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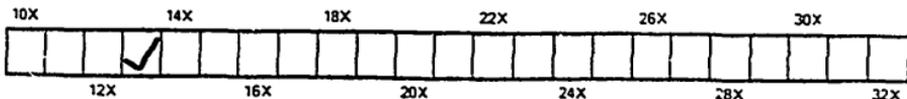
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Monthly Letter Leaflet.

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

(WESTERN DIVISION.)

VOL. IV. TORONTO, MAY, 1887. No. 1.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Eleventh Annual Meeting of this Society was held on the 12th and 13th April, in Old St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, in circumstances of much comfort and enjoyment. The weather, for the season of the year, was good. The central position of the city, and the facilities for travelling afforded by the different railways, contributed towards making the attendance unusually large.

Ladies were present from Almonte, Ashburn, Atwood, Ayr, Belleville, Brockville, Bowmanville, Barrie, Brooksdale, Beaverton, Brooklin, Bradford, Berlin, Brampton, Baltimore, Bobcaygeon, Caledon, Caledonia, Cheltenham, Collingwood, Clinton, Cannington, Chatsworth, Cobourg, Cornwall, St. Catharines, Columbus, Churchill, Cold Springs, Dundas, Dalkeith, Dundalk, Embro, Exeter, Elora, Erin, Edmonton (N.-W.T.), Fergus, Fullarton, Grafton, Galt, Goderich, Guelph, Glenmorris, Gananoque, Greensville, Georgetown, Hamilton, Harrington, Hastings, Ingersoll, Kincardine, Kingston, Lakefield, London, Lucknow, Lindsay, Montreal, Manilla, Mount Forest, Markham, Newmarket, Newtonville, Nelson, Newcastle, Ottawa, Orangeville, Orono, Oshawa, Orillia, Owen Sound, Parkhill, Prescott, Port Perry, Port Hope, Peterborough, Preston, Paris, Pickering, Princeton, Ripley, Stratford, Strathroy, Seaforth, St. Helen's, Shelbourne, St. George, Shakespeare, Smith's Falls, Thamesford, Uxbridge, Vanneck, Waterdown, Williamstown, Woodstock, Woodville, Whitby, etc.

The proceedings began at half-past ten on Tuesday morning, Mrs. Ewart, President of the Society, in the chair. The school-room was seated for six hundred, but long before noon it was filled to its utmost capacity, many being unable to obtain seats.

For this reason it was thought better to meet afterwards in the church. The room was decorated with a profusion of bright flowers, maps, and national flags, a prominent feature on the walls being the motto of the Society, "The World for Christ," painted on blue silk.

After the usual opening devotional exercises and the reading of minutes, Mrs. Parsons welcomed the visitors to the hearts and homes of the Toronto friends. To this address Mrs. McCrae, of Guelph, made a most fitting reply. The President then gave her annual address, which, along with the welcome and reply, will be printed in the Annual Report. Letters of greeting, all of which were couched in kindly and interested terms, were read from Chater, Manitoba; St. Andrew's, Quebec; Indore Society, Quebec; St. John's, Newfoundland; Eastern Division; the Union Missionary Society, New York, and the Presbyterian Boards of New York, Philadelphia, and the North-West United States, and a telegram from Ottawa (Phil. i., 27, last clause).

A most interesting feature of the morning session was the reception of delegates from sister societies, all of whom expressed themselves in such a manner as to show how deeply interested they were in the common work, and how inspiring to them that work had become. These representatives were, Mrs. Blackstock, Methodist Church; Mrs. Newman, Baptist Church; Miss Wilson, Zenana Society, St. James' Cathedral, and Miss Paul, Zenana Society, St. Peter's, Toronto; Mrs. Blake, Auxiliary of the McAll Mission, Toronto; Miss Foote, Canadian Woman's Board of Missions, and Miss McMaster, Woman's Missionary Society, Montreal.

The reports of the Auxiliaries and Mission Bands not yet arranged in Presbyteries, were then read by Mrs. J. M. Alexander. The Ottawa Auxiliary by Miss Harmon, and the Winnipeg Auxiliary by Miss Caven.

The songs of praise sung during the morning were: "O Sing a New Song to the Lord," "O Spirit of the Living God," "O Word of God Incarnate," "Blow Ye the Trumpet, Blow," and "Saviour, More than Life to Me." The ladies who took part, besides those mentioned, were Mrs. Gordon, Harrington; Mrs. MacLaren, Toronto, and Mrs. Lyle, Hamilton.

Tuesday, 2.30 p.m.

The reports of the Society were presented in the following order: Foreign Work, Mrs. Harvie; Brockville Presbytery, Mrs. Dowsley; Brandon, Mrs. D. McEwan; Chatham, Miss McNaughton; Glengarry, Mrs. MacLaurin; Guelph, Mrs. Mc-

Crae ; Hamilton, Mrs. Grant ; Huron, Mrs. Fair ; Kingston, Mrs. Ross ; Lanark and Renfrew, Miss Wylie ; Lindsay, Mrs. McIntyre ; London, Mrs. Roger ; Maitland, Mrs. Leask ; Orangeville, Mrs. McClelland ; Paris, Miss Harvey ; Peterborough, Mrs. Henderson ; Stratford, Miss Macpherson ; Toronto, Miss George ; Whitby, Miss Sawyer ; Home Work of General Society, Mrs. Campbell ; Financial Statement, Mrs. Maclellan ; Summary of Work and Report of General Board of Management, Mrs. MacMurchy. All these reports were received and adopted, on motion of Mrs. Ball, Vanneck, seconded by Mrs. Cooper, Chatham. It was then agreed, on motion of Mrs. Maclellan, supported by Mrs. Milligan, Mrs. McLaurin, Williamstown, and Miss Harmon, Ottawa :

1st. That the sum of \$12,090, required, by estimate, for the work of the Society, be handed to the Treasurer of the Foreign Mission Committee, and \$500 retained for current expenses.

2nd. That the sum of \$2,000 of the surplus funds be handed to the Treasurer of the Foreign Mission Committee, with the request that it be appropriated towards the completion of Rev. Hugh MacKay's boarding-school for Indian children, at Broadview, in addition to the sum of \$1,000 included in the estimates of the Foreign Mission Committee for the same purpose.

3rd. That the sum of \$3,500 of the surplus funds of the Society be reserved in the hands of the Treasurer, for the establishment of Miss Rodger's boarding school at Indore, and that the same be paid over to the Treasurer of the Foreign Mission Committee whenever required for that purpose. After these appropriations were made, the money was solemnly dedicated to God in prayer by Mrs. Northup, Belleville. Mrs. Gordon, Harrington, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, then made the following report, which was received and adopted by the Society, on motion of Mrs. Henderson, Cobourg, seconded by Mrs. Little, Toronto : That the Presidents of the Mission Bands, Auxiliaries, and Presbyterial Societies, and the following ladies, residents of Toronto, be members of the Board of Management for the coming year—Mrs. J. M. Alexander, Mrs. Breckenridge, Mrs. Bruce, Mrs. J. M. Cameron, Mrs. Hugh Campbell, Mrs. H. Cassels, Mrs. D. Cowan, Mrs. W. M. Clarke, Mrs. A. T. Crombie, Mrs. Ewart, Mrs. Fotheringham, Mrs. C. Hamilton, Miss Haight, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Harvie, Mrs. Jeffrey, Miss Leaman, Mrs. George Leslie, Mrs. McGaw, Mrs. Macdonnell, Mrs. Maclaren, Mrs. Maclellan, Mrs. MacMurchy, Mrs. T. McCracken, Mrs. J. McCracken, Mrs. J. McLachlan, Mrs. H. H. McLachlan, Mrs. McMurrich, Mrs. Milligan, Mrs. J. A. Pat-

terson, Miss Patterson, Mrs. J. Y. Reid, Mrs. George Robb, Miss Snively, Mrs. Telfer, Mrs. Thom. The other ladies who took part in the proceedings on Tuesday afternoon were Mrs. Murray, Kincardine, and Mrs. McClelland, Shelbourne. The songs of praise were: "O'er the Gloomy Hills of Darkness," "O Lamb of God, Still Keep me," "Christ, of all my Hopes the Ground," "What a Friend we Have in Jesus," and a quartette by the young ladies, "Where are the Reapers."

On Tuesday afternoon, 5.30, the delegates and friends were entertained at a reception at Dundonald, by Mr. and Mrs. Mackay, with marked kindness and hospitality.

A public Missionary Meeting was held on Tuesday evening at eight o'clock, in the church, which was crowded to its utmost capacity. The Convener of the Foreign Mission Committee presided, and stirring addresses were delivered by Dr. Maclaren, Dr. Kellogg, Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, and Rev. G. M. Milligan.

On Wednesday morning at ten o'clock, the General Board met for the transaction of business and the election of officers. The officers of the past year were all re-elected, the President and Vice-Presidents by ballot, the Secretaries and Treasurer by acclamation.

It was agreed on motion of Mrs. Ross, seconded by Miss Montgomery, That the following ladies, along with the officers, be the Executive Committee: Mrs. Gilray, Mrs. McCracken, Mrs. Jeffrey, Mrs. C. Hamilton.

It was also agreed on motion of Mrs. McLean, Belleville, seconded by Mrs. Smith, Toronto, That the President, 1st Vice-President, the three Secretaries, and the Treasurer, be a Supply and Advisory Committee.

A special vote of thanks was given by the Board of Management to Dr. Reid for kind and courteous services.

On Wednesday afternoon at half-past two the proceedings were opened with prayer and praise, when Mrs. Blair, of Prescott, read a deeply interesting and practical paper, entitled: "Some Encouragements and Discouragements in Foreign Mission Work," which it is intended to publish in one of the Church papers.

Invitations were presented to hold the next annual meeting at Guelph and Peterborough, by Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Walker, Miss Roger and Mrs. McEwan. On motion of Mrs. Ball, seconded by Mrs. Drainie, it was unanimously decided to accept the invitation from Guelph. On motion of Mrs. Watson, seconded by Mrs. Cooper, it was agreed to reappoint the Nominating Committee, with the addition of Mrs. Thorburn, Ottawa; and

Mrs. D. Ross, Kingston. A specimen map of Formosa was then shown, prepared by the method explained in the March Leaflet, with the following notes: Formosa, an island ninety miles east of China (separated from it by Formosa Straits), 237 miles long, seventy wide, between twenty-one and twenty-five degrees north latitude. The capital, Tai-wan-foo, about the latitude of Havana in Cuba, fertile, all kinds of tropical products, large commerce, divided from north to south by a chain of mountains, some of which are extinct volcanoes, many of them covered with perpetual snow, first heard of in Europe in 1582, when a Spanish ship was wrecked on the coast; taken by the Chinese, 1683; opened to foreign commerce, 1858. The English and Germans are now exploring the island with the hope of forming settlements. The southern half of the island of Formosa is occupied by the English Presbyterian Church, who carry on a very successful mission there; the northern half by the Presbyterian Church in Canada, under the care of Dr. Mackay. The Chinese live on the eastern side of the island, the aborigines on the west.

The Indian Reserves of the North-West, under the care of the Church, were also pointed out on the Government map—six in Manitoba, four in Assiniboia, one in Saskatchewan, and one in Alberta.

An address to Queen Victoria on the occasion of her Jubilee was read by Mrs. Harvie, at the close of which the whole audience rose and sang the National Anthem. Miss Gunther then favoured the audience by singing "O Rest in the Lord"

Mrs. F. Haultain, of Peterborough, read a particularly helpful and carefully prepared paper on "Two Classes of Workers," and "Unanswered Questions," which it is hoped may also be printed. The Question Drawer brought out many very important points in connection with our work, which were answered by Mrs. Harvie and several other ladies. As specimens of the different classes the following may be mentioned: "What is the best way of conducting our monthly meetings?" "What can we do to cause the women of a small congregation to take an active interest in our small Auxiliary?" "Can we take up a mission to the Jews?" "How shall Christian women *get time* for missionary work?" The last question was answered in various ways, and the answers were summed up in a skilful manner by Mrs. Gordon, of Harrington, when a lady suggested "to put it first." Mrs. Gordon spoke a few words of warning, in the course of which she stated that *first* duty belonged to the care of one's own soul and spiritual life in the sight of God. 2nd. The entire oversight of our homes

and Christian training of our children. 3rd. Duty to our friends and neighbours, and then this foreign mission work ; but she who is faithful in the first will not long be unfaithful in the last. During the short time allowed for conversation, cordial standing votes of thanks were passed to Mrs. MacKay, Miss Gunther and the young ladies who conducted the praise, Mrs. Blair, the ladies and managers of Old St. Andrew's Church, etc.

The songs of praise on Wednesday afternoon were, " O Come let us Sing to the Lord," " Revive Thy Work, O Lord," " Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts," " Soldiers of Christ, arise." Mrs. McNab, Lucknow, and Mrs. McKee, Barrie, also took important parts in the afternoon service.

It was agreed, in accordance with the expressed wish of some of the Presbyterian Secretaries, that in future there should only be one central depot for the distribution of literature.

The proceedings were brought to a close by singing the Doxology.

Lunch was provided on both days in the Lecture Room, when a pleasant social hour was spent.

FOREIGN LETTERS.

FROM MISS RODGER.

INDORE, 24th February, 1887.

In my last letter I wrote fully about the girls that are studying English, and I need not repeat it. There are about twenty of them. I did not mention in that letter the girls that are studying the vernacular. There are a larger number of them, but they are neither so regular in attendance nor as eager to learn as the other classes of girls. I might say here that they all come together for Scripture lesson and geography, but all other lessons are separate. For the past year they have been taken over Barth's Scripture History, and have been taken up to the time when the Israelites entered the land of Canaan ; also the chief events in the life of Christ. In geography they have gone carefully over the map of India, knowing all the divisions, rivers and mountains, along with many other details. In the same way they have gone over Asia and Europe, although not quite so minutely. They have a good idea of general geography, and can answer a few questions in astronomical geography. Two native Christian girls, belonging to the Church of England, at

present residing in Indore Camp, are attending school. The elder one wishes to study medicine, and is preparing herself for that purpose. Besides English, she is studying algebra, Euclid, and arithmetic. Her sister is not so advanced, but she is much younger, and is making progress. Miss Knight has proved a real help during the year in school.

I have not been able to give as much attention the past year to zenana work as I would have liked, and I have no one to assist me. It is so hard to get a suitable person for this work. The girl I have mentioned to you before, living in the city, who is studying English, would make rapid progress if I could only give the attention I would were she living nearer. She is most anxious, and her mother as well, that she should learn English. I have not said much about the Hindu girls attending school, but none of them are very far advanced, as they leave even sooner than the others. They range between five and eight or nine years of age, and, with the exception of two Maratha girls, I think there are none of them over eight years of age. They cannot make much progress, leaving so early.

I must now close. I wrote to Miss Beatty yesterday, and gave her your message, but her report, I know, was ready. She has gone to Neemuch for change; she has told you about her attack of fever. Miss Oliver has gone with her.

FROM MISS MACGREGOR.

GIRLS' SCHOOL.

Two hundred and eighty-five girls in all have attended school during some portion of the year, and the majority have been present for at least six months. Sixty-three new names have been added to the roll during the year, and one hundred and twenty-four have left, either on account of marriage, or removal from Indore. At the close of the year one hundred and six names were on the register, with an average daily attendance of seventy-nine.

In September last the native Superintendent of Education paid an official visit to the school, and carefully examined it in all its departments. He expressed himself highly pleased with the results, particularly with the training class for teachers, which at that time numbered seven pupils. He also gave a pleasing testimony to the good of such institutions, by remarking that "he owed all his education to Mission schools." He said, in reference to the Lord's Prayer, with which the exercises

closed, that "he would mention in his report having heard a prayer which was so good, and so comprehensive, that no Hindu could object to it."

Two of the young women formerly employed as teachers in the Girls' school have died, but it has been found possible to get others to take their places. Formerly no native heathen woman would dare to attend school, and only the lowest, often disreputable characters, would offer to bring the children to school. All this has now become a thing of the past, and situations are eagerly sought by respectable women. Twenty-seven Brahmin girls attend, thirty-two Marathis of different castes, and the remainder are generally the daughters of merchants. As yet very few Mahomedans will permit their children to attend a Christian school.

In connection with the Girls' school a small library was established for the use of the teachers and advanced pupils, and was found to be a delightful source of instruction and amusement. Five pupils in the training class are learning English, and have made excellent progress. Four pupils over the age of fourteen have been permitted to attend school during the year, thus showing an advance in public opinion. Two native Christian girls have been placed in a boarding-school in the city of Ahmednagar, and during the year have made excellent progress. They are supported by a Sabbath School in Canada.

RANAPOORA SCHOOL.

This mixed school was kept open during the first half of last year, and the average daily attendance was between twenty and twenty-five.

ZENANA WORK.

One Bible woman is employed. Visits are made in the usual neighbourhoods. Three hundred and six visits were made during the year, and 2,577 persons have heard the Gospel read. The singing of Christian hymns is much enjoyed by the people. A Bible class of native Christian women was held weekly, and eight attended regularly during the former part of the year. The number has somewhat diminished, on account of having moved farther away from the homes of the native Christians.

FROM MRS. JAMIESON.

TAMSUI, Dec. 15, 1886.

Many times within the last three years have I thought ladies in Canada should know more about Mrs. Mackay's work.

While I try to tell you a little about it, please keep in view the fact that Mission work for a lady here is entirely different from your Mission work in Canada.

That you may better understand how a native lady in her position is able to be a great help to the Church, I ask liberty to tell you briefly a little about Mrs. Mackay herself, as a foreign lady sees her among her own people. Having seen her among strangers, and only for a short time, you would not know her gifts as one who sees her in her own home.

She is always cheerful, no matter what happens, she never seems to grow weary. She has very warm sympathy for any one in trouble. Like all Chinese, she readily reads character. Did foreigners she met while travelling with the Doctor *guess* that the black-eyed Chinese lady, without being able to speak a word of English, could count off their good points and their defects, as she would read pages of a Chinese book? Not that she would criticise in a fault-finding spirit, she has too much kindness of heart for that; but, so accustomed are the Chinese to read human nature, I believe they do it unconsciously. This is a necessary qualification for work among people in this country, as they are adepts at flattery, and easily deceive many foreigners. I do not know how Mrs. Mackay learned so much English in the short time she was in Canada. I still converse with her in English.

Like Dr. Mackay himself, and those around him, Mrs. Mackay is devoted to the church; often having visited all the stations, and constantly meeting people from them, she is able to take a comprehensive view of the whole field. Of what she endured in years past, when she faced the Chinese mob beside the Doctor, we sometimes hear, but I write you only of what I have *seen*.

When we arrived, three years ago, Dr. Mackay had workmen building the Girls' School. Far into the night they would be digging the hard soil, and Mrs. Mackay would be out keeping the Doctor company, and keeping the men in good spirits to make them forget how tired they were. The students, I think, were already here; then the girls came, and such work as Mrs. Mackay, as well as the other teachers, must have had in training them, I can only now begin to guess; at that time I did not know, for we were occupied with our own study, and I saw little of the teaching. I only knew that all hours of the day or night, Mrs. Mackay was in demand. A messenger would come running, "Mrs. Mackay, Mrs. Mackay!" Some one, perhaps, suddenly ill. So many girls and students being here, it seemed as if there were always three or four down with fever, to say nothing of other things, constantly needing attention.

She must be quite a help to the students, for she is quick to detect anything in their manners, conversation, etc., that needs correcting, and she criticises them in such a way that they do not take offence. I suppose they never think of such a thing, they seem to regard her as one of themselves. Seeing what I have of their student life, I conclude that not only Dr. Mackay's thorough drilling and making them criticise each other, but Mrs. Mackay's tact, her quick wit and lively disposition, and her constantly being among them, has something to do with making them the wide-awake, attractive-looking young men they become after a few years' training.

After the students were dispersed and the girls sent safely home, came the French trouble. During the bombardment, Mrs. Mackay stayed beside the Doctor, as she had often done before in time of danger. Then a severe attack of fever nearly ended the Doctor's life. Many such anxious hours Mrs. Mackay must have had. While the French were still here, and Dr. Mackay yet very weak, Mrs. Mackay, at twenty-four hours' notice, had to pack up and start with the children to Hong-Kong. After months there, in which she had not good health, we all returned. For her there was no rest; as soon as people found out she had come, they crowded in, ladies, ladies every day, and converts from the stations.

For many months past Dr. Mackay has been most of the time in the country; Mrs. Mackay cannot stay long with him without taking the children; they often have fever. When here she is constantly receiving visitors, or messengers from mission stations. They come to see the Doctor about all sorts of things, persecutions, marriages, sickness, many things I know nothing about, but I see them coming. Walking on the veranda I have seen three or four go along the path to the back gate, a few minutes later the front gate clicks, and there are two or three more. Have they letters, or is it medicine they want? I don't know. I only know Mrs. Mackay receives them, hears their stories, and if she can, attends to their wants till they can see the Doctor. Sometimes I have gone over and found her looking pale and thinner than usual. "Are you quite well, Mrs. Mackay?" "Oh yes," she will say, in her usual cheerful way, "I'm so tired every day so many people come." Little wonder she is "tired!" But "so many people"—converts too! Is not that something to be thankful for? "So MANY." Is it not a trial to numbers of missionaries that there are so FEW?

With the prosperity of the mission the burden increases, and though it falls (one might say entirely), on Dr. Mackay, Mrs.

Mackay takes her place beside him ; she does her part, and does it well. The people have a freedom in coming to her home that they would never have, or would never take, if a foreign lady were presiding. Mrs. Mackay is honoured by all the Church, and by native heathens here. I know that ladies in Canada honour and love her as she loves Canada ; but you know little about her work. Besides being a real companion and help to the Doctor, and caring for her own children, she helps the students, cares for the girls, entertains natives and sympathises with them, and does her part day by day to win them into the Church ; and she does it all *as a matter of course*. Really, I sometimes think if one of us foreign ladies did half as much you would all hear of it. Now I hear something about Mrs. Jamieson's "humility." Do let us give up such sentimentalism, we can't afford it. Some day you may know more than you do now about Mrs. Mackay's work ; then I should be ashamed if I had never told you even what I saw. Let us give "honour" to whom it is "due." Mrs. Mackay is working faithfully for the Church, and has worked for years. She would not think of telling you about it, but I think you have a right to know. Very much of her work I do not see, I can tell you only a little, but that little you will be glad to hear. I know you already often pray for blessing on her efforts.

The three children are, I think, the most obedient little ones I ever saw. They are passionately fond of their father and mother. When ill they suffer more patiently, and take medicine more willingly than many grown people. They are growing up—in a sense—in a doctor's office, and it is amusing to hear them tell what medicine is to be used, and with what effect in different diseases.

INCREASE.

Mount Forest, Presbyterian Church Auxiliary, Saugeen Presbytery ; East Williams, St. Andrew's Church Auxiliary, Sarnia Presbytery ; Whitechurch and Belgrave Auxiliaries, Maitland Presbyterial Society ; Avondale Auxiliary, Tilsonburg, "Little Helper's" Mission Band in connection with Princeton Auxiliary, "Morning Star" Mission Band, Knox Church, Woodstock, The Greenfield Mission Band, Ayr—all in Paris Presbyterial Society ; "Maple Leaf" Mission Band, Knox Church, Goderich, Huron Presbyterial Society ; Churchill Auxiliary, Barrie Presbytery ; Gamebridge Auxiliary, Lindsay Presbyterial Society ; Seymour

Auxiliary and Burn-Brae Mission Band, Kingston Presbyterian Society; Zion Church Mission Band, Carlton Place, Lanark and Renfrew Presbyterian Society; Alexandria and Dalhousie Mills Auxiliaries and Children's Mission Band, Dalkeith, Glengarry Presbyterian Society.

LITERATURE NOTICE.

Secretaries of Presbyterian Societies, Auxiliaries and Mission Bands will please apply to Mrs. Telfer, 72 St. Alban Street, Toronto, for the Leaflets, Mite Boxes, etc., furnished by the Board.

The following is the list and prices: "Mrs. Pickett's Missionary Box," "Pitchers and Lamps," "Kashibai," "Voices of the Women," "For His Sake," "Thanksgiving Ann," and "Mite Boxes," one cent each, or twelve cents per dozen; "Importance of Prayer," "Giving and Giving up," "Why and How," "What is in thine Hand?" and "Preparation for the Master's Work," eight cents per dozen.

"Leaflet No. 1 (Self-questioning)," "Two Cents a Week," "Presbyterian Organization," "How to Organize and Manage a Missionary Society or Band," Monthly Envelopes and Prayer Cards. All these are free.

Our extra Monthly Letter Leaflets, one cent each, can be had on application to the Home Secretary, Mrs. H. Campbell, 194 Richmond Street West, Toronto.

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