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# Monthly Letter Leaflet.

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

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VOL. V.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1888.

No. 6.

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## THANKSGIVING.

The time of year has arrived in which to celebrate the "Feast of Ingathering." Thank-offering meetings are held annually in many of our Auxiliaries and Bands, and it is much to be desired that these Anniversaries should gain a wider and more general observance. Occasions of this kind have been proved to be a blessed means of quickening the hearts of members to a livelier sense of gratitude to God, of widening the circle of interest by personal invitations sent to *all* the ladies of the Congregation, and also of augmenting very considerably the funds of the Society.

Have we not all something for which to be grateful each day and hour of the year? Do we not owe it to the loving care of our Heavenly Father that we have been preserved by His Providence through dangers seen and unseen, and are still the living to praise Him? Do we not each one recall special blessings for which the joy of our thankful hearts desires expression? Are not our lives continually overflowing with mercies? Is it not a great matter that our lot is cast in a Christian land where woman is honoured and loved?

Is there one who cannot say, "God has been very good to me this year?" Have you had temptation? "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation." "Count it all joy." Afflictions? "It is good for me that I have been afflicted." "It is for the present grievous, but afterwards yields the peaceable fruits of righteousness."

Above all, ought we not at such a time as this to render thanks to our God for the unspeakable gift of His Son, and for

His precious word of truth? And with our songs of praise shall we not also add an offering? What can be more fitting than that these gifts of gratitude should be used to carry light and life to those in darkness and ignorance? It is a precious thought that while we are broadening and developing our own heart and life we are also helping forward Christ's Kingdom, and hastening the day when one shall "Not teach his neighbour and brother, know the Lord, for all shall know Him, from the least unto the greatest."

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### THE NEW HEBRIDES.

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church in The New Hebrides met in May, at Tangoa, Santo, where Mr. and Mrs. Annand are now settled.

Arrangements were made for Mr. and Mrs. Robertson to go to Sydney for a few months on account of Mrs. Robertson's health.

It is proposed to secure a small steamship for regular and frequent communication between the islands.

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### REARRANGEMENT OF OFFICERS.

We regret to state that, under medical advice, owing to continued ill health, Mrs. Harvie has resigned her position as Foreign Secretary of this Society. In accepting her resignation, the Board unanimously passed the following resolution:

Moved by Mrs. Macdonnell, seconded by Mrs. MacMurchy, "That in view of Mrs. Harvie's letter, which informs us that the three months' rest has not been sufficient to render her capable of resuming the duties of Foreign Secretary, and that her medical advisers insist on cessation of work for a longer time, the members of the Board feel that they are only acting in Mrs. Harvie's interest in accepting her resignation and relieving her of responsibility, but they desire to express their deep sense of the value her services have been to the Society, their sympathy with her in being laid aside from active work for the present, and their hope that it may please God to restore her health for future usefulness."

It has also been a matter of much regret among the Missionaries and Teachers with whom Mrs. Harvie has been in constant correspondence for a number of years, that she is now unable to continue it as formerly. In writing to the Board they unite in

the earnest hope that she may soon be restored and be again able to engage in active work.

On account of Mrs. Harvie's retirement, the following appointments have been made by the Board for carrying on the work till the close of the year :

Foreign Secretary,	Mrs. MacMurchy.
First Vice-President,	Mrs. MacDonnell.
Second " "	Mrs. Hamilton.
Third " "	Mrs. McMurrich.
Fourth " "	Mrs. Harvie.

Extract Letter from Dr. Marion Oliver.

INDORE.

Just a few lines to say how we all here rejoice in what the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society has done during the past year. Isn't it just marvellous when one looks back over the past twelve years and sees how the little seed has grown into a great tree? Do you ever sit down and give thanks that you live in the last half of the nineteenth century? I do, though I try not to forget that great privileges mean great responsibilities.

You will have Mrs. Wilkie and Miss Ross long before this, and get all the Indore news from them, so I have little to write about. The rains broke four or five days ago, and we are already feeling refreshed by the pleasant showers. The hot season has been short, and not at all so hot as I had expected. Still, it does take the energy out of one to be in a sort of warm bath all day and every day for at least a couple of months.

I have been housekeeper for the last two months, as Miss Rodger is away at Simla. A letter from her to-day says that she will arrive in Indore next week, and that she is feeling very much benefited by the change and rest. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell also are expected back in a few days.

We seem no nearer getting our hospital site than we were ten months ago, though our need for one is continually on the increase. All this week we have had to keep a woman from Oojein lying in the waiting room adjoining the dispensary here as every available space in our small hospital is full. We have some hopes of being able to secure a larger and more suitable building than the one at present in use. The interest some of our hospital patients take in hearing of Christ is very encouraging. Two women are seeking for baptism, but we are not urging them, but waiting to be sure that they really understand and sincerely believe in the Gospel message.

I shall open the schools again in a few days, now that the intense heat is past. I wrote to a number of friends in Ontario pleading for dolls for Christmas. Have been promised some by the Woodstock Mission Band, Goderich Auxiliary and Avonbank, but we can't get too many, as even though more were sent than would do for all the girls' schools in the Mission those remaining would not be dead stock. There is so little to induce the girls to attend regularly, especially where one cannot manage to spend a little time every day in school. If anything will bring them out it will be the hope of getting a doll.

I told you that I am housekeeper at present, and now that the rains have come and the dust is all gone I am going to have all the curtains taken down and washed, so that everything may be in apple pie order to welcome Miss Rodger home. I wish you could peep in and see our cosy bungalow, and drink a cup of tea with us.

### Girls' School.

TAMSUI, FORMOSA.

MRS. MCKAY.—Your very kind letter to hand, and I will not delay in trying to answer.

1. During 1887 there were several girls all the time, but other work was still more important, and we had to leave the Matron often attending to the girls. Just now there are ten girls in the school.

2. All are doing better than I ever saw before. Dr. McKay proposed what should be taught, and all agreed, for he knows best.

(a) Salvation through Christ alone.

(b) Bible truths.

(c) Reading the Bible in Romanized colloquial.

(d) Writing the Romanized colloquial.

(e) Making, mending and washing their own clothes.

A very clever Chinese woman lives in the school with the Matron, and teaches them these things:

(f) Cooking and preparing food, etc. One takes turn every day at this; also salt and preserve vegetables.

Dr. McKay feels very strong on these points, because they go home to be wives and mothers, and especially the *Pi-po-hoan*, never knew how to make their own clothes. I am sure they are taught the right and useful things, *Bible first*.

Nice things like piano, etc., just now, we are quite sure would be out of place. Little by little, when the people see girls going home so well prepared to help fathers and mothers, etc., and

able to read and write Romanized colloquial as fast nearly as we can English, they will ask to be allowed to send their daughters here. We keep out all unnecessaries. We have two old converts, Bible women, and they exhort and visit and do much in gathering in others.

The wives of the preachers are so busy with their families, etc., that they can't go about much; still each one has her own influence in gathering in others.

Just now, this very day, there is one of the first band of girls in the school here with her husband, who is a preacher on the East coast. She was sick and nearly dead last year with fever; but is now well. She is so thankful for the little I did for her when in the school. She wrote me a letter herself as soon as she got well. I think I never saw a person more grateful. The Matron often brings the girls to our place to attend Dr. McKay's evening services, which all like so much. God bless you and all dear ladies in Canada who pray for us.

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### A Band of Indians near the Armadale Mission.

#### MISTAWASIS RESERVE.

MISS C. B. MCKAY—I received your very kind letter this morning. I am still teaching. I did not take my holidays as I usually do; the children are keeping regular attendance this time of the year, and I wish to get them on nicely again as during the winter months they do not come so regularly, and consequently do not make much progress. This summer I have enrolled 37 pupils, and they keep me very busy; we had no examination yet this summer. The Government school inspector has not yet arrived.

We have a great many more people on this Reserve than we had last year. There are a small tribe of Indians who live about thirty miles from this place; they are very destitute, some of them came to see us last winter and we made up some clothing out of our goods sent to us from the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. They were ever so thankful, it made me so happy to see how little would satisfy them. There is no missionary where these poor heathen are, but my father visits them occasionally; they all seem quite friendly; we are going to do more for them in the future. Last year's supply of goods were all so nice, our storehouse is now quite empty. So dear Mrs. MacMurchy you may form an idea of their poverty. Many thanks for the Report book July received.

Extract Letter from Mr. Laird.

PROSPECT OF A NEW STATION BEING OPENED.

COTE'S RESERVE.

Your kind letter of the 9th ult., cheered us not a little. We are glad to know that your Society is again coming to our aid, in the matter of supplying winter clothing for the people. It will be as much needed this year as last, and as the time approaches the arrival of the boxes will no doubt be eagerly looked for. Their coming is quite an event. We will probably have more calls for clothing this year than last, as our work is gradually extending, especially on Ke-se-koos Reserve. Many of the people there are nominally Roman Catholic, but the majority of them do not care much about the priest, and our hope is that before long a number will join our mission. It is very desirable they should do so, as there is no resident priest, and as they rarely have religious service of any kind, some are lapsing into heathenism. On Sabbath afternoon as I was driving to afternoon service Chief Ke-se-koos stopped me and said there was no service near enough for him to attend. I told him I would be willing to come to the part of the Reserve on which he lived, and preach occasionally to the people there. He expressed himself as pleased, and invited me to come with my interpreter to his house. I will probably therefore at an early day open a station at this point. Now as a few presents in clothing would no doubt be acceptable to these people, and might be helpful in getting them interested. I merely mention the matter knowing that as far as possible you will supply our wants.

I may add that there is not much room for a Roman Catholic Mission on Ke-se-koos Reserve. Their cause is languishing, and as the people are much neglected, it is only a matter of duty that I should do what I can for them. I would therefore like a little additional clothing to distribute among these people.

Mr. McVicar has gone to Riding Mountain to take charge of the school there. We were sorry to lose his services, as he was very successful with the children. His place is at present supplied by John Black, a young Cree and a cousin of Mr. McV. Young Black is a student at Manitoba College, and bids fair to make a useful man.

Last Sabbath I baptized three of the children who are staying with us and attending school. Their father is still a heathen, but was quite willing that these children should be baptized. He has three wives and a very large family. We hold services at his house. These are the first members of his family to be baptized.

Extract from the letter of a Teacher in the North-West.

“I beg leave to commend to the notice of the members of The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society the heroic self-denial of Mr. and Mrs. Toms, of File Hills; their self-sacrifice is *uncommon*. Remember their three little boys.”

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Extract From Mr. Toms'.

August 6th.

We had hoped to have been able to purchase two cows, in order that the children attending the school might have a supply of good milk, as it will greatly help us in the matter of providing food for the boys and girls attending the boarding school.

We expect to have a boarding school built this year, and when it is finished we intend sending you a photograph of it in order that you may see what is being done with the money. I thank the kind ladies very much for the Douay Bible they sent; it is a great help to me in keeping the Indians from being influenced by the Roman Catholic Church as at present constituted. Our Indians are ripe for a boarding school, and I think that we shall start with at least twenty pupils. We hope our dear friends who are sending clothing to us will, if sending new, send as much as possible in web, as we can utilize it better.

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School Building Nearly Finished.

FILE HILLS MISSION, Aug. 21st, 1888.

MRS. TOMS.—The *Monthly Letter Leaflet* sent by you I have received, and feel I should much like to send you something that will be useful to you and instructive to your readers. I will endeavour to tell you about our work in the past year. I think we have had some peculiar difficulties to contend with. In the first place, our school was four and a half miles from our house. I have three little boys and no one to leave with them so that personally I have been of very little assistance in the school, but that is all over now, as our new boarding school is commenced. Notwithstanding all this, I endeavoured to attend school once a week during the summer and have taught pupils through the winter at home with my own boys. Some of our girls and women have learned to knit mitts, others lack confidence in themselves and perseverance enough to learn thoroughly. Some of the girls have been practically instructed in the art of bread-



making and needle work, besides being taught how to darn stockings and patch. I have also been asked to teach dress-making and tailoring, but my time and strength are limited, and although seeming to do so little there is really work for two.

Mr. Toms also is, and has been, very busy, the distance from the school house taking up so much of his time last fall when he was building our present dwelling, as the house, if you could call it so, in which we lived was not even safe, so that really he had no holidays. The workmen were Indians, and had to be well looked after and shown how to do most of the work. The Indians on the reserve cannot speak a word of English; all communications have to be carried on in their own language, as we have no interpreter without being under obligation to the one at the agency. During the winter we had a Thursday evening meeting for reading and explaining the Scripture with the aid of the late Government interpreter. The present one promises to do the same every Sabbath when the new school house is finished; we have no room at present large enough.

The Indians appreciate your most generous gifts of clothing by the fact that they are looking forward to the coming season. They are not at all an effusive people, and do not allow either pleasure or pain to be seen on the surface.

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### Work at Round Lake Mission, Broadview.

MRS. JONES.—No doubt you will think me long in replying. Your very kind letter was received and read with pleasure. How shall I begin to tell you what we have been doing this last winter and to thank you and all the dear ladies of our Foreign Missionary Society for all they have done for us; for in doing for these dear little children, you are not only doing it for Jesus, but we feel as if you are doing us a great favour, for how could we do much for them unless the means were put into our hands, and we can oftentimes reach their hearts by having something to give them to keep them warm. Well, this winter has been a very busy time. Most of the winter we have had forty-three children, and often from ten to fifteen of their parents for days together, and only one hired help. I wish we could afford two, so that I could be more with the children. This winter our girls have done a good deal of sewing and knitting, besides housework. We have some girls who can wash, iron and bake as well as any white girl that I have seen. You may say, What does Mrs. Jones want an-

other hired girl for, when she has those Indian girls? Well, I will tell you? These girls have never been in the habit of working until they came here, and cannot be expected to work all the time; they would become disgusted and tired, consequently would leave. So we cannot urge them to do much. They also have their studies to go through, which takes them a great part of their time. Of course, we do not want them to think that we only brought them here to do our work for us, for as yet they cannot see that the work is caused by having so many. Perhaps they will see through it by and by. We cannot say that we have had many conversions this past winter, but many are enquiring the way. If they hear the name of Jesus, I find that they are all attention, listening for what may be said about Him. At night they all kneel down together and repeat the Lord's Prayer. We have some delightful times singing; they can all sing, and most of the children can play on the organ.

Mr. McKay takes great pains in teaching them, and they are very fond of him. Our school is closed for the holidays. Mr. McKay is away on a missionary trip, and gets very little time either to rest or write. Through the mercy of our Heavenly Father we are all spared, although some have been ill the past winter. We found the box of medicine such a help. I must tell you of one of our little girls whom we call Minnie, she was very sick for a long time, but so good, not a bit of trouble. Sometimes when the other children would be singing and playing, I would hold her on my knee; she would lay her head on my bosom and lie so still, for her breathing became very laborious, if she moved around much, but as soon as the others would start that hymn we all love, "When He cometh to make up His Jewels," dear little Minnie's voice would strike in so weak, but so sweetly, it seemed as if her whole soul was in her eyes while she sang "His loved and His own." One day I said to her, "Would my Minnie like to get well again, or would she rather go to Jesus?" Her answer was, "I would rather go to Jesus; I do not care to get well, I would rather go to that beautiful home you have been telling us about." My little darling, she is living yet; but I fear we may lose her when the leaves begin to fall; but I feel sure her simple faith will be recorded in heaven, and she will be one of Christ's jewels, by and by, in a better world than this.

I must stop or else you will become weary. Thanking you all for past kindness, not forgetting the ladies who so kindly remembered unworthy me, in sending me so many things last winter to make me comfortable, and also for our fine bell; we are very much pleased with it.

## INCREASE.

The Presbyterian Society of Sarnia was organized at Sarnia, September 5th, by Mrs. Ball.

The late Mrs. Macadam, of Strathroy, arranged the time and place of meeting, intending to be present, but her unexpected death prevented this, to the great sorrow of the members.

The meeting was quite a representative one, delegates having been there from all the Auxiliaries, eight in number, and one Mission Band.

The Officers are: Mrs. Lohead, Parkhill, President; Mrs. Scott, Sarnia, and Mrs. Pritchard, Forest, Vice-Presidents; Miss Nellie Geddes, Strathroy, Treasurer; Mrs. A. A. MacTavish, Parkhill, Secretary.

The "Columbia" Mission Band, organized by Rev. T. Scouler, in connection with his congregation at New Westminster, British Columbia, August 9th.

An Auxiliary at Oak Lake, Brandon Presbyterian Society, August 4th, by Mrs. MacTavish.

A Mission Band in connection with Knox Church, Tara, in Bruce Presbyterian Society, by Rev. W. G. Hanna, Miss Burrett and other ladies.

South Kinloss Auxiliary, in Maitland Presbyterian Society, by Mrs. Sutherland, August 16th.

Merivale Auxiliary, Ottawa Presbyterian Society, by Mrs. Thorburn, August 23rd.

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## NOTICES.

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

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

Letters asking information about missionaries, or any questions concerning the Foreign field, as to Bible readers, teachers or children in the various Mission Schools, should be addressed to Mrs. MacMurcay, 254 Sherbourne Street, Toronto.

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

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

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

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“WHO WILL GO FOR US?”

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By a young Brahmin lady of rank. (Written in English by herself.)

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Listen! listen! English sisters,  
Hear an Indian sister's plea,  
Grievous wails, dark ills revealing  
Depths of human woe unsealing,  
Borne across the deep blue sea:  
“We are dying, day by day,  
With no bright and healing ray,  
Nought to lighten up our gloom;  
Cruel, cruel is our doom.”

. . . . .

Rise, and take the Gospel message,  
Bear its tidings far away;  
Far away to India's daughters,  
Tell them of the living waters,  
Flowing, flowing, day by day,  
That they, too, may drink and live;  
Freely have ye, freely give;  
Go, disperse the shades of night  
With the glorious Gospel light.

Would ye miss His welcome greeting  
When He comes in glory down?  
Rather would ye hear Him saying—  
As before Him ye are laying  
Your bright trophies for His crown—  
“I accept your gathered spoil,  
I have seen your earnest toil;  
Faithful one, well done! well done!  
Ye shall shine forth as the sun.”

ELLEN LAKSHNIE GOREH.

LITERATURE.

*12 cents per doz.*

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

*8 cents per doz.*

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

*Free.*

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

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Mite Boxes, 1 cent each.

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

Map of North-West, with Indian Reserves marked, \$1.

All postage prepaid.

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For above apply to Mrs. Telfer, 72 St. Albans Street, Toronto.

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

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