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"Whatsoever he saith unto you do it."

MONTHLY LEAFLET

OF THE

Canada Congregational Woman's Board of Missions.

5.
1. MONTREAL, FEBRUARY, 1899.

Price 10c
a year.

SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.

What Christ expects of us."—Phil. 2: 1-16; Rev. 3: 2-3; John 15: 16.

TOPICS FOR AUXILIARY MEETINGS IN "LIFE AND LIGHT."

February—Smyrna: Historically, Religiously; Mission Work.
March—Marsovan: Early Days of the Mission; Anatolia
College; the Girls' Boarding School.

THE MONTHLY LEAFLET.

All communications and letters from the missionaries intended for publication should be addressed to the Editor, Mrs. Sanders, 5 Mackay street, Montreal, P.Q.

Editorial Paragraphs.

The salaries for the support of the Misses Melville have been paid up to December 31st, 1898. On May 31st, 1899, there will be due \$406.24 for salaries. Also there is only \$85.54 paid towards the pledge of \$600 for "Home Missions," leaving a balance of \$514.46 unpaid. Both of the above amounts must be paid before the C. C. W. B. M. Treasurer's books are closed.

It will be seen by Miss Day's letter that we ought to contribute towards Miss Melville's travelling expenses, as she is our missionary. This must be taken up as a special object "for travelling expenses," and obtained by an extra effort, so as not to make the remittances for the regular work less.

At the close of last year there was only a small balance of \$46.84, General Fund, all of which is needed to carry on the work until the fall, when new contributions are received. The Executive cannot propose any new work in other mission fields, no matter how urgent the appeal, while our fiscal year closes with such a small balance in the treasury. We do well to pay our pledges, no deficit, but cannot we do better? Will not each Auxiliary resolve to do more than ever it has done, so that the work of our Woman's Board may be enlarged and

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extended? Will not every woman in our churches ask "Am I doing all I can to obey Christ's command. 'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature?'" Let this year be the Board's best one of service for the Master. "Few can go; many can give; all can pray."

*From Miss Sarah Louise Day, Treas.
W.B.M., Boston, Mass.*

January 5th, 1899.

MY DEAR MRS. NASMITH,—In reply to your letter of December 30th about the salary of missionaries who are in this country, I would say that it is customary for the society supporting the missionary to continue to pay the salary to us as if she were still on the field, while we pay an allowance which varies according to the individual need of each missionary, and also assume the travelling expenses. These two items—allowance and travelling expenses—are, of course, largely in excess of the amount received for salary, so we are very glad if the society is able to send us any additional help for the General Fund, out of which such expenses are paid.

Miss Melville has written that for the present \$20 a month will be sufficient for her needs, but we shall increase the allowance later if she finds that she needs more.

We do not yet know the exact date of Miss Melville's arrival in this country, which determines the time at which we begin the allowance, but I am sending her to-day a cheque for \$40 to meet her present needs.

From Rev. W. T. Currie.

CISAMBA, Nov. 22, 1898.

DEAR MRS. SANDERS,—I want to send a few lines by the mail which starts from here in the morning, just as an evidence that we are at the present time quite above ground and planting our gardens in hope of eating from the harvest.

Our houses need doors and windows, but we expect to occupy them by January 1st, 1899. A well we are digging is now about 25 feet deep and no water yet. The young men say they had started the well when we first came here, not a child would have come to the place, for they believed that it is necessary to sacrifice a child in order to bring the water. We made no such ventures in those days. Now the people have little fear of anything we propose to do.

A large number of our boys are away on station and other business just now, but we still have 35 with us and rather more girls.

The attendance on Sunday services has been larger during the past month than during the same period for nearly two years, yet most of the men are away trading. Very few women in this district now go to their fields on the Lord's day. They have work and come to meeting. Some of them show a lively interest in our work. If I am absent for a day some of these old grandmothers come to greet me on my return and enquire whether I am well. They think they must help look after me since the Ondona has gone home. Often they bring food, saying it is for my monkies, but it pleases their old hearts to learn that we have deprived the monkies of their meal.

The new station at Ciyuka is making steady progress. I spent Sunday, the 13th, and the following day there, and found 35 people, chiefly women, at worship in the morning at half-past five. A congregation of 115 met me Sunday morning. It was what Dr. Wilkes used to call "a bonneted congregation," seeing that fully three-fourths of those present were women. As they wore no bonnets in this country, however, it was bareheaded. For once I enjoyed thoroughly preaching to women; they kept their babies quiet and listened well. The number present was so larger than we had on any ordinary occasion during the first two years in the history of this station, if my memory serves me well, and as the men had just started for the Bawtre Valley, the congregation was smaller than has met some of our native preachers.

We have sent some of our young men to conduct a *travelling school* in connection with the caravan of the Chief of Ciyuka which is on its way to the Bawtre Valley. They will be absent for fully three months. They have taken with them medicines, books and a few slates, intending to care for the sick, teach the men to read and preach Christ in every camp. This has reduced the number of lads at the Station, for about a dozen of young fellows who have been at school here for periods varying in length are in that caravan; and a larger number who have learnt something of the Gospel on former journeys with our boys; but it is likely to do as effective work for these people as an evangelistic waggon or car does for the heathen of America. We pray that the three months of daily preaching will lift some of the men out of the mire of heathen superstition and plant them on the firm ground of Christian faith; and at the same time spread a knowledge of Christ to the "regions beyond."

Please tell our kind friends not to send us any more goods for the present unless it be a few shirts and coats for next Xmas, 1839, for we cannot get them inland.

From Miss Maggie W. Melville.

CISAMBA, Nov. 10th, 1898.

DEAR FRIENDS,—Can you fancy a dozen tongues rattling as fast as they can possibly go, and if allowed leaning over the table which, of course, shakes with each gesture, of which the people are so fond. I often wish you could see and hear them just for one night without them seeing you, for a stranger spoils their natural ways. If one arrives they are all eyes and ears but very little tongue for a short time until they become familiar then there is no end to their talk. I have had to refuse more than once already while writing this to answer their questions. For certainly it does not help one to think while half a dozen are trying to talk to you. Several of the little girls are absent from one cause or another; one has the measles and is over with her sister, who is one of the married girls. Another is sleeping with her sister, whose husband is one of the teachers at Ciyuka and only returns for Saturday and Sunday.

Mentioning teaching at Ciyuka makes me think some of you may not know of the school there. Last year the Chief of Ciyuka built a school-house in his Ombala or head village. It was his own idea, and was built at his own expense. A month ago two of the lads, who have been in training as teachers by helping in the schools here, these two went with Mr. Currie and began a school. The people seem very anxious to learn and are attending very well. At their last time of reporting there were fifty-four on the roll. They were about equally divided between men and women. Not only are they holding school, but are having morning and evening prayers. Then, too, on Sundays these two lads return to the station here, while others go to hold service on Sunday. Last Sunday there was a big crowd, larger than on the previous Sundays. The Chief has forbidden work of any kind on Sunday, so there is no reason for a small congregation. The Chief starts to-day to the far interior for cattle. His caravan is decidedly of a Christian character, for he himself has denounced fetish ceremonies and spirit worship, and accompanying him are two of our native preachers. Another lad, a Church member, and several of the Chief's own lads who have been here for some time and are able to read quite well and even some of them frequently have taken part in our prayer meetings. Many others are accompanying them and are to have an opportunity to learn to read while on their journey and will besides be under Christian influence and teaching during the three months of their journey. We do pray that it may be the means of leading some of them into the light of the Gospel.

Though we find ourselves alone with our work, we feel much encouraged. Our own Sunday services have been the largest

ordinary Sundays, during the last few weeks, we never remember having before. The Chief at Cisamba has forbidden people in the Ombala from working on Sunday, and says, "Those who are farther away than we are are accepting the Sabbath, but we near have not done so." He seems to be in earnest, but time will tell to what extent he truly has received the words of Life and has a desire to follow them. Do pray that the richest blessing of God may rest upon them all.

Well, I have just given the girls their fire and am at last alone, and with quiet comes a desire for bed and sleep. Those who know me will think it strange for me to desire sleep, for I am not a lover of bed, but this country and the continual go of on every day alters the case and decidedly changes my feelings at times. To-day has not been so full of work as many days, but there were many little things to do. In the morning I attended to a few household duties, very few though, cut and made three babies' dresses for the station children, also some shirts for our kitchen boys, for I discovered theirs were in shreds. Had a little chat with Mr. Carrie, hard work, you know, as also was my dinner. Held school from one until five, and on returning home found some little chicks to be housed for the night, after tea heard two boys read their English lesson, wrote the copy books for to-morrow's school, and then arrived at the lively girls. There were a hundred and one little things in between as well as looking after Helase, one of the little children, three years old, while his mother went to the field this morning. But would life be worth living if we had not all these duties, which go to complete it? No, our heart and life are all in our dear work.

From Mrs. (Rev.) F. W. Read.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER TO MRS. MOODIE.

SAKANJIMBA, W. C. Africa, August 23rd, 1898.

I have not been able to resume my Kindergarten; since the season began there has been a good deal of wall-building to do, and as so few big boys and young men are available for work this year (being off on trading journeys), every little one helps to wall along a little; even children of 6 and 7 come and beg for work, being glad of the little new cloth they can earn. The little girls bring small gourds and pots to fetch water in, the little boys tramp the mud that their elders dig, or carry it to those who are filling the wall boxes. Just now there is a crowd of workers on hand, some twelve or fifteen girls fetching water. Among these are some big girls and young women, who can carry on their heads gourds of water, holding three or four children. These see that the little ones do not loiter over much,

and each time the troops of water carriers return from the brook and empty their gourds or pots, one of the elder ones comes to the house and gets a little check. As the brook is some distance off, twelve trips makes a good five hours work, which is the limit of the regular working day here.

On the regular work, with the Station boys, they are constantly taught that they should give faithful service for their full working hours, regardless of any stint, but with a crowd of village workers, whom it is impossible properly to over-see, such a plan is found advisable. The rule is every one must work 12 days before being paid; for this period a man will receive eight yards of cloth "valued at 7c. a yard." others less, in proportion to age; while the very little ones get about $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 yards. Usually as soon as they get paid they stop working and other keep coming to take their places, though occasionally the more enterprising boys or men will work much longer. We are glad to have the children come thus, for those who have been here working are much more likely by and by to come to school.

Do not think we always have a crowd of workers, several times during the season there has been a great lack, and the walls have gone on very slowly. Sometimes only a handful of small boys would appear, and as the house boys could not be spared, nor the elder boys who were building their own houses. Mr. Read has himself gone out and stood for hours by the brook putting in the mud as the children bring it to him. This is not easy work, and I have often watched him from the window and wondered when the sun or a heavy fever might lay him aside.

But he has been graciously preserved from any serious illness, and indeed, has had wonderfully good health, not having been kept from his regular duties since one day last November "eight months ago."

Treasurer's Acknowledgments, Dec. 23rd, '98, to Jan. 24th,

TORONTO BRANCH.—Pine Grove, 28 subscriptions M. L., \$2, and Thankoffering, \$8; Pine Grove S.S., for salaries Cisamba \$5; Toronto, Broadview Avenue, 35 subscriptions M.L., \$3.75; Toronto Bond Street, 50 subscriptions M.L., \$5; Toronto Northern, 110 subscriptions M.L., \$11; undesignated, \$10, and Thankoffering (additional) for salaries \$5; Toronto Olivet Auxiliary Fee, \$10 and 30 subscriptions M.L., \$3; Mr F. Wicks for salaries, \$1; Parkdale, 10 subscriptions M. L., \$1; Rugby Auxiliary Fee, \$10, and undesignated, \$16.

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