

"The World for Christ."



Monthly Letter Leaflet.

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

VOL. V.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1889.

No. 12.

SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER :

For all Colleges, Schools, Hospitals, and work in Zenanas connected with our Missions. For the general spread of the Gospel. Confession of our shortcomings.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (Western Division) will be held in St. James' Square Church, Toronto, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 9th and 10th April, 1889.

The ladies will meet in the schoolroom on Tuesday, at 10.30 a.m., and 2.30 p.m., and on Wednesday, at 2.30 p.m. The Board of Management will meet on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock.

The usual Public Meeting, Dr. Wardrope, Convener of the General Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee, presiding, will be held in St. Andrew's Church, at eight o'clock on Tuesday evening.

The ladies of Toronto extend a cordial invitation to delegates from every Branch of the Society throughout the Western Division. Ladies who expect to attend will kindly send names and addresses to Mrs. J. Y. Reid, 77 Pembroke Street, who will provide homes for them during their stay in the city. It is very desirable that all names should be forwarded before the 1st of April. In order to save time in writing Delegates' names in the book, each lady, upon arriving at the Church, is requested to

present her card containing name and address. Certificates to travel at reduced rates will be furnished on application to Mrs. Hugh Campbell, 194 Richmond Street West. They must be signed by the ticket agent at starting point and by Mrs. Campbell at Toronto. Full fare must be paid from starting point through to Toronto, and one-third fare on the return trip.

MISSIONARY LETTERS.

INDIA.

Miss Sinclair and Miss Scott Arrived Safely.

INDORE, CENTRAL INDIA,
Jan. 14th, 1889.

MISS SINCLAIR.—We should have written you immediately upon our arrival at Indore; but, I think, I left it for Miss Scott to do, and she likewise left it for me, with the result that on mail day there was no letter ready.

On the afternoon of December 31st, our steamer, the *Arabia*, dropped anchor in Bombay Harbour. From the deck we had watched for the first glimpse of land that would tell us we were nearing the place where the Master had chosen to send us with the "glad tidings of great joy." From the agent who came to meet us, we learned that Miss Rodger had come down from Indore; and I can assure you we appreciate her kindness in coming so far to bid us welcome to India. After spending a few days in Bombay we came on to Indore, and were kindly received by Miss Beatty and Miss Oliver. At present we are with them, but expect to be in our own bungalow soon. Miss Rodger will go with us to initiate us into the mysteries of housekeeping in India.

We have begun study; Miss Scott takes Hindi, while I devote myself to Marathi. We do not expect to find the study irksome, for we believe that during this preparation time He can and will satisfy us and make us patient.

I wish I could tell you of the emotions that rise within me as I look upon these people who sit in darkness and know not God. May the time soon come when the knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ Jesus shall raise them from the degradation in which they now lie!

We were well cared for every mile of the many which separate India from Canada; and we could not but feel that it was in

answer to the prayers ascending to the throne of grace from the friends in the dear home land.

Let the women of our Auxiliaries pray that their Missionaries, having sown the seed these many years, may *look* for it to spring up, and bring forth fruit into everlasting life.

The Boxes Opened—Every Child Remembered.

INDORE, Dec. 26, 1888.

MISS OLIVER, M.D.—Miss Rodger found your letter to me among the articles in her part of one of the mission boxes. And now that we have got a little breathing space after all the bustle of opening out and dividing the contents of these large and groaning boxes, I must try and send you all our hearty thanks for the more than ample provision for every little girl in all our Mission Schools. Enough and to spare. Mrs. Wilson has been with us for two weeks, so was on hand when the boxes came. We sent at once for Mrs. Campbell, and as soon as all in the boxes was divided we went to work to get the dolls named for our girls, so as to be ready for Monday, the day arranged for the distribution.

I think you will be interested in hearing about our closing exercises, as we ventured on some innovation from any previous years. We made it a "*purdahnashin*" affair, that is, allowed no men to be present. This was done in order to get as many as possible of the native ladies to come out to it. We had no room in the girls' schools large enough to accommodate all the girls, so we borrowed the Mission High School room, and the teachers and boys decorated it with flags, mottoes and garlands of flowers. Then all the windows were darkened and the lamps lit. The whole effect was very pretty, finished up as it was with 154 bright little faces sitting on the floor in front of 154 gay-dressed dolls spread out on a large table; behind which sat the visitors, being the European ladies living here, nearly all the Parsee women and thirty or more Marathi and Hindoo women; among them the wives of four of the leading men in Indore City. We were obliged to have a large tent put up in front of the door so that they might come in without being seen. All this may seem very foolish to you, but we feel that it is a great step in advance to have got so many of them out. We hired thirteen ox carts (*bilegharries*) in which to bring all the children of the city schools up to the camp, as it is too far for many of them to walk, besides they would not have been allowed to come so far on foot. I was too busy getting the dolls laid out in order to go and see the procession, but I fancy

it would not be much quieter than the usual order of children's processions. It was a great treat to them, and certainly when every little girl got a doll on her arm they were a happy gathering.

We began by the children all singing a Hindi hymn, followed by all repeating the Lord's Prayer in Hindi. Between the classes we had also a Marathi Kindergarten song by twenty-five of the girls, two verses of "Gathering in the Sheaves" by the girls who are learning English, and then, when all the dolls had been distributed, we had the girls sing "God Save the Queen." I do hope the ladies, who are on the way here, will be able to lead them in singing. We three here are, all alike, devoid of music.

Yesterday a gentleman living here sent a present of 24 lbs. of native sweetmeats for a Xmas treat to the Christian children, so we gathered them all into our bungalow for a feast.

Miss Rodger and I spent part of yesterday filling a work-bag for each of their mothers with some of the contents of the boxes; cloth enough for a jacket, and thread, needles, pins, scissors, buttons, etc., etc. I am sure if you could but see how pleasant it has been to handle the contents of those boxes, all the good women of Hamilton Presbytery would catch a share of that happiness. Being such a liberal supply for all, we just divided the general boxes into five equal shares to represent Neemuch, Rutlam, Indore, Oojein, and Mhow. Then, as Miss Rodger, Mrs. Wilson and I had got extras in our private home boxes, we did not need to make the Mhow share any less, on account of their special box. As I said before, there was enough for all and to spare. Next week we will go up to Oojein and give the little girls dolls, who have begun to attend our two schools lately opened there. The schools have only been open about six weeks, so that the girls have not yet earned a doll, but when I was up last, some three weeks ago, I found that for the first eight days after the schools were opened a number of girls attended them. All at once their parents refused to allow them to come because a report had been circulated that as soon as we got a large number gathered we would carry them off to Indore and drown them. I visited some of their homes and got them to promise to send them back, and, in order to encourage both teachers and scholars, promised small dolls to all who would come regularly. In a few days the attendance at the Marathi School rose to fifteen daily, and at the Hindi School nearly as many. No doubt "a doll" is the strongest force at work as yet, but if we can but get the girls started to come by encouraging them, I do not fear but that nearly all of them will continue to come. The two teachers are the wives of two of the Christian teachers in the boys' school, and seem to be really in-

terested in their work. I found that they had been going for some time to some of the Zenanas, to talk with and read to the women. We opened a women's dispensary in Oojein some three months ago, and have been going up for a few days twice a month to attend to patients, leaving a Christian woman—who has been twice in Agra Women's Medical College—in charge. It was when doing medical work there that we were led to think of schools for girls so as to make use of all the Christian women.

We are all feeling very well and have had a pleasant Xmas. I don't think Miss Mackay or Dr. Buchanan will write home this week that we are very grave-faced people. Miss Rodger sends special thanks to Mrs. Malloch and will write her on her return from Bombay, whither she goes in a few days to meet Misses Scott and Sinclair.

Again let me say, Many, many thanks to the women of Hamilton Presbytery and the other Auxiliaries who have been so mindful of us.

Tenting in Central India.

RAMPURA, Feb. 1, 1889

MRS. WILSON.—We are just now tenting beside (outside the walls) Rampura, the second place, we are told, in importance to Indore in Holkar's territory. Three weeks ago we left Neemuch, accompanied by Miss Rodger and Miss Beatty, and spending nearly two weeks on the road visiting other towns, reached Rampura early last week. The ladies left us to return to Indore this morning, and we intend to stay about a week longer, as the people seem interested in hearing the Gospel, and it is well to teach them as much as possible while they are in a mood to listen.

We are only thirty-six miles from Neemuch, but seem to be much farther away, the road in parts is so bad, and the jungle through which we passed so wild-looking. Our last stage of ten miles, from a town called Rukresar, was specially bad, the narrow cart road so rough and stony that we had to walk the ponies most of the way. Mr. Wilson, Miss Rodger and I drove in a light two-wheeled cart, called a tonga, and Miss Beatty rode her own pony which she had brought from Indore with her. Riding is really the easiest way of going about in the jungle.

Rampura lies at the foot of a spur of the Chittore Hills, directly east from Neemuch. In olden times it belonged to Jeypore, but many years ago was given to Holkar, in recognition of aid received in time of war by the Raja of Jeypore from his power-

ful Mahratta neighbour. The space enclosed by the city wall is so large compared to the number of houses, as to give the impression that, when it was first laid out, Rampura was expected to become a much more important centre than it at present seems to be. The population is about twenty-thousand, about a third probably being Mahomedan, and the rest Hindoo.

The chief men in the town, the Soubah, with the Tehsildar, a subordinate official and a Mahomedan Moulvie, before whom all law cases among the Mahomedans are tried, live in an old palace which is shown with pride to visitors. The palace is built on the highest ground in the town. Indeed one feels as if one were going up-stairs all the way from the city gate to the court yard. From the outer court to the entrance door is just like a still steeper stairway. After that I can give no idea of the plan of the house. It is all narrow steep stair-ways, small verandah rooms, little dirty court yards, in which are kept cows and buffaloes, larger rooms in which many writers are sitting on the floor, cross-legged, with piles of papers about them, and apparently busy with "affairs of the State." A large tank containing dirty green water, in the centre of which was a raised stone or cement platform, is evidently considered the gem of the building, or perhaps divides the honours with a large arched verandah room, called the Throne room.

One afternoon the Soubah came out in state on an elephant to our tent to call on us, accompanied by his chief officials, and next day he received us at the palace, and showed us all its wonders. The view of the country around was well worth the climb to the top of the house. Immediately at our feet lay the town, its white roofs shining out amid the masses of foliage of the beautiful Indian trees. A little beyond the city wall lay an artificial lake, fringed with trees and shrubs, and little shrines with their slender shapely pillars, and airy dome-like roofs mirrored in the water, and, one could fancy, enamoured, like Milton's Eve, of their own delicate beauty. All around were fields of poppies, now showing their loveliest colouring, interspersed with fields of cold weather crops in all the daintiest shades of green and olive. Just beyond lay a barren belt of jungle, and beyond that another faint green line reaching to the foot of a long low line of blue hills. Over all a warm, rosy evening light was shining, softening the roughness in the landscape, and giving even to the unlovely stretch of jungle a certain beauty of colour which harmonized with the brighter and more glowing tints around. "And the earth shined with His glory," were the words I thought of while looking at the lovely picture.

If only there were not such a terrible background of heathen ignorance and wickedness! But one's thoughts were quickly recalled to that by the tinkling of the evening bells in the Hindoo temples, and the Mahomedan calls to prayer. When shall we be able to say of India, "The glory of the Lord is risen upon thee?"

So far bazar preaching has gone on without interruption. Many Christian books have been sold, and numbers of people have come to our camping ground to discuss religious matters with Mr. Wilson. Miss Beatty was kept busy after it was known she was here, going to zenanas to see sick women, and giving medicines in the bazar and at her tent.

Soon after coming here we were called to the zenana of the chief padri among the Borahs (a Mahomedan sect) and there met with a very warm reception. The first morning I went alone, and spent an hour and a-half with the Moullah's wife and some of her friends. She reads Urdu very well, and is an exceptionally intelligent woman. She showed me a book on the Divinity of Christ that her husband had got from Mr. Wilson, and read to me some passages proclaiming Christ's equality with the Father, and said that she believed what was written there. She took hold of my hand and said, "I, too, believe in Christ." But she wanted to make Mahomet equal with Him, to which I of course objected.

As a rule Mahomedans are exceedingly bigoted, and we have been surprised at the attention paid to us, and the friendship shown by these people. Every time we have gone to the house they have prepared tea for us, and decorated us with garlands of flowers. Yesterday the Moullah came and had tea with Mr. Wilson in our tent; the first time a Mahomedan ever sat down at table with us, or rather with Mr. Wilson, for though the Moullah always treats me with the greatest respect, I thought that perhaps he might prefer my absence where eating and drinking were concerned. Of course, any time I have been in his house, though he received me himself at the door, I was always taken at once to the women's apartments, and left alone with them.

We (Miss Rodger, Miss Beatty and I) were called to the house of the Sessions Judge here, to see his wife, and found in her an old pupil of Miss McGregor. She is a Mahratta Brahmin, and I suppose very proud of her caste and position. Though apparently a very inferior specimen of a woman compared with the Moullah's wife, her reception of us was not nearly so polite. She seemed to treat us as quite an inferior order of beings. Another day Miss Rodger spent an hour or two alone with her, and found

her much more friendly and cordial. She had heard of my organette, and asked that I should take it to her house and sing for her. She had it placed in the court yard where all the servants were coming and going and visitors to her husband were admitted. So I told her that I had come to sing for her, not for all these comers and goers, and that if she could not take me to her own private room I wouldn't open the organ. She is so careful of her caste that she wouldn't even touch the carpet we had sat on the first day we called, so I fancied that was the reason she did not wish to take me again to her room. The little display of temper (you may call it dignity) evidently did no harm, for she at once agreed to do as I wished, and was more cordial to me afterwards, and begged me before leaving to go and see her as often as I could! She looks in very bad health, and has a fretful unhappy expression that goes to one's heart. Among the hymns I sang she told me she liked best one called *Jisu Dyanadhi*, one that tells of Christ as the Comforter in all times of trouble. She belongs to Indore, and had once or twice got medicine from the mission dispensary, and she speaks of going again to put herself under treatment by Miss Beatty for some chronic ailment.

We have decided to return to Neemuch the day after to-morrow as Mr. Wilson wishes to go to Oojein to look after some business there, and it is uncertain whether we shall be able to go out again to the district this season, as it is usually very hot about the beginning of March.

You will know by this time that Miss Mackay has retired to the ranks of the married folk, and that we in Neemuch are left lamenting, for we had hoped that she would have made her home with us, and have opened out medical work among the women in our station. Now we are trying to persuade the other ladies that five of them are too many for Indore, when none of the other stations have one, and are pressing the claims of Neemuch to one of the latest additions to our staff, Miss Sinclair or Miss Scott.

CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

Cheering account of work done.

THE MISSION, BALGONIE, Feb. 28, 1889.

MRS. MOORE.—I might tell you much about our work, and yet I do not know what would be of most interest to you. Many little things regarding our school are of much interest to us, and

yet when written down seem insignificant. Our school is quite full, almost more than full: we have thirty boarders. We have taken in two girls, almost grown up, whose parents want them to learn housekeeping and knitting. This, we think, quite encouraging.

Sabbath services are held on the three Reserves in turn. Chief Piapot has offered Mr. Moore the use of his dancing-house in which to preach, and told him that, although he and his people cannot agree with all that he teaches, yet, because they are convinced that he speaks for their good, they, therefore, ought not to be offended. Miss Rose is earnestly at work on that Reserve. Chief Pasqua is very ill; he hopes to be very happy after death in the land of the spirits, and yet is unwilling to die, even determined to resist death. He says that the spirits of the white man go to the East and those of the Indian go to the North. The Roman Catholics, who are determined to do all in their power to prevent Indian children from going into Protestant schools, have succeeded in taking a few of our children, but we have filled their places by taking in new ones. We are sorry, however, to have lost them thus. I wish I could emphasize the fact that the Roman Catholics are determined to make a conquest of the Indians in the North-West; they cannot succeed, however.

Most of our children are from Muscowpetung's Reserve. The Chief himself, who is a happy, friendly, jolly little man, brought us one of his grandchildren a few days ago, so now we have children from the homes of each of the three chiefs. You will be pleased to know that we have as cook a girl who was taught at Rev. H. Mackay's school, and the careful training she received there is now bearing fruit abundantly. Mrs. Hockley, our matron, acts the part of a patient, attentive, Christian parent, and the small children call her their mother. Mr. Moore has baptized several children, their parents having professed faith in Christ as their Saviour. Many of their homes are tolerably clean and tidy, and the parents are often quite clean and respectably dressed (in their own way) when they come to visit us (which happens remarkably often). We use one hundred pounds of flour every two and a half days, and meat, tea, sugar, oatmeal and butter in proportion. We try to cook as economically as possible in order to give them sufficient wholesome food.

Many of our girls are now able to make their own clothing, after we cut it out and keep a general oversight. Many, many thanks to the ladies who sent us the webs of dress-goods, etc., thus giving us material wherewith to cloth them and at the same time to teach them to make their own clothes; we like un-made-

up material. The yarn, too, was a welcome sight. Several of them have made stockings throughout and are fond of knitting, but it will be some time ere they can knit as fast as they can wear them out. A number of the women on the Reserves are pleased to get yarn also. We wish we were able at our institution to manufacture boots and shoes; of these we require a great many during a year, and it is rather an expensive matter to keep thirty pairs of restless feet comfortably shod. All this, of course, is one part of mission work, and a more important part than I had formerly realized, but we will endeavour to be faithful stewards of whatever you send, using it to the best purposes for the temporal and spiritual welfare of these poor people and the glory of Him who died to redeem them, and who assures us that even the very smallest act done for Him will not be unrewarded. We are pleased to notice that many of the parents are becoming quite interested in the education of their children. Mr. Lash's, the agent, influence is very great, and Mrs. Lash's kindness and efforts to further the work are worthy of our deepest gratitude. It's pleasant to have such friends in this out-of-the-way land.

Our children are progressing steadily in school, and though we are sometimes disappointed in their actions, yet I really believe that their conduct is quite as good as that of so many ordinary white children would be. They have, indeed, a high appreciation of justice and very seldom quarrel. Amongst themselves, they seem to "act justly, love mercy," and we hope that they will yet "walk humbly with their God." Our Sabbath school is becoming quite interesting as they increase in knowledge. We do not take up the International lessons yet, but have begun at the Creation and have got as far as the children of Israel entering the land of Canaan. Each Sabbath they commit to memory a text of Scripture, and we are now taking up the Ten Commandments, and never before did the "Law of the Lord" seem to me so holy and good. Even the hearts of the heathen cannot but respond, "The law of the Lord is pure and righteous."

I wish I could write you a letter that would cause you to rejoice greatly because of the people on these Reserves renouncing heathenism and accepting Jesus as the "chiefest among ten thousand and the One altogether lovely," but, alas, though a few have come to His light, yet "darkness covers the land and gross darkness the people." But our faith is in the Almighty, who, from the darkness of Mount Calvary, caused the "Sun of Righteousness" to arise with more than noonday splendour, that He may arise to this people "with healing in His wings."

Clothing received at Brandon from Ormstown, Que., Auxiliary and Mission Band, and much appreciated.

NOTICE TO LIFE MEMBERS.

Life Members who have changed their place of residence will please forward their post office address to Mrs. G. H. Robinson, 625 Ontario Street, that the corrected list may appear in Annual Report.

INCREASE.

The Presbyterian Society of Owen Sound, organized March 18. President, Mrs. Rodgers; Secretary, Mrs. Fraser; Treasurer, Miss Body.

There is now a Presbyterian Society formed in *every Presbytery of Ontario*, and also in Winnipeg and Brandon Presbyteries. In the latter Presbyterian Society an Indian Woman's Missionary Society was formed in 1887 at the Sioux Reserve, Beulah, which has now become an auxiliary to the General Society.

In Winnipeg Presbyterian Society - A Mission Band, March 6, in Knox Church, Selkirk, Man.

In Maitland Presbyterian Society - Gorrie "Mission Bees," February 2.

In Guelph Presbyterian Society - Alma Auxiliary, by Mrs. McCrae and Mrs. Smellie, March 7.

Toronto, Knox Church, "Coral Workers" Mission Band, in January. Leslieville Young Ladies' Auxiliary, by Mrs. Ewart.

In Peterborough Presbyterian Society—Two juvenile Mission Bands, one in Campbellford and one in Peterborough, under the care of the Young Ladies' Mission Band.

In Brockville Presbyterian Society - A Young Ladies' Mission Band, First Presbyterian Church, Brockville, by Mrs. Dowsley and Mr. Haywood, Superintendent of Sabbath School.

In Lanark and Renfrew Presbyterian Society - Smith's Falls, St. Andrew's Church Auxiliary, by Mrs. Mylne and other ladies, February 21, and St. Paul's Church Auxiliary, by Mrs. Farrell. These separate Auxiliaries and Mission Bands, already reported, are the outcome of the former Smith's Falls United Auxiliary.

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

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

LITERATURE.

NEW LEAFLETS.—Nos. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28.

OUT OF PRINT AT PRESENT.—Nos. 16, 12, 11, 9, 8, 6.

15 cents per doz., or 2 cents each.

No. 22. The Beginning of It.

“ 21. A Study in Proportion.

12 cents per doz.

No. 26. Po-Heng and the Idols.

“ 25. A Plea for our Envelopes.

“ 24. The History of a Day.

“ 23. A Partnership.

“ 20. Our Mission Fields.

“ 18. Five Cents in a Tea-cup.

“ 13. Thanksgiving Ann.

“ 10. For His Sake.

“ 7. Mrs. Pickett's Missionary Box.

“ 3. Voices of the Women.

8 cents per doz.

No. 28. Bringing up the Ranks to the Standard.

“ 27. A Lesson in Stewardship.

“ 17. Why we should keep up our Auxiliaries.

“ 4. The Importance of Prayer.

“ 2. Giving, and Giving Up.

Free.

No. 19. Our Plan of Work.

“ 15. The Missionary Mite Box.

“ 14. Suggestions for holding Missionary Meetings.

“ 5. Questions Answered.

“ 1. Self-Questioning.

Prayer Cards.

Envelopes to Auxiliaries formed since Annual Meeting.

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.

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.