Mrs. Hislop, Stratford. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the retiring Treasurer, Mrs. Hislop, for ten years of faithful service in the work. The delegates were addressed by Miss Sinclair, Indore. A vivid picture of Hindu life, especially of a Hindu woman's life, was presented, and several instances related of the rescue of children from terrible degradation. A solo, entitled "Gethsemane" was beautifully rendered by Miss Oliver. The Question Drawer was ably answered by Miss Moderwell, Stratford; and Mrs. Panton gave a few parting words of cheer and encouragement. A public meeting in the evening was presided over by Rev. Mr. Cosgrove, Rev. Mr. Panton conducting the devotional exercises. An interesting address was delivered by Dr. J. F. Smith, Honan, on the beginning of the Honan Mission. A Missionary Conference was held on Wednesday morning. Special prayers were offered for the different mission fields, and papers read on the North West Missions, China and India. The officers elected for 1896 were:—President, Mrs. Grant, St. Mary's; 1st Vice, Mrs. Leitch, Stratford; 2nd Vice, Mrs. Cosgrove, St. Mary's; 3rd Vice, Mrs. Bradley, Mitchell; 4th Vice, Mrs. Chalmers, Millbank; Recording Secretary, Miss Craw, Thorndale; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Hamilton, Motherwell; and Treasurer, Mrs. Gibb, St. Mary's.

M. HAMILTON, *Secretary.*

PARIS.—The eleventh annual meeting of Paris Presbyterial was held in St. Paul's Church, Ingersoll, on the 13th February, 1896. Notwithstanding the severe storm, there was a large attendance of delegates at the morning business session. The President, Mrs. A. S. Ball, of Woodstock, occupied the chair. After devotional exercises the notices of motion contained in the LETTER LEAFLET were brought up. The one recommending the reading of the Presbyterial reports at the close of the devotional meeting was approved of. The appointment of a Mission Band Secretary for the General Society was recommended, if it would lessen the work of the Home Secretary. A feeling of pleasure prevailed when it was announced that the notice from Brockville had been withdrawn, this Presbyterial being loyal to the Constitution as it now stands. With regard to the notice from Kingston, although the meeting was opposed to the suggested change, it was resolved to leave this matter in the hands of the Board. Mrs. Ball

was urged to accept the office of President again, but, to the regret of all, could not accept. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Kirton, Woodstock; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Ball (Woodstock), Mrs. Thomson (Ayr), Mrs. W. A. McKay (Woodstock) and Mrs. Patterson (Embro); Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Watson, Ayr; Recording Secretary, Miss Cameron, Ayr; Treasurer, Mrs. Robertson, Ingersoll; Librarian, Miss McPherson, Glenmorris. Much regret was felt at the retirement of Mrs. McWhirter, for five years the highly esteemed Secretary, who has left the bounds of the Presbyterial. Great interest was taken in the supply to be sent to India this year, and it was decided to make Paris the shipping point, and to invite the different societies to meet there and see the contributions sent in. The President, in her address, said active work in foreign missions was a stimulus to action in the other departments of Church work, and spoke of the personal interest that the members should feel in the twelve missionaries in foreign fields, who are in one way or other associated with this Presbytery. The report of the Secretary showed that all the Societies were earnest and active in the work, and that a supply of clothing was sent to Regina School, valued at \$1,166.83, the greater part of which was new. The Treasurer's report showed a slight decrease in the total contribution. Miss McCaughey sang very sweetly a sacred solo, and a little girl of the mission band touched the hearts of all by her recitation. Mrs. Harvie, Foreign Mission Secretary, gave a most eloquent address on the work in the North-West, picturing from personal observation the sad condition and degradation of the Indian women, telling of the self-denying and successful work done by the missionaries and teachers on the Reserves, and of the incalculable amount of good that resulted from the gifts of clothing sent by the W.F.M.S. At the evening meeting Rev. Mr. McDonald, of St. Thomas, in an eloquent address, referred to the prevalent lack of intelligent knowledge in mission work as one of the chief causes of the absence of interest in it, and urged the necessity of all keeping themselves in sympathetic touch with the various mission fields. The meeting was one of the most enjoyable ever held by this Society.

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## FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

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### CENTRAL INDIA.

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#### Encouraging Incident in Our Hospital Work.

FROM DR. MARION OLIVER.

*Mission Hospital, Indore, Nov. 9, 1895.*

I have just come upstairs to my room, after going the rounds and seeing that all the in-patients are settled for the night. All the wards are occupied at present, and there is only one vacant cot. To-day was an extra busy day, and owing to my being in the city most of the forenoon I had not been able to see anything of the women in the hospital since morning. — "Miss Sahib has had no time to sit and talk with us to-day." The more I know of the women of India the more do I realize that to get them to understand and believe that I have a real love for and interest in them I must be ready to *waste time* over them—must have a real human interest in their interests. These are but few, it is true; babies, jewellery and

cooking covers the ground over which the minds of nine-tenths of them travel. The other tenth touch on the "new woman" and kindred subjects. But India's new woman is not one who rides a bicycle and wears bloomers, only one who can read and write and perhaps occasionally ventures out to a public meeting. There are many yet among the upper classes who look out on the world with one eye peeping through the folds of a chuddah and who feel that to allow any man, except those of their own household, to look on their faces is to be guilty of a heinous sin. We have a patient just now whom we wished the civil surgeon to see and I had to spend a good part of a forenoon coaxing her to allow him in the room. We made a compromise at last, I agreeing that she only draw her chuddah far enough aside to allow her tongue to be seen. "How can I go before God if this strange man looks on my face?" was the pleading entreaty of this poor young woman. In most cases, however, the veiling of the face is more a matter of social distinction than of religion.

How true it is that we who are Christ's witnesses cannot tell whose hearts the Spirit is preparing to receive our message and to accept our witness-bearing. Often the thought comes to me as I am sitting in the midst of a group of women telling them of Christ and of what He is to me and longs to be to each of them, is there to-day one among this group whose heart the Lord can open as He opened the heart of Lydia. Dear friends, let this prayer go often up from your hearts that the Holy Spirit may prepare the hearts of these women to understand and accept His message when spoken by us to them.

When in Lucknow last month a Baptist missionary from Agra on learning that I belonged to Indore told me of a Christian woman whom his wife had found in one of the villages near Gwalior when touring with her husband last cold season. On inquiring where she had learned the way of salvation, one of the other women in the house said: "I was sick and she went with me to the mission hospital at Indore and there we heard these things, and ever since then my sister-in-law worships only your God." Ofttimes the longing to see fruit goes up as a petition to God, but He knows and is perhaps keeping some hidden ones from us because that so much self yet remains in our hearts that we would not be able to "walk softly" and wear many jewels.

Lately one of the in-patients ran away during the night and has not been near us since. She had been nearly four months in the hospital, having been brought in with a compound fracture of the leg. I think I never met anyone who so deliberately and determinedly hardened her heart against the truth. So long as she was confined to her bed she showed no signs of fear, but as soon she was able to walk she began asking the women if the Doctor Miss Sahibs meant to make her a Christian by force. "What else could all their kindness mean?" Perhaps when trouble befalls her her heart will cry out to Him whom we sought to lead her to know and give herself to.

### Appointed to Ujjain.

FROM MISS JAMIESON.

*Ujjain Railway Station, Dec. 2, 1895.*

It seems quite natural to be writing you from India, but strange that I should be in Ujjain. We had a delightful voyage in every respect on

our return. Some of our fellow-passengers were very companionable and we had a very enjoyable time together. On our arrival in Bombay we learned that Council meeting had been put off until our arrival. We had a few days before the meeting in which to visit some of the stations. At Indore we saw my little girl Moler who remembered us quite well. In order to give her a holiday and to have her to myself for a few days, I took her with me to Neemuch where we spent three days. It was great joy to assemble once more in the shabby room used for a church, with the dark faces so dear to us. The new school buildings are bright and most suitable in every respect. I could not help wishing to have them for my own. But it was decided at council that I should come here with my brother, and develop the work Mrs. Buchanan has often wished to see in the care of a lady who could devote all her time to it.

I am very pleased to have been sent here; opportunities for work are almost unlimited. I need not ask for the earnest prayers of the dear ladies at home, for I know they are daily before the Throne of Grace for us all. My heart's desire is that we may be used as never before. We have been studying much about the work of the Holy Spirit while we were at home and on the voyage out. We are convinced that our Father wishes all His children to be filled with the Spirit, and we long for that priceless gift in more of its fulness than we have hitherto known, not for our own joy and peace, but for His glory.

We had very helpful meetings while at Council at the opening of the college, Indore. You will receive a full report of the whole, so I need not write more about it now.

The new ladies reached Indore in safety a few hours before we came away. They look well and strong. Most of our missionaries are in good health.

The mission house here is a beautiful building, and we are very thankful that we are to be in such a comfortable home. Dr. Buchanan deserves great credit for his skill in building. No one in the Mission has had to live in tents, and be quite without a home as Mrs. B. has had, and now she has to begin the same kind of life again! But we trust it will not be for long.

I shall write some account of the work here when I have got settled down to it.

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#### HONAN.

### Many Visitors Daily Received.

FROM MISS M'KENZIE.

*Chang-te-fu, Honan, Nov. 12, 1895.*

Your favour to hand last evening, like a bright ray of sunshine; I cannot tell you how much I prize it. I praise God that He has brought me here, and I praise God for the loving hearts that remember me before the Throne of Grace, and who also remember me by sending precious messages of encouragement from the dear home land. Three months to-day since we bade farewell to the many dear ones in Toronto, that I call "the city of brotherly love." That was how I found it during the seven years that it was my happy privilege to live and work there.

We are two weeks now in Chang-te-fu, and although it is the youngest of the three mission centres of the Honan Mission, yet in many respects

it is the most promising. The land is better, the air fresh, the people quiet, the women are intelligent. It would be quite interesting to you if you saw the crowds of women who come to our home who never heard the name of Jesus; it impresses the thought, how many Christian workers are in the home land that ought to be here. Whoever may perish in our Christian centres at home, it is not because they never heard of Jesus. The first week an average of 25 women and 40 girls came daily; the second week an average of 70 women and perhaps about half as many girls came every day; one day over two hundred women came. Mrs. Goforth receives them pleasantly as they come, group after group, answering their many varied questions, then sweetly tells them the object of our coming, i.e., to tell them of the love of our Heavenly Father to them; plays a tune or hymn for them on the organ which is a great attraction to them. Baby Helen, with her innocent prattle and smiles, is quite an attraction to the women. Some of the women who came this week said that they would come again to learn the "doctrine." Of course, it is all from pure curiosity that they come, as we are the first and only foreign ladies that ever came to Chang-te-fu. From their standpoint it is only those empty motives that move them to come, yet the Father's drawing is there, drawing them to come so that they may know Him who is the "Light of the world." Many of them may by-and-by become light-bearers for Him among their own people. So many every day is quite a strain now; yet the thought that the future outcome of the work depends very largely upon the impressions they receive at the beginning, removing their prejudices and superstition, we know that the sufficient grace will be given day by day making His strength perfect in our weakness. As I look into their faces, how my heart longs to be able to speak to them freely in their own tongue, to tell them what my precious Lord is to me; it will be a long time yet before I will be able to do so. I praise God He has made the study of the language quite a pleasure to me, while endeavouring to make it easier for dear Mrs. Goforth to give them that knowledge of the way of salvation that is possible to give to so many in such a short space of time to minds that are not yet accustomed to hear anything in the line of thought or teaching, the only thing I can do is to be silently sending up ejaculatory prayers in their behalf, that God would cause the words spoken to make them hunger for more.

Up to date, Nov. 16, one thousand three hundred and thirty women came. Is not that a subject for prayer?

### NORTH-WEST INDIANS.

#### The Opening of the New Building.

FROM MISS LAIDLAW.

*Portage La Prairie, Jan. 15, 1895.*

I am sure you are anxious to hear all about the opening of our new school. It is about two weeks since we moved, but as the carpenters were not quite through we could not have the formal opening until the evening of Friday, Jan. 10th inst. We were feeling a little sad on the last Sabbath evening spent in the old home, as we called to memory the many pleasant hours spent beneath the old walls, and hoped the lessons learned there would benefit us through all the coming years.

A good programme had been provided, consisting of music by the choir and solos by friends. Rev. P. Wright, B.D., was in the chair. The meeting opened by all singing the doxology, Miss Fraser reading Psalm cxi, and the children singing, "We Welcome You." There were, I think, over eighty present, among whom were nearly all the resident ministers. Excellent addresses were given by Profs. Baird and Hart, of Winnipeg, Rev. F. McRae of Burnside, Mr. E. Brown, Mr. S. R. Marlatt, and Mrs. John McLeod, who, with other Portage ladies, was instrumental in organizing the school some ten years ago. All spoke encouragingly of the work and drew comparisons between the opening ten years ago and the commodious house now in use for the work; also of the difficulty then in persuading the parents to allow their children to come to school, and the anxiety now on their part to send them. Certainly there is great cause for thankfulness to our Father for the manifestation of His power, and I trust it may be the means of bringing many souls to our Master.

The building stands on a site adjoining the old school in the east end of the town, and is a handsome and commodious frame building on a stone foundation. On the ground floor, on the right hand side of the entrance hall, is the large dining hall for the children, on the left are the parlor, dining-room, etc., for our own private use, at the back the kitchens, etc. Upstairs are two large dormitories for the children, a room for hospital purposes, storeroom, and bathroom. The building is heated with hot air and lit with electricity. The building is expected to accommodate forty pupils, and the number now reaches nearly thirty. About 10.30 refreshments were served, which had been provided with help from ladies of the W.F.M.S., and every one went away expressing great pleasure with the evening's entertainment.

It seems so much easier now to do the work and train the children in tidiness, so we, with the children and Indians, are very proud of our new home, and hope the days to be spent in it will be marked by much faithfulness and gratitude to our loving Heavenly Father who has not only given the "droppings" but the "showers of blessing" on this part of His vineyard.

We have had very little sickness among the children, and glad to say very few sick ones at the tepees. Louisa came home for the opening and will be with us a week. Topsy is keeping house for Mrs. Dr. Robertson while she has gone East on a visit. There were over fifty Indians out at service on Sabbath, and that is about the usual number. They are orderly and attentive, and have held two prayer meetings by themselves when we could not get down.

Miss Fraser joins me in wishing you and all the ladies on the Board a happy and prosperous New Year, and asking anew an interest in all your prayers for the salvation of all these entrusted to our care.

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### Extract of Letter from Mrs. McLeod.

*Portage La Prairie, Jan. 19, 1896.*

How often I wish you ladies could just step in and see the comforts displayed on every hand, and the happiness of both teachers and children ! I think the sight would repay you for all the mental labor you have

bestowed on it. Those of us who were present at the opening, and had taken part in the work from its very commencement, had to admit that our most sanguine hopes were more than realized. Had any one told us then that in ten years we would see a school building like the one we now occupy, and have a beautiful church, erected for worship, on land owned by the Indians, who then had not a foot of ground they could call their own, and have seen the marked improvement in the children, in fact on every hand, we would simply have believed it impossible. To a stranger the steady, marked progress may not be so apparent; but to those of us who have gone through all the discouraging features from its very infancy, can only fold our hands and say, "It is the Lord's doing and it is marvellous in our eyes."

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### Extract of Letter from Miss Fraser.

*Portage La Prairie.*

I must say something about the work at the tepees. The Sabbath services are being well attended. One of the old medicine men had a strange dream lately. He thought he had gone to church one Sabbath, and when he got there he saw two white men standing at the door. They spoke to him; then he went into the church and the floor was all covered with water, and seemed to be pouring in from all sides. He was quite excited over his dream and went to David about it, and, since then, he has been a faithful attendant at church. We had our anniversary service on the 2nd Sabbath in December. Mr. Wright was down and we had a very interesting meeting. On the Monday following, the "Christian Endeavor" of Knox Church held a social at the Indian Church, and treated the Indians to tea and cake, and had a short programme. Every one present enjoyed the evening very much. Now we have started the weekly prayer meeting, which the Indians seem so anxious to have and enjoy so much.

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### Good Work Done by the Pupils.

FROM MISS NICOLL.

*Industrial School, Regina, Dec. 30, 1895.*

You ask about our school's exhibition work and how it compared with that of other schools. As nearly as I can learn it was quite favorable and we were very well pleased with the results. Qu'Appelle carried off first prize, and our school second. A number of the children took prizes for particular kinds of work and others of them received diplomas. Considering that it is only something over four years since this school was started and it is ten or eleven years or perhaps longer since Qu'Appelle, Battleford and other schools were started, we feel that the children did comparatively well.

On Thursday, August 1, the Indian celebration took place. All the children who were on the grounds that day were given places on the large platform in front of the grand stand. Many hundreds of Indians in their blankets and paint were near and when all had assembled, Lord and Lady Aberdeen took their places on the platform. Then followed the presen-

tation of some twenty Indian chiefs to their Excellencies Lord and Lady Aberdeen. The four bands from the Indian school were also on the platform and played in turn. They were High River, St. Albert's, Qu'Appelle and Regina. The first three were dressed in dark uniform; our boys had navy-blue pants, trimmed with black braid, and red coats, trimmed with braid, which presented a striking contrast to all the dark colors.

The exhibition closed on Wednesday, August 7th, and the following Saturday Geo. Hunter (cousin of the late Peter Hunter, of Pipestone) went to Lumsden, some 25 miles away, to work. George was the first to go, but inside of a very few weeks twenty-eight or thirty boys were out at work.

Just now we are having our Christmas holidays. Our Christmas entertainment last Tuesday evening was quite a success. Santa Claus sent a ship on ahead, well loaded with good things and in the evening, about 8.30, he appeared himself. One of the pupils said, "Santa looks older than he did last year, but he is just as jolly and good-natured as ever." After the distribution of the gifts ten or fifteen minutes were spent in social chat and the evening's proceedings closed with evening prayer. Christmas day was not less enjoyable; here and there, on both the girls' and boys' sides were little groups to be found comparing and playing with their presents.

There is one thing more that I would like to mention and ask your prayers especially for, and that is the spiritual part of the work. The girls' meetings twice a week, Sunday and Wednesday evenings, are well attended and are very interesting. The girls conduct them and I believe, yes, I am sure, they are much helped by them. You will be pleased to hear that Clara is trying to be a good girl, and when some of the girls have been ill, she has most earnestly and touchingly read for them and prayed with them. Sarah and Charlotte are both well.

The boys' prayer meeting on Wednesday night and the C. E. on Sunday evening are both much enjoyed and are helpful as well.

## Progress of the School.—Mission Work on the Reserve.

FROM MR. WHITE.

*Crowstand, Kamsack, Dec. 27, 1895.*

We have been toiling along trying to reach the hearts and consciences of the people, but there is not that response that we would be delighted to see. Our school has been full most of the time and the Sabbath congregations are still good. The people come to church. They acknowledge the teaching to be true. They are anxious to enjoy the ordinances. They wish to have their children baptized. But still so many are not willing to cast aside their old heathenism entirely and become decided followers of Jesus.

We began this fall to practise the hymns which we were going to sing at church on Saturday evening, and some of the young men from the reserve have attended.

I have been keeping up regular services at the church every Sunday morning at eleven and at the school in the evening. Generally I have gone to Two Creeks in the afternoon and to The Gardens once a month. On my last trip I missed The Gardens to go to a large lumber camp about twelve miles north of Fort Pelly. I intend visiting this camp all winter.

The attendance at the school has been well sustained. You will be glad to hear that during the last few days we have succeeded in getting four new scholars from The Gardens. We have been working for these for the last three years, but at last we have them. Almost all the children of school age on Cote's and Kesekoos' Reserves are now in school, and any who are not in school are so young that there is no great hurry about getting them in. Splendid work has been done in the school.

Good advancement has been made in the literary work, and there has been a very marked advance in the industrial work. We took a small exhibit to Regina last summer and we expect to send something to Toronto and Ottawa next summer. Five of our pupils have gone to Regina Industrial School this fall.

At present we have just one vacancy and we expect that after New Year's it will be filled and a few supernumeraries added to the roll. Two little non-treaty girls are also coming after the holidays. Our roll will then number about forty.

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### Preparations for Work.

FROM MR. GILMOUR.

*Hurricane Hills Mission, Indian Head, Jan. 7, 1896.*

Up to the present, we had not been able to secure a suitable man for interpreter, but I have just returned from Regina, where I went with a little boy for the school, and have taken with me one of the boys belonging to this reserve. He is rather young (12 years), but we will try him for a while, and see what he can do. I have received permission from two of the Indians, at different points on the reserve, to hold services in their houses, so I will have a meeting in the morning at one point on the reserve, and in the afternoon at a different part of the reserve.

I find that these people have got into a habit of having a dance every Sunday, beginning usually in the middle of the afternoon, and lasting on into the night. There is no pagan rite or ceremony connected with it, but it is merely a pastime, and they got into the way of holding it on Sunday, because during the summer months they had more or less work to do on the other six days of the week, and Mr. Grant, the Agent, discountenanced as far as possible working on Sunday.

These Indians are, of course, out-and-out Pagans, not one on the reserve, I believe, making any pretence to believing in the Christian religion. Some of them are indeed openly hostile to our religion, but I do not think the work will be any more difficult than in any other place, where the beginning has to be made.

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### A New Station Opened.

FROM MR. RUSSELL.

The following letter has been received through the kindness of Mr. M. Swartout, Ucluelet. It gives an account of the opening up of mission work among the Indians at Ahousaht, B.C.:—

*Ahousaht, Dec. 19, 1895.*

It seems good to be able to speak of another new station. Since coming here there has been little time for anything but work. As you will

know, we had very bad weather for the first week after we came. It was very hard moving the stuff from the store here, as the surf was from 5 to 10 feet high for a few days, and heavy rains and wind. The first two or three days we had not much of a welcome accorded us from the Indians. They seemed to have no confidence whatever in us. In two days' time, however, we noticed a marked difference and were well received by all, old and young.

At first there was no house for us and no hopes of obtaining one till Monday, when the coldness seemed to disappear and we had plenty of offers. One man offered me his house free for school and home if I would help to put in the windows, etc. Another offered me a part of his house and the upstairs, and would put in a partition if we would live there. This was free of rent and wood thrown in. Another would rent his house for \$5 per month. This is the best house at present and has partitions. I think we can only have it for a month or two. The first chief offered me his house for a school and the upstairs, when finished, for a home. This offer I accepted. There are six windows (places) downstairs, three of which I have closed up and have lent the chief three windows till his come. We have converted the downstairs into a school-room. I have sent for a stove, not to exceed \$10, landed here. When it comes, we shall be more comfortable. The chief stopped his work and put on the doors and fitted in the windows. We had great trouble bringing the lumber to his house. It was landed at the store and the surf strewed it along the beach. I got two men to bring it for me. The first time they were upset by the surf, and the lumber nearly drifted on the rocks near the shore. The next time I saw a 6-foot surf wash them out of their canoe and they had to come back and unload part. We have got it all now but about five boards, which are still there.

One of the boys helped me to make the desks, and when completed he said, "Now I will wash off the desks and scrub the floor." It was dinner-time, so I went home. When I came back the desks were cleaned and the boys had half the floor scrubbed. If I could have got the lumber, I could have had school on Friday of last week. As I could not, I could not open before yesterday, 18th. When all was ready Tuesday night, Addie and I started round the ranch to warn out the children. Then the procession began. At first we had but one follower, but that was to the first house. After that each house added a few to the contingent. By the time we got nearly over the ranch we were a party not to be despised. Boys and men and chiefs and dogs, and Addie and I, and pouring rain, and Ahousah mud and smoke and smells, etc. But it was fine, and nearly all had a good feeling for us.

This is a large tribe, not many old men, but a great many young men and women, and boys, very few girls. Yesterday morning I started school with 20; I never saw anything like it. Since I have come here I have had no rest. It was, "Do start school." "You have been here a long time now, and have not started yet." "If we don't learn to sing before Sunday, we can't sing at church," etc., etc. So when I started it seemed as though they could not have waited any longer. As I had only four books, I had to give one to three or four boys together and hurry to give the slates and pencils to the remainder to try to get them a little cooled down. I took up a slate and wrote "cat" on it, having first shown the little boy the picture, etc, and then, as nearly as I can describe

it, the room was filled with a noise much like that made by a flock of geese on a cold winter's day over a dish of wheat. Old men and young men were leaning over and giving the little fellow instructions as to how to make the letters, hold the pencil and what the word was. In the afternoon there were 27; this morning 23; this afternoon 40. You can scarcely imagine what a time we have with so many and only 4 books and 20 slates. The Kilsomahts are partly here now, and will soon all be here. I think it is possible to draw them to the school, too.

Ahousaht—where we first thought of locating, as more central—is the proper place for a school, I believe, as the *Kilsomahts* are here most of the time and are only a few compared with the Ahousahts. Of course, everything is new, but I believe we can have a good school here. There have been to school already 13 boys and 3 girls, the size of Albert, 6 or 8 about like Jacob and Carrie. The older boys are, I should say, from 14 years up. There are several boys and girls yet who have not come, but I think will come in time. The lungs of these children are, I think, pretty fully developed, judging by the way they speak out and sing. With the exception of the very smallest, they have got the first lesson both in reading print and script, and several have the second lesson. There are at least ten, I think, somewhat of the Georgie and Albert stamp. To-night there were ten of them in. They all understood "I see," and could say themselves, "I see a hat," "I see a pencil," "I see a watch," etc. They have all got 1, 2, 3, etc., up to 10. I held up two pencils. One said, "I see two;" another said, "I see a pencil two;" another, "I see two a pencil." They all have the thought, but it is hard to know what to do with "a."

They all seem distrustful as regards my staying here. One man coaxed me to stop two years at least. Others expect me to leave in a little while, etc. I forgot to tell you that the young men carried half of my things from the store to the house (about three-quarters of mile over rough trail) including three trunks. I doubt if many white men would have done as much. I never hinted such a thing to them. Before we were quite ready to go into the house they asked me if they could not do it. Last Sabbath we had a fair congregation, quite orderly and attentive, in one of the houses. We hope to have it continually increase.

## SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

### Correction.

In the supply report for 1895 a box of clothing was credited to Lachute. It should have been Lachute Road, St. Andrews, P.Q.

### Omission.

In the allotment of supplies for 1896 the following was omitted: "The Societies in Quebec to provide gifts and prizes for the schools in Trinidad."

## Acknowledgments of Clothing and Gifts.

FROM MISS M'LABEN.

*Birtle, Jan. 28, 1896.*

Illness in the school prevented my writing you earlier. You know that six of our children went to Regina, but you do not know how much we miss them, morning, noon and night. We think and speak of them;

the girls, Isabel, Tene and Eliza, how helpful they were, and they were no longer "the children," they were friends; then Arthur and little Harry, and, last of all, Hugh McKay. This was indeed the "last straw." You do not part lightly with children you have cared for for seven years. Well, after the children left, came the preparations for Mr. Gilmour's departure to his new field. Then the stir and excitement of Christmas, followed by Mr. Small's arrival and initiation, but now I am very pleased to say we are fairly under way once more.

Now, I must thank you for your kindly interest in our Christmas treat and very specially for the bags of candy. They were very much better for having come such a distance, and then to know that you have remembered them all this time, and shown it in such a substantial way was indeed a great pleasure. It was told in every letter written for fully three weeks. Your visit has done these children a great deal of good. They listen now, gratefully and understandingly, when I tell them how their clothing is sent by friends in the East. There was one quilt came in the supplies this year that interested them very much. It was made by the Dovercourt Mission Band, the name beautifully embroidered in the centre by some person who knew all about such work. Well, we are just at a loss to know what to do with it. We are all agreed that it is much too pretty and dainty for everyday use; so we are going to keep it for a pattern in the meantime, and whenever a girl (or teacher either) can embroider as well as that, she will do; she needs no further teaching in that line; and finally it is to be given, a wedding present, to the first girl married from the school; of course, Miss McLeod and I insist on being allowed to compete.

But about our Christmas tree, you understand we have two every year—one at the church which we enjoy very much, and another a few evenings later at the school, which is our very own, no white people having part nor lot in it. We get the tree in position, decorate it, see that Santa Claus is in readiness, but the children get up the programme themselves; it consists of music, speeches, readings, etc., one of the little boys acting as chairman. Sulette Jacob and other little ones sang "Weaver John" very nicely, only they would keep looking back at the tree. Three students from Winnipeg contributed to the evening's entertainment, but we were in no mood for listening to speeches, the presents were the main feature of the evening. Never were there dolls so pretty or so much admired as these, and balls, tops, bags, or whistles, everything that was handed down was just what was wanted. It's a great pleasure to us to see them so perfectly happy. I do not suppose there were any happier in the world that night than these Indian children.

I must thank you too for the extra clothing sent by Toronto Presbyterial Society, that fine piece of homespun and the flannel. Five new children came in last week from Rolling River. We have now thirty-nine. I was obliged to send for Hagar to come and help us for a week or two with the sewing. You would have been pleased had you seen how neatly she was dressed, and how handily she went about her work, asking as soon as she got settled, "Now what can I do first?" She has been such a comfort to me. She always comes to my mind first when the work gets behind. "If Hagar was here now we could soon overtake this." I have great hopes of Hagar doing a great deal of good on her reserve.\* Our sowing time is past with some of our larger children, and

\* Hagar was a former pupil of the school, now married, and settled on the Reserve.

now as we see one and another of them go to homes of their own, we watch anxiously for fruits; will any bring forth a hundredfold? God grant there may be some *twenties* among them. We have had a pleasant winter so far—one thaw in January, which was quite an event in the history of the country. Our Indians, from all reports, are very well; we hear of very few cases of sickness. With one exception the health of the school has been good; la grippe is taking one here and there, but we have escaped.

FROM MISS FRASER.

*Indian School, Portage à Prairie, Jan. 18, 1896.*

On Friday, January 10th, we had the formal opening of our new school, and as Miss Laidlaw has written a full account of it to Mrs. Harvie, which you will see, it is needless for me to go into detail except to say we had a pleasant evening, Professors Hart and Baird being here, together with quite a number of the friends in town who showed their interest, not only by being here, but by assisting us in providing refreshments for the evening. While our attention has been quite taken up with the opening, we have not forgotten our Christmas times of which you will want a full account. Owing to our not being able to move into the new building for Christmas, we decided it would be better to postpone the dinner for the adult Indians until New Year's, but we had our usual tree for the children on Christmas eve, and it is needless to say the children enjoyed it—pleasure and satisfaction was written on every face. Then they had a nice Christmas dinner of good things, after which Mr. Brown treated them to a sleigh ride. I went first with some of them, afterwards Miss Laidlaw went with the rest, and although the day was quite cold, yet they did not seem to feel it, but to enjoy it thoroughly. While the children were enjoying all that had been provided for them, we were gratified to know that the spirit of giving was being cultivated in their hearts, for Katie and Topsy surprised Miss Laidlaw and myself by giving each of us a nice cup and saucer purchased out of their own earnings.

On the day following we prepared to say good-bye to our old home and move into a much more comfortable one, and were busy all that week getting settled, and preparing for the New Year's dinner—and just here let me thank the ladies of Toronto Presbyterial for their kindness in sending such a nice supply of furnishings. The blinds and everything suited nicely. The rag carpet we put in the girls' and boys' dormitories, there being enough for a strip between each row of beds, besides the sheeting, pillow cotton, curtains and carpet for our own bed-rooms, and then the sewing machine has been such a help in doing our sewing that I feel I cannot say enough in return for all their kindness.

On New Year's Day about ninety, including the children, were here for dinner, and as each one is supposed to get all she or he can eat on that occasion, it took no small amount to do them; but when one knows how this dinner is looked forward to and enjoyed by all these poor creatures, we feel more than repaid for all we have been able to do for them.

There has been a good deal of sickness among them this winter, but all are nearly well again.

I must not omit to tell you about the Christmas gift we received from the C. E. Society of Burnside. The young men of the Society collected one thousand nine hundred and fifty weight of flour, and brought half of it

to us on the day before Christmas, the rest a few days after. The deep interest taken in us and our work, shown by the many kind friends is very cheering, and it is so encouraging to know that this interest is widening. Kindest regards to all members of the W. F. M. Board, whose loving interest in us and our work we will ever remember.

FROM REV. HUGH. M'KAY.

*Round Lake, Whitewood P.O., Assa., Jan. 22, 1896.*

I return to you shipping bill. The goods have been received from Toronto Presbyterian Society, and are of great help to us in our work. Mrs. McKay has been busy making up little coats, vests and pants, etc., and now the children are all comfortably dressed.

We have twenty-six at the school at present; the weather has been very cold and stormy. It is not easy to get about as much as we would wish. Last Saturday I had a drive of twenty-four miles, and part of the way through the deep snow—Sabbath, thirty miles; and Monday, twenty-five miles. We trust, however, that the weather will soon modify.

We are all well at the Mission. Mrs. McKay and the teacher and all the little ones join me in kind greetings.

FROM MR. W. J. WRIGHT.

*Rolling River, Minna., Jan. 3, 1896.*

Now that the "great event" of the winter is over, I will be able to tell you something of the pleasant time we enjoyed. The Indians were all very friendly, and we got many a warm hand-shake and "Happy New Year" from them. We held the Christmas Tree the day before Christmas, and, although the day was one of the stormiest we have yet experienced this winter, we had about seventy Indians out to dinner. We held our entertainment in the new meeting-house; had it newly lime-washed and decorated with bright pictures. The room looked very nice, and the tree in one corner was loaded with pretty and useful things, such as dolls, handkerchiefs, balls, whistles, small boxes of soap, and other things. The Christmas gifts this year were sent us by the Knox Church Mission Band in Winnipeg. Santa Claus delighted the Indians by talking to them in their own language. There was a wonderful improvement in them this year, both in manners and dress. We did not get any of the "braves" to speak, as their chief speakers were away. We made up parcels of estates for the old people who could not come out in the cold, but those who were able to come, had they not been too lazy, got nothing.

We are very much encouraged by the improvement we see both in their homes and in their persons. Much of this is due to the efforts put forth by the W. F. M. S. Some of the Indians are getting on well with the syllabic. Wapa-cappo the best; he can read it quite nicely, and is quite a help to us in the singing. I would like very much to get one more Cree Bible and a few New Testaments by William Mason.

Our house is very comfortable this winter. The plants are blooming beautifully. We are all enjoying good health and have very much to be thankful for. Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Rutherford both wish to be remembered to you, and join with me in wishing you a Happy New Year.

FROM REV. W. BEATTIE.

*Virden, Jan. 4, 1896.*

I did not receive the Christmas presents sent by the "Bright Sunbeams" Mission Band, Orillia for the Indians, in time, and the parcel is still in my hands. It arrived one day after Christmas, and for the last few days a wild blizzard has been raging and all communication between Virden and Pipestone prevented. I do not expect to see John Thunder for some time, unless the weather becomes somewhat milder. We had 42° below zero with a strong wind yesterday. It is 32° below zero now, at noon, so that you may know that eighteen miles in such weather is a task few will attempt. I will keep the presents till I see John; they will be none the less acceptable for being a little late in the season. I will get him to write to you as soon as I see him. I enclose shipping bill as usual, signed by myself. We are all well. Mrs. Beattie joins me in wishing you a Happy New Year.

FROM MR. R. C. M'PHERSON.

*Okanase Mission, Elphinstone, Jan. 6, 1896.*

Your kind and welcome letter of Dec. 16th came duly to hand, also the twelve bales of supplies from Chatham Presbyterial Society, for which I thank them very much, and beg to enclose receipt for same. The weather for the past fortnight has been very stormy and cold. Christmas was a very bitter-cold day, yet that did not prevent our people, old and young, from attending church. We met at the usual hour, 11 a.m., and, after a short service, we gave all present a gift of clothing. The women, girls and children all got new petticoats, and the boys got clothing suitable for them. The men's were made up in parcels and put into a large sack, and they drew by turns. The parcels contained such as a good overcoat, or coat and vest, or pants and vest, and so on; and I explained to them that it would have been great confusion to have had them choose what they wanted, and if some got what they did not require they could exchange with one another. Everyone was well pleased. I explained to them before that these were special Christmas gifts from their kind lady friends in Ontario, and that they wanted to be kindly remembered to them to-day, and hoped that they all would feel very grateful to the ladies who had been so good to them.

Altogether we had a very pleasant Christmas, but I should like if the Indians would try and get the true Christmas feeling in their own hearts and know that it is more blessed to give than to receive. I trust, God willing, that if we are spared to see another Christmas with them that they will

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have a little of this good feeling, and begin to show more gratitude for what has been done for them.

Mrs. McPherson joins me in sending best wishes and kind remembrances.

FROM JOHN THUNDER.

*Pipestone, Man., Jan. 17, 1896*

I am just got your letter of which is in care of Mr. Beattie and also the Christmas toys. It was came behind time, yet I am truly grateful for your kindness. Am just given out yesterday. Of course I do not know about the clothing they got in Fall, yet I heard from old people are thankful for it. They always say: "Kind ladies." These thoughtful words always gives me more opportunity to teach them about Christianity. I did not carry on any school at all. Used my influence to send them to any of our industrial schools. My visiting days are Monday, Thursday, and Saturday. Monday is to reviewing of our Sabbath lessons or ask them questions about it. Religious conversations with young people daily. I sincerely hope that Lord Jesus Christ himself will reveal unto this dark reserve.

FROM MRS. MCLEOD.

*Portage La Prairie, Jan. 18, 1896.*

I was very glad, indeed, to receive your letter so full of kindly interest in our work here, and I am glad to tell you that our work among the Indians goes on with increasing interest. "Your child," the sewing class, is still kept up, notwithstanding the fact that it is 30° and 32° below zero. I do not know the number of quilts already quilted, but there are quite a number, and there are four ready to put in the frames. The patches that were received in the boxes were very acceptable. We supply lining, wadding, and thread for the first quilt, and then try to get the women themselves to supply these articles for the second quilt. They are taking more kindly to the knitting this winter. It will be my turn to go down next Thursday afternoon. Kindly remember us in your prayers.

We had a very pleasant time last week at the opening of our beautiful school. We were all saying, "Oh, how delighted we would be to have Mrs. Jeffrey and Mrs. Harvie present with us." We do hope you may visit the school some day in the near future; everything is perfectly lovely, convenient, and comfortable. We will never forget your visit. It seemed to give us fresh courage and stimulus in the work. I hope you are in the enjoyment of good health, a blessing we enjoy in our home.

FROM MRS. MOORE.

*Aldina, Jan. 5, 1896.*

The box of magnificent gifts from Toronto and St. Andrew's, Stratford Mission Bands, of such elegant and varied description, arrived safely on December 31st, just in time for our annual entertainment, and we and all our people here desire to send you and all who took part in preparing and sending such a good supply of beautiful presents, etc., our sincere thanks. You may be sure our tree looked magnificent, and the children—a goodly little host—were in perfect glee. I wish some of the dear girls in Toronto who are interested in our little ones here could have seen them on the evening of January 1, 1896.

On the afternoon previous to our entertainment, Mr. Keith, our Agent, who I may say contributed liberally, and secured a good many contributions from the ladies of Duck Lake, and a number of our Indians met at the church to decorate, put up the tree, erect tables, put up a large tent in which to make the tea, and altogether so have things in readiness for the following evening. Mr. Moore, with their approval, having gone to attend an entertainment at Shell River, and both missionary and agent are expected to be at home on the morning of New Year's Day, as all the people, dressed in their most gorgeous attire, with horses and sleighs decorated with all the colors available, go out to call on their friends and to wish them a "Happy New Year." For a week we had all been unusually busy. Mr. Keith had employed a number of the women to cook meat and bake bread, I had made six hundred ginger cookies, two hundred currant buns, and five hundred other cakes of different sorts. Mr. Moore and Mr. Thompson (missionary at Shell River) had made two hundred candy bags, arranged the gifts for the Christmas tree, together with all the other duties which devolve on the missionary. Miss McIntosh, the teacher, had gone home for her Christmas vacation, but had previously prepared the children to recite, sing, etc. The Sunday School children had been busy reviewing the year's Golden Texts, as a prize was to be given to the one who could repeat most correctly all the texts they had had in Sunday School during the year.

But New Year's morning came, and oh what a storm! The snow had blown up against one of the outside doors, completely closing it; a small stack of hay near the stable was almost all blown away; the tent which had been erected the previous day was blown down; and it was bitterly cold, so we had no callers that morning. The storm kept up, but the evening brought most of our people, men, women and children, but especially children, to the church and schoolhouse; tea was served in the schoolhouse—quite a number came from the Nebo settlement, a distance of twelve miles. A number of children from that settlement have attended our Sabbath Schools; they are not Indians nor yet are they purely white, but

cousins, etc., of the people on this reserve. Mr. Moore preaches there once a month, and has started a Sabbath School also there. They have no day school yet, but Mr. Moore and Mr. Keith are applying to have a teacher sent them in the spring.

Mr. Thompson brought his choir from Shell River, and they furnished excellent entertainment for both old and young. Miss McIntosh attempted to come, but the storm was so fierce that she could not find the way and had to go into one of the houses along the way and remain until morning, for which we were very sorry.

Our church was beautifully decorated with evergreens, appropriate mottoes, cards and pictures; but, best of all, was the tree reaching from the floor almost to the ceiling, and laden with your handsome and useful gifts; I wish you could have seen it.

The part our children took was excellent; seven of them (four girls and three boys) repeated the whole year's Golden Texts perfectly, so the seven got the first prize, a Bible each. Jemima Johnstone got the dollar given to the one who spelled best; the contest for that prize was keen and very interesting to all. They also sang well both in Cree and English, and one little girl gave a recitation. Our own two eldest, Wilna and John, also repeated all the Golden Texts, but they were not, of course, taken account of in the matter of prizes; but I desire here to thank you most heartily for the parcel of handsome and valuable articles so kindly sent to them.

Several of the people have said that they would like to do something at your request in return for what you are doing for them. They have contributed this year to some of the different schemes of the Church, and we have been speaking of organizing an Auxiliary to the W.F.M.S.

I think the Cree language in this place will soon pass away, as all the young and a good number of the older people understand English. Many of the houses are kept clean and tidy, the people also keep their persons and their clothing clean as a rule; there are exceptions, however. One of our women went into a white man's house a short time ago and told him that if he would allow her to do so she would clean it up for him. But indeed there are not very many on this reserve who are purely Indian.

And now, dear Mrs. Jeffrey, I wish I could have written a better and more interesting letter, but I will write again before long and tell you more about our Sabbath School and children. Mr. Moore is always especially interested in work amongst the children, and Miss McIntosh and I are interested in our classes; but I cannot get so many boys as she can get girls. This year Mr. Moore is giving a good prize to the one who can answer fifty-two questions from the Shorter Catechism. And now when the time shall come for us to pass through the gates of pearl into the golden streets

where those will meet who have washed their garments and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, where there will be no distinction of race or color, we hope those who are doing so much, so very much for the Indians of this North-West will meet very many of them in those beautiful mansions which Jesus has gone to prepare for all who love and obey Him.

## NOTICES.

The Board of Management meets on the *first Tuesday* of every month, at 3 o'clock p.m., and on the remaining Tuesdays of each month at 10 a.m., in the Board Room of the Bible and Tract Societies, 104 Yonge Street, Toronto. Members of Auxiliary Societies, or other ladies interested in the work and desiring information, may attend a meeting if introduced by a member of the Board.

Letters concerning the organization of societies, and all matters pertaining to Home work, are to be addressed to Mrs. Shortreed, 224 Jarvis Street, 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, 80 Bedford Road, Toronto.

Letters containing remittances of money for the W.F.M.S. may be addressed to Mrs. W. A. McGaw, Treasurer, Queen's Hotel, Front Street, Toronto.

All requests for life-membership certificates should be sent to Miss Bessie MacMurchy, 254 Sherbourne Street, Toronto, to be accompanied in every case by a receipt from the Treasurer of the Auxiliary into which the fee has been paid.

All correspondence relating to the sending of goods to the North-West, or other Mission fields, will be conducted through the Secretary of Supplies, Mrs. A. Jeffrey, 4 Classic Avenue, Toronto.

All letters to the Board not directly bearing upon work specified in the above departments should be addressed to Mrs. Hugh Campbell, Corresponding Secretary, 220 Richmond Street West, Toronto.

The President's address is, Mrs. Ewart, 540 Church Street, Toronto.

Notices of Prssbyterial meetings intended for the **LETTER LEAFLET** may be sent to the Editor, Mrs. Geo. Hunter Robinson, 592 Markham Street, Toronto.

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