

W. F. M. S.

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W. F. M. SOCIETY.

TAMSUI, Jan. 31st, 1884.

To Mrs. Harvie and all ladies in Canada who gave of their means to erect a Girl's School in Tamsui :

On the 8th of October, 1883, I began to build and superintended everything about the building until completed. We worked many nights until 10, 11 and 12.

The building is of cut stone, then out and inside plastered four times. The entire outside is imitation of red brick.

The school house stands seventy paces east of Oxford College. It is just as large as the College and we could accommodate fifty girls.

When I state that Foreigners and Chinese say that it is even more stately than Oxford College, I am saying a good deal.

When I learned that the money would be forthcoming I at once set to work, because materials were cheaper than last year, but dear now again.

The school was opened 19th inst., H. M. Consul in the

chair. Mr. Jamieson spoke very nicely indeed, in English. I addressed the people in Chinese. Upwards of one hundred converts from the east coast were present. The main hall was crowded and an immense crowd all round the building.

Dear fellow-workers for Christ, I got this request—this answer to prayer—too. I longed to see the building ere my poor labours cease. Here it is then. I have done my best and don't hesitate to state that I have saved the mission \$1000 by watching everything done. Remember, "Honour to whom honour is due." Pray for him—never let us think we have done now; never let us rest; never weary. By the love of the Eternal God—by the amazing sacrifice of the Lord Jesus—by the shortness of life, and by ten thousand million souls crying in darkness, I call on the Christian women in Canada to burn with zeal until their eyes behold the glory of Jesus of Nazareth in the Eternal City.

Mrs. Mackay is in ecstasies over the new building and stood out many nights.

G. L. MACKAY.

P.S.—I will in due time sketch the building and forward.

INDORE, Jan. 30th, '84.

Your kind letter was received in due time. Many thanks to the ladies' of the Society for their encouraging words. We have, indeed, great need of faith and patience in our work, humanly speaking, it often appears very hopeless, but we must remember that it is our Heavenly Father's command and that His promise is, "So shall my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth, it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

One encouraging feature is that some of the parents do not seem to entertain as many fears as formerly, as they allow their little girls to come to school in greater numbers. Since Miss Rodger's return the attendance at her school has greatly increased.

A short time ago I opened a school in the Bazaar, some distance from where we reside. The first two or three days five little girls came, but it was not long ere the parents of one became possessed of fear lest their daughter should become a Christian, then for some days there were only two, however, in a few days the number rose to twelve, and I hope others will soon come. They appear to be quite pleased at the prospect of learning to read, yet they do not wish to apply themselves for any length of time.

This afternoon when I went to give a young woman a lesson in reading, and afterwards read to her a portion of scripture, almost the first question she asked me was, "Am I a Christian?" She also said that several men had told her that if she was a Christian she would become blind. She remarked, "I am so afraid that I will become blind, then how can I get my food?" I asked her if she had seen any Christians that were blind? her answer was in the negative. I told her that God would not make her blind for believing in Him, and that the men who had thus spoken to her were wicked, and that their spiritual eyes were blind. She appeared satisfied, listened to the reading and joined heartily in the singing. May the day soon come when she and many of her heathen sisters will be led to cast their all upon Jesus and trust Him as their only Saviour.

J. Ross.

PRINCE ALBERT PRES. MISSION,
4th March, 1884.

Your very kind letters were both received. I know that you must think my long delay in replying to you an unpardonable rudeness, and my apology is, always so pressed for time.

As regards Indian work here, there is now little to be done, the most of the Cree families having removed to the Indian reserve, under the Rev. John McKay, who removed from here about two years ago.

When I first came to P. A. my school was composed of the children of a few white settlers, half-breeds and several Indian children, but this year the influx of white settlers, and the removal of the Cree, have very materially changed its character. We have a few Cree families from the Reserve at present, who have come to obtain employment during the winter, but they will return to their homes in spring. We try to get them into Sunday-school, but at present they are not in day school. I have been thinking of establishing a Bible-class for them, having the fathers and mothers come with their children. They do not like coming to a church where the congregation differs but little from any country town in Ontario. I do not wonder the poor things feel the change, for I can scarcely realize it, and then necessarily

the service is beyond their comprehension. I would have attempted this some time ago had it not incurred my severance from our church Sunday-school, as its maintenance depended solely on our missionary and myself, we being the only teachers, and he being necessarily absent many Sabbaths preaching at out-stations, I could not see it my duty to relinquish my post; now however, we have at length succeeded in obtaining a few teachers.

The Rev. Mr. McWilliams is a most efficient superintendent, he has established a good Bible-class, and I think I may say that we are prospering.

We have a band of heathen living among us for whom nothing has yet been attempted. While we sit at worship, especially in summer, we hear the beating of their drums attended by their heathen dances. Could a teacher speaking their language be sent them?

Although the P. A. school cannot be said to be doing Indian work, I think you will agree with me in deciding that it has been a boon established by the F. M., which cannot be over-estimated. The first, and until recently the only school in this vast country, its aim has ever been to give a thorough Christian education, the Bible taking the first place, and this in a country where the whole tendency is to attend to worldly matters regardless of Spiritual, must have a bearing on the rising generation.

My school roll numbers over 50. Upon coming to P. A., besides teaching I was obliged to add the duties of house-keeping; this has been a heavy task on health and strength.

If I were to give you a detailed account of my week's work I think you would be a little amused. It has been a positive necessity that I should open my house to girl boarders, I have three at present, have had several others. As I have no servant, I have to be cook, matron and teacher. My duties are never over until a very late hour and I too weary for any further exertion; this is my apology for being so poor a correspondent.

A convent was opened in P. A. last autumn, by five nuns. As there are no Catholic children here except a few French half-breeds, it may well be called a Jesuitical proselytizing institution. 'We are trying our best to hold our children. The Christians of the east cannot be too zealous in putting forth every exertion to mould the character of the young people of the N. W.

Shall this great country be for Satan, or for our blessed Master? is now to be decided.

Many thanks for the kind expressions conveyed in letters; also for your generous offer to aid in mission work. Let us hope and pray that the good seed sown in this vicinity among our wandering Indian tribes may yet bear fruit.

We have had very severe weather—often falling between 50 and 60 degrees below zero. Oh! with what joy I hail the return of long days; to rise, light fires, prepare breakfast, etc.; and get off to school when it is not light until nearly eight, is not very agreeable, but it just makes one feel doubly thankful for spring.

L. M. BAKER.