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W. B. M. U. TIDINGS.

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS PER YEAR.

Vol. 3.

Amherst, N. S., Dec., 1896.

No. 35.

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR.

“Workers together with Him.”

PRAYER TOPIC.

For the work and workers at Bobbili—For Mr. and Mrs. Churchill that their health may be preserved, and those on that field who believe on Christ may be able to confess him before men.

Suggested Programme for December.

HYMN.
PRAYER.
SCRIPTURE READING.
HYMN.
READING. Tidings.
PRAYER, by several.
READING. Extracts from report of the Cor. Secretary of the W. B. M. U. Mrs. Everett, in the Annual Report.
PRAYER.
MINUTES of last meeting.
DOXOLOGY.

Suggested Programme for January.

HYMN.
PRAYER.
BIBLE READING on “Giving.” (Let this be prepared before hand by one of the sisters or the Leader.)
HYMN.
READING. Tidings.
DISCUSSION. Have we a Mission Band? If so, what are we doing to help it? If not, why not?
READING. Extracts from Report of Secretary of our Foreign Mission Board in year book.
PRAYER. For Mision Band leaders.
HYMN.

MINUTES of last meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The second quarter ends January 31st, 1897. All monies should be in Mrs. Smith's hands by 15th of the month.

NOTE.—We print this month “programme” for December and January meetings, as it has been suggested by some of the sisters, that by so doing each meeting could be arranged for at the previous one.

Letter for “Tidings.”

Bobbili, Oct 9th, 1896.

My Dear Sisters :

I am in receipt of a card this week from your honored President, Mrs. Manning, to the effect that a letter for the December “Tidings” is expected from me, and that it must not reach Nova Scotia later than Nov 15th. Well, this is rather short notice, I am quite confident if I write immediately my letter cannot reach there before the time specified, so I must do my best to get off a letter by this first mail which closes to-morrow evening at 6. But if you could see the many inter-

ruptions! I have when I sit down to write a letter, you would wonder that I ever get one written.

It is now four hours since I commenced this, and you see how far I have progressed. This afternoon I must go to the school and hold our school prayer meeting at its close. Tomorrow our mother's meeting, and every Saturday too. I have the large girls who are preparing for examinations come up here to learn to sew. 15 in all come, but I must excuse them to-morrow, I think.

One of my interruptions this morning was that of a teacher bringing his pariah school of 30 boys and girls to visit me and get presents. This is a custom of this country. At the Dasera festival which is now commencing all the pretty school teachers in town get their pupils arrayed in clothes of various colors and hues, a bow and arrow in their hands, and then lead them around the town, singing pardyams at the houses where they stop and ask the people to give them something. They sang a pardyam to me, but I could not endure it all so asked them when part through not to favor me with any more. I asked them if they were singing or reciting. "Singing" they said.

Two will recite a line in a high tone of voice, then all will sing (?) or recite it after them, each in the highest key he could manage to shout it. You have never heard any music quite equal to this, and I doubt if you would greatly long for the pleasure the second time.

I always give to these pariah school children because they are the outcasts. Their own people are too poor to give them much, and I suspect the caste people of the town pay little attention to their requests.

I have had in mind for some time to visit this school and see if we could arrange with the teacher, by adding something to his salary, to call in the children on Sundays and allow us to teach them the Bible and Christian hymns; so I was glad to see them to-day.

I wrote the proposal to the teacher and he promised to give me a reply soon.

Then here comes our Mohanmedan baker, makes his request for help and sits down on the verandah, presumably to sit there till I grant it. The rains have not come and therefore the famine is coming and he and his family had no food last night. The government has raised the price of trees, that give the toddy used in baking, so high that no one has bid any in yet, and so he cannot make bread for us, and this source of income is cut off for a time; and we must make bread as best we can or do without. I sent a servant to town this morning to purchase paddy, but no one would sell, sent again to people who have lots of it stored up, but no one would open his store house or sell any. The appearance of the weather is that this monsoon now due will fail us as the last partially did and thus the prices of all grains will go up so high that by and bye they will double or treble their profits. The price of rice is more than a third higher than a week ago, and if this cloudless sky continues much longer, everything will go up to famine prices, for the failure of rain is very general over a great part of India.

I tell the people when they complain to me that no rain is coming and that there will be famine, that the Lord has tried love and pity on them all these years, with no effect, and

perhaps He will try punishment to turn them away from their idol worship. But even the punishment is meted out in love, to turn their hearts to Himself, and thus make them melt for the great everlasting blessings He has in store for them. A caste man came to us last month, saying that he had heard Mr. Churchill preach in his village two years ago, and had worshipped no idol since; that he was believing in Jesus and wanted to join the church.

As he was an entire stranger we told him we could not baptize him immediately, but he could stay and earn his food and some clothes, which he needed badly and we would teach him. He worked pretty well and made no trouble, was anxious to be baptized the first of this month. Mrs. C. was not willing to take him so soon so he said he would wait another month. But Tuesday morning after worship, instead of going to his work, he walked off and took with him besides his own new clothes, a new coat belonging to one of the Christians, so we are not sorry that his name is not on the Bobbili church roll.

Two of the wives of church members are anxious to find the Lord. I started a mother's meeting a few weeks ago, and we all enjoy it much. Some of the mothers could not leave their children to come to the prayer meeting in the evening, but can leave them with the larger ones on Saturday and come to our mother's meeting and learn to pray in public. There are just 12 of us and we all plan to be always present. Two are not Christians yet, but we are all praying for their speedy conversion and they are joining in the request.

Our preacher's family is in deep sorrow at the present time. Please

remember them when you pray. The father, Bagha Van Bahara, mother, daughter and only son came to us a year ago. The son, a very bright smart boy, had taken typhoid fever on their journey, and for a month we watched over him, his life hanging by a very slender thread it seemed, but God heard prayer and he recovered. The father had suffered too much anxiety of mind, and shortly after broke down in health. However, he went out among the people and did what he could to preach the gospel to them, till in August of this year, he could go no more. The last of August a little grandson was born to them. They had brought their other daughter here to take care of her because she was weakly. They had one other grandson about 9 months.

Sep. 8th the preacher was called home, after placing his two children in my hands and commending them all to the Lord. The dying words of the first Christian martyr were his last words. On the 21st the older grandson died at Palcondah, without any of these having seen him. And Oct. 7th the little boy baby here died very suddenly, and was buried on the 8th, just a month after the grandfather was buried.

Ratnamma, the grandmother, has always been a very quiet keeper at home, but after her husband's death, I asked her if she could not go out and do Bible work among the women living in the streets near to us. She has taken up the work, seemingly with her whole strength, and it has been the means of comforting her own sorrowful heart, to try and bind up the wounds of others, who have no such Saviour as she has. Please remember her as she goes out among her country women, her own heart

bowed down with these deep griefs, and yet trying to bring peace and hope to other dark hopeless hearts. Morning and afternoon she goes out, and sometimes I cannot keep the tears back as I see her going so quietly and perseveringly to the work of trying to win souls to the Saviour, who has been so precious to her in her great sorrows.

Here are three to support, B. Ratnamma a Bible woman, B. Hammama in the school, B. Kroopu, also studying in my school, all worthy of your prayers and contributions.

We are looking forward with great joy to the coming of our new missionaries, in December. A warm welcome awaits them, and we pray that the Lord may use them greatly in bringing in the lost Telugus into His Kingdom.

Your loving sister,
M. F. CHURCHILL.

P. E. Island Notes.

During September we visited East Point and had the pleasure of meeting the sisters in their Missionary gathering. A goodly number were present and a profitable hour was spent in devotional and Missionary exercises. The collections taken at their meetings are for Home Missions, last year thirty dollars were raised in this way. Dundas and Montague were also visited and there are earnest workers in both places. We hoped to have visited Annandale but the continued

rainy weather prevented, but we are glad to know the sisters there are thoroughly in earnest and are preparing for a public Missionary meeting for Thanksgiving day. May success attend their efforts.

The first Wednesday of this month we met with the W. M. Society of Alexandra. This is perhaps the largest Society on the Island. One very encouraging feature of this Society is the number of young ladies who seem earnest and enthusiastic in this good cause. "Tidings" was read, everywhere this little visitor is welcomed.

Last month Mrs. Higgins organized a W. M. A. Society at Clyde River, Ch. Charlottetown Society observed Crusade Day. Although the weather was most disagreeable, our pastor's wife spent most of the day visiting the sisters of the church, and at least one new name will be added to the list. In the evening we had a very enjoyable meeting where an interesting programme was carried out. We are now preparing for our annual Thank Offering service to take place next week.

We believe the Societies generally are doing good work, but we are longing for the time to come when every sister in all our churches shall be earnest active members of this grand organization for the extension of Christ's Kingdom at home and abroad.

M. E. DAVIS.
Ch. Town,
P. E. I.