

W. B. M. U. TIDINGS.

Vol. 1. Amherst, N. S., July, 1894. No. 9

MOTTO FOR THE YEAR.

“Lord what wilt thou have me to do.”

PRAYER TOPIC.

“Pray that we may be able to send out four Missionaries this autumn, two male Missionaries and two single ladies.”

Foreign Missions.

In the darkest part, of the darkest of India's Presidencies is situated the mission of the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

For eighteen years, the work has been prosecuted with more or less vigor and faithfulness.

The country has been prospected, five mission stations have been equipped, and others selected, while nine sub-stations have naturally grown from the work prosecuted from the chief centres.

The language has been learned, the Gospel has been preached, and six churches with a membership of about two hundred have been organized amid a population, which exceeds a million and a half of people. Yet at no period, in

the history of the mission, has the demand for Canadian agents, been even approximately supplied.

Properly speaking, this belongs to the home department, but what is its effect on the workers here, on the work itself and on the heathenism, which lies heavy and dark on every side?

To our limited human vision the number of converts gathered may appear sadly disproportionate with the amount of labor and money expended, and the question naturally follows, why is this so?

For months past this thought has been coming and staying with us; has been underlying other thoughts, while ever and anon, it has pressed to the front for consideration, and it wrings from the heart a voiceless yearning cry, of why! Why!

Although large portions of the field have unavoidably been left untouched, though there are hundreds of villages, into which the messengers of God have never gone, there are many sections and villages, where they and the story they tell are well known. Bibles and Scripture portions, with thousands of Christian books have been sold, and numberless pages of tracts have been distributed the influence of which combined with the preached word has given a general uplift to many of the currents of thought, which sway the multitudes. Any one, who has watched for years, the onward march of events, cannot fail to thankfully recognize, that the leaven of the Gospel is at work, and that the blessing of God, is, in some measure manifest.

Apart from those, who have joined the churches, there are these in different localities, who have renounced idol worship, who read the word of God, who sing His praises and pray to Him, and who say, that they believe, that Jesus is the Christ, the Saviour of the world, yet they do not come out, and here again our hearts are grievously troubled. Public opinion is a strong current, against which, they dare not oppose themselves; they are afraid, that the love of

Christ will be found wanting, when weighed against the alienation of dear ones, and the contempt of all.

Truly, these are serious obstacles, yet are we mistaken in thinking, that this, the way of the cross, is God's way? "This is the victory, that over cometh the world, even your faith." Is this the world, and must we admit, that the combined faith of English and Telegu workers is too weak for this contest with it? Or may we appropriate the sadly truthful utterances of Hezekiah when threatened with Assyrian hosts? How our hearts echo every word of the prayer that follows. How we long for that mighty faith, which in the midst of such distress, could wait patiently for the Lord; and for the chosen people of God what a wonderful deliverance came!

We want these people to come out; We feel that the honor of God would be vindicated, that the name of Jehovah would be exalted and that our own fainting hearts would be made to sing.

Is our obedience tardy or our devotion low, that faith is not a living power with us, or have we not served long enough and has God's time not yet come? But God hath said;—"Behold now is the accepted time," and though the earth and heavens pass away His word shall not fail. Surely we must look elsewhere for the reason of the bonds which still hold those who claim to believe, as also for the reason of the slowness with which the Gospel is accepted by the masses. Willingly would we pass through a long waiting, time that patience may be perfected and a more robust faith built up.

With what a measure of the spirit's anointing must Elijah have been blest if he could sit quietly content by the drying brook of Cherith. When will we learn that the greatest victories are won when the arm of Almighty God is our sole defence. Without God Elijah and Paul were ordinary men among their brethren; with God in them the wicked trembled before them.

In this Christian dispensation the promise of the power of God is broad enough to encourage the weakest. It is :— unto you and to your children, and to *all* that are *afar* off." And among the far-off ones may we not claim a place, and in the face of opposing heathenism and in the presence of overwhelming difficulties appropriate the promise of our Father who is more ready to give to His children than the wisest and most loving earthly parent can be. If the Ephesians could receive the Holy Ghost, why cannot we. He can empty us of hindering selfishness and worldliness, lead us into unquestioning and glad obedience, and bestow the faith that looks calmly in the face of discouragement and waits patiently a manifestation of the Power of God

With such a Gospel and such a promise we marvel at our own weakness. What are the hardened hearts of men and the chains which Satan has been forging, all these long dark years to the maker of the universe ?

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help; my help cometh from the Lord, which made Heaven and earth.