

# FOREIGN MISSIONARY TIDINGS

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA  
WESTERN DIVISION

THE  
WORLD  
FOR  
CHRIST.



"LO!  
I AM WITH  
YOU  
ALWAYS."

Vol. II. (Old Series,)  
Vol. XV. TORONTO, MAY, 1898.

No. 1.

NEW SERIES

W. LAUGHLIN

## NOTICES.

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The Board of Management meets on the *first Tuesday* of every month, at 3 o'clock p.m., and on the remaining Tuesdays of each month at 10 a.m., in the Board Room of the Bible and Tract Societies, 104 Yonge Street, Toronto. Members of Auxiliary Societies, or other ladies interested in the work and desiring information, may attend a meeting if introduced by a member of the Board.

Letters concerning the organization of societies, and all matters pertaining to Home work, are to be addressed to Mrs. Grant, Home Secretary, St Margaret's College, 403 Bloor Street West Toronto. The Home Secretary should be notified *at once* when an Auxiliary or Mission Band is formed.

Letters asking information about missionaries, or any questions concerning the Foreign Field, as to Bible-readers, teachers, or children in the various Mission Schools, also letters concerning supplies for India, should be addressed to Mrs. Shortreed, Foreign Secretary, 224 Jarvis Street, Toronto.

All correspondence relating to work in the North-West and British Columbia including supplies, will be conducted through Mrs. A. Jeffrey, Secretary for Indian Work in the North-West and British Columbia, 4 Classic Avenue, Toronto.

All letters to the Board not directly bearing upon work specified in the above departments should be addressed to Mrs. Hugh Campbell, Corresponding Secretary, 220 Richmond Street West, Toronto.

All requests for life-membership certificates should be sent to Miss Bessie MacMurchy, 254 Sherbourne Street, Toronto, to be accompanied in every case by a receipt from the Treasurer of the Auxiliary into which the fee has been paid.

Letters containing remittances of money for the W.F.M.S. may be addressed to Miss Isabella L. George, Treasurer, 277 Jarvis Street, Toronto.

All correspondence relating to the business management of the FOREIGN MISSIONARY TIDINGS—all orders, remittances and changes of address—should be sent to Mrs. Telfer, 72 St. Albans Street, Toronto.

Notices of Presbyterial meetings intended for the FOREIGN MISSIONARY TIDINGS may be sent to the editor, Mrs. Geo. Hunter Robinson, 59½ Markham Street, Toronto.

# Foreign Missionary Tidings.

Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, Presbyterian Church  
in Canada.

(WESTERN DIVISION.)

VOL. II.

TORONTO, MAY, 1898.

No. 1.

## SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.

May.—Japan, Korea and Thibet.

“And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known; I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.”—Isaiah 42 : 16.

## HOME DEPARTMENT.

### INCREASE.

Presbyterial Society—		
Brandon and Portage la Prairie..	Oak Lake Auxiliary.	
“	“	“ Rapid City, Robertson Church Auxiliary.
“	“	“ Austin Auxiliary.
Huron.....	Clinton, Willis Church	Mission Band.
Ottawa.....	Ottawa, Bank Street Church	“Golden Links” Mission Band.
“ .....	Ottawa, Orphans' Home	“Paton” Mission Band.
Toronto.....	Toronto, Bloor Street Church	Young Women's Mission Band.
Owen Sound.....	Thornbury, Clarksburg Auxiliary.	
“Daisy” Mission Band, St. Andrew's Church, New Westminster.		

## FOREIGN MISSIONARY TIDINGS.

## LIFE MEMBERS.

Mrs. M. M. C. Rochester, McKay Auxiliary, Cowan Avenue,  
Parkdale.

Miss Stevens, Knox Church Auxiliary, Guelph.

In April "Tidings" Mrs. McCooie, Mount Forest, should read  
Mrs. McCooil.

## TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

## RECEIPTS.

1898.			\$17,356 95
March	1.	To balance from last month.....	1,584 54
"	1.	" Lindsay Presbyterian Society.....	1,381 40
"	4.	" Brockville Presbyterial Society.....	2,186 53
"	5.	" Guelph Presbyterial Society.....	5,663 80
"	7.	" Toronto Presbyterial Society.....	5 00
"	10.	" Mrs. J. L. Campbell, Chicoutimi, Que.....	1,596 27
"	10.	" Huron Presbyterial Society.....	1,542 28
"	10.	" Maitland Presbyterial Society.....	
"	15.	" Brandon and Portage la Prairie Presbyterial Society .....	1,204 51
"	16.	" Kingston Presbyterial Society.....	1,033 86
"	17.	" Chatham Presbyterial Society.....	1,303 92
"	19.	" Maple Grove Mission Band.....	7 00
"	21.	" Owen Sound Presbyterial Society.....	748 44
"	21.	" Winnipeg Presbyterial Society.....	1,001 38
"	22.	" Lethbridge Auxiliary, Alberta.....	46 00
"	22.	" Lethbridge Mission Band, Alberta.....	30 00
"	22.	" Lethbridge Chinese Class, Alberta.....	26 00
"	22.	" "In His Name," per Mrs. Telfer.....	1 00
"	22.	" Moosomin Auxiliary, Assinaboia.....	12 50
"	25.	" Moosomin Mission Band.....	7 50
"	25.	" "Friends of the Work," Drumbo.....	4 50
"	25.	" Glengarry Presbyterial Society.....	2,358 36
"	26.	" "Thank-offering," Member Bloor Street Church, Toronto.....	1 00
"	29.	" "Interest on "Sarah McClelland Waddell" Fund .....	42 75
			<hr/>
			\$39,145 50



EXPENDITURE.

enue,	March	I.	By	postage, Secretary for North-West.....	2	70
	"	I.	"	postage, Home Secretary.....	4	25
	"	I.	"	postage, Bibles from Upper Canada Tract Society .....	2	36
read	"	I.	"	postage, Corresponding Secretary.....	1	70
	"	22.	"	boots for children in Prince Albert School..	18	30
	"	30.	"	paid Dr. Warden "Sarah McClelland Wad- dell" interest.....	42	75
	"	30.	"	paid Dr. Warden balance due on 1896-7....	746	77
	"	30.	"	paid Dr. Warden interest due on 1896-7....	297	56
	"	30.	"	paid Dr. Warden balance due estimate 1897-8	22,755	25
	"	31.	"	balance on hand.....	15,273	95
						\$39,145 59

ISABELLA L. GEORGE, Treasurer.

PRESBYTERIAL MEETINGS.

Owen Sound.—The Executive Committee of the Owen Sound Presbyterial Society met on 28th February for the purpose of receiving their annual reports. The summary of the year's work, as shown by the Secretary's report, was very encouraging, showing that progress had been made in nearly every department. Three new Auxiliaries have been formed—one in August, which sends in a good report, also a liberal contribution; the other two have been formed since the New Year began. One Young People's Band has been organized, which is the outgrowth of an overflowing Mission Band. There are now twenty Auxiliaries and eight Mission Bands, all of whom speak of an earnest desire to become more familiar with the work done by our missionaries in foreign fields. The Missionary Tidings, as a source of information, cannot be too highly spoken of. Three hundred and twenty-four copies are now in circulation. Some Auxiliaries provide—out of their funds—extra copies for distribution, and find it an excellent plan to interest those who do not attend the regular meetings. Two life members have been added during the year. The report of the Secretary of Supplies gives a decided advance both in value and weight of the bale of goods. Goods to the weight of 1,100 pounds, valued at \$546.80, were shipped, which shows a growing interest in this branch of the work. Very few of the Auxiliaries failed to contribute, and special mention might be made of the valuable gifts prepared by every Mission Band. Though some societies have decreased their amount, others have increased, till the Treasurer's report shows an advance of nearly \$75. Besides this, lib-

7,356 95  
 1,584 54  
 1,381 40  
 2,186 53  
 5,663 80  
 5 00  
 1,596 27  
 1,542 28  
 1,204 51  
 1,033 86  
 1,303 92  
 7 00  
 748 44  
 1,001 38  
 46 00  
 30 00  
 26 00  
 1 00  
 12 50  
 7 50  
 4 50  
 2,358 36  
 1 00  
 42 75  
 \$39,145 59

## FOREIGN MISSIONARY TIDINGS.

eral contributions were sent to the "Memorial Fund." We enter on the work of a new year full of hope that with united consecrated efforts on the part of members more may be done; "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts."

S. C. MCGILL, Secretary.

Ottawa.—The eleventh annual meeting was held in Bank St. Church, Ottawa, on Tuesday, February 1st. The President, Mrs. Hay, presided at the morning and afternoon sessions, which were well attended. In the morning very interesting and encouraging reports were given from Auxiliaries and Mission Bands, and the election of officers took place. In the afternoon the reports of the Secretary, Treasurer, and Secretary of Supplies were presented. Two Auxiliaries and three Mission Bands have been organized during the year. We have now twenty-four Auxiliaries and eight Mission Bands connected with this society, with a membership of 618, an increase of sixty members. The Treasurer reported \$1,496.50 sent to the General Treasurer, an increase of \$73.60 over last year. The Secretary of Supplies reported 1,590 lbs. of clothing, valued at \$685.67, sent to Mr. Alex. Skene, Qu'Appelle. Two interesting papers were read, one on "Giving," by Miss Ross, and one on "Mission Band Work," by Mrs. Gardner. Before the close of the meeting a resolution was passed, moved by Mrs. Thorburn, and seconded by Mrs. Crannell, recording "a deep sense of the great loss sustained by the whole society in the death of our dearly beloved President, the late Mrs. Ewart." In the evening a public meeting was held in connection with the Presbytery of Ottawa, at which powerful and inspiring addresses were given by the Rev. Norman Russell, of India, and Dr. Robertson, Superintendent of Missions in the North-West. Dr. Moore also gave a very interesting address. The officers elected were: President, Mrs. Hay; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. M. H. Sinclair, Carp; Mrs. A. G. E. Robertson, Kenmore; Mrs. Bryant, Richmond; Miss Parker, Aylmer; Miss Beckett, Portage du Fort; Mrs. L. Crannell, Secretary of Supplies; Miss Gibson, Treasurer; Miss H. E. Durie, Secretary.

H. E. DURIE, Secretary.

## ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting, as has already been fully intimated, will take place in Bloor Street Church, Toronto, on May 3, 4 and 5. We those who cannot come remember us in earnest prayer that the meeting may be a time of great blessing, and that all may be done wisely.

and well, to the end that the Lord's Kingdom may be advanced both among ourselves and in far distant lands.

#### EWART MISSIONARY TRAINING HOME SUMMER PLANS.

The first session of the Home has just closed. Four students availed themselves of the opportunities there given. The results of the recent examinations have been such as to lead us to "thank God and take courage." What may be the further and richer results cannot now be set down; but, as much prayer has gone up to the God of heaven, it is only honouring to Him who heareth prayer to expect rich answers.

The new session will not commence till the reopening of Knox College, the first week of October next. The question has been asked, Would it not be possible to turn our Training Home to some good account during the long, beautiful summer months, when so many young Christians have weeks of time at their disposal, as they cannot have during any other portion of the year?

In answer to the above question, the following plan has been arranged to meet the case of a different class of students from those taking the regular course. It is proposed, during the months of May, June and July, to give sessions of one month each to those who desire a simple course of Bible and missionary study, and to engage in united prayer and effort to advance Christ's cause among the city poor. There would be no public lectures, only private class work under the direction of the Superintendent of the Home, Mrs. Anna Ross. The mornings would probably be left free for early exercise in the fresh air, and for quiet reading and preparing for the classes of the afternoon. From 2 to 3 p.m. would be spent in our Practical Bible Class, in which the special object is to search into the Word of God for those peculiar truths needed to set us in close contact with the sources of life and power, in order to abounding joy and peace, and efficient service. From 3 to 4 would be given to some carefully chosen missionary volume, affording a suggestive course suitable for Mission Band work. The evenings could be best arranged for at the time. Probably one afternoon in the week might be spent among the city poor in connection with the Mission Dispensary, and so access could be found into some of the more needy homes.

There are two classes of students who would find these short sessions helpful. Some, whose hearts are towards the foreign field, are yet not clear enough as to their personal call to offer for the complete training. A month spent thus, in close contact with the Word of God and missionary facts, might well be used to make the path very plain one way or the other. Then there are many others who do not feel that their work is actually in the foreign field, who yet have the heart to spend and be spent for the home side of the foreign

field—those who would gladly fit themselves more fully for Sabbath School teachers, or for leaders of Auxiliaries or Mission Bands. To such, a month spent as above explained might prove a valuable preparation for advance work in any of these lines.

If there is a response made to this suggestion, the experiment will be made. If there are any who would like to avail themselves of this opportunity they will kindly write on the subject as soon as convenient to Mrs. Anna Ross, 540 Church Street, Toronto, stating which month they would prefer. Accommodation is necessarily limited, and a little planning and correspondence may be required to arrange everything properly. If any should desire it, the first session of four weeks might begin immediately upon the close of the Annual Meeting.

The charge for board is three dollars per week. No other expenses need be incurred except laundry, travelling, and whatever missionary books might be taken up for study.

#### CLOSING EXERCISES OF THE EWART TRAINING HOME.

The closing exercises of the Training Home were held in Knox College on Friday, April 1, at 3 p.m. There was a large attendance of friends of the Home and of those who had been in attendance at the classes. Rev. Dr. MacLaren presided, and with him on the platform were Rev. Dr. Moore, Moderator of General Assembly and Convener of Foreign Missionary Committee, and Rev. Principal Caven. The professors of Knox College and other ministers who had held classes for the Training Home during the session, were also present. The meeting was opened with prayer by Dr. Moore, after which Dr. MacLaren gave a brief statement of the work done in the various departments, and read the results of the examinations. These were very gratifying. The four ladies who had resided in the Home and had taken the full course of study all passed successfully, the papers almost without exception being most creditable. In some cases as high as 96 and 98 per cent. had been reached. A number of ladies outside of the Home, who had attended lectures, also passed. All successful candidates received certificates of standing. Short congratulatory addresses were then given by Rev. Dr. Moore, Principal Caven, Rev. J. W. Rae, Rev. Alexander McMillan, Rev. Professor Robinson, Rev. Professor Ballantyne and Dr. P. H. Bryce, all of whom expressed their high appreciation of the work done, the lecturers with one accord stating that it had afforded them pleasure to be of service in delivering the various courses of lectures. Dr. MacLaren conveyed the sincere thanks of the committee to these gentlemen, and also to Miss Martha Smith, who had given lessons in elocution regularly throughout the term. A very happy meeting was brought to a close with the benediction, pronounced by Rev. D. MacGillivray, of Honan.

## FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

FIRST MISSIONARIES FROM THE CANADIAN CHURCH  
TO KOREA.

It will interest our readers who are this month studying Korea to know that the Eastern Division of our own Church have appointed two missionaries to that most promising field. These are Mr. Robert Grierson, M.D., and Mr. William Rufus Foote, whose ordination and designation will be held in May. Mr. D. McRae, a student of Pine Hill College, has also offered to go simply for travelling expenses, trusting to the students of the college for support, who offer \$600 for the first year. This would entail other expenses, and the committee is appealing to the Church.

Describing her visit at Phyong-yang, Korea, Mrs. Bishop writes that one afternoon four requests for Christian teaching came to the missionaries, each signed by from fifteen to forty men. At the evening meetings the room was crammed within and without by men, reverent and earnest in manner, some of whom had been shunned for their wickedness even in a city "the smoke of which" in her palmy days was said "to go up like the smoke of Sodom," but who, transformed by a power outside themselves, were then leading exemplary lives. One old man, with his forehead in the dust, prayed like a child that, as the letter bearing to New York an earnest request for more teachers was on its way, "the wind and sea might waft it favourably," and that when it was read the eyes of the foreigners (the American Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions) might be opened "to see the sore need of people in a land where no one knows anything, and where all believe in devils, and are dying in the dark."

As I looked upon those lighted faces, wearing an expression strongly contrasting with the dull, dazed look of apathy which is characteristic of the Korean, it was impossible not to recognize that it was the teaching of the apostolic doctrine of sin, judgment to come, and Divine love which had brought about such results.

## THIBET.

Thibet has so long been regarded as an inaccessible country, and the few Europeans who have succeeded in entering it have been subjected to such horrors of torture, that it is with astonishment that we learn that two missionaries of the Cumberland Presbyterian Board, who had been at a station within the Chinese territory, have, after

a most dangerous journey, passed the frontier and have been kindly received by the monks of a Buddhist monastery. This is an establishment of 3,500 members. A mission has already been established, and work begun, under the protection of the monks. Assuredly this is another wonderfully opened door.

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### Central India.

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Miss Jamieson writes: "The yearly box of supplies from Chalmers' Church, Quebec, was again gratefully received. To the friends there and to all who in any way rendered help, I tender thanks."

Dr. Margaret O'Hara sailed from Calcutta for Hong Kong on the 16th of March, and is expected to arrive at Vancouver about the 27th of April.

Mrs. Ledingham expected to leave India on the 3rd of March for New York, to get special treatment for her little daughter. We deeply sympathize with Mrs. Ledingham in the trial of taking such a journey alone and in her separation from her husband for some length of time. May she have the joy of seeing her little one speedily restored.

We are glad to report continued improvement in Dr. McKellar's health. It is hoped that she will be able to be with us at our annual meeting in May.

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Miss Calder, Mhow, writes:—The annual prize distribution was as interesting as usual, and the girls were delighted with their presents. The dolls were very nicely dressed, and those who spent so much time in preparing them would be, I am sure, amply repaid for all their trouble could they have seen the happy faces of the recipients.

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### THE WORK IN MHOW.

FROM MISS LEYDEN.

Mhow, C.I., Feb. 12, 1898.

It is now over a year since I came to India, and am pleased to say that I already feel myself quite at home with these strange people.

I have endeavoured from the beginning to take advantage of every opportunity of doing work for my blessed Master. Before I knew anything of the Hindi language I taught in the English Sabbath



school and other English meetings, but as soon as I knew a little Hindi I gave up the English work and have for months been attending and working in the native Sabbath school. Of course, the most of my time and thought have been on the study of the language. It has been hard work, but enjoyable, all the more so when we see how important a good knowledge of the language is. We go up to Nusserabad for our examination on the 23rd inst., and trust we shall all be successful. I shall be so happy to get right into solid work, and feel that I am, in the strength of God, doing a little to advance His glorious Kingdom in this dark land; and also to relieve Miss Calder, who has so willingly and cheerfully carried on this work, along with her own, during this year.

Now, let me tell you of an interesting little work I have been engaged in most of this year. Last April a girl came to school in a pitiful condition. She told us her husband had brought another girl home, and after beating her (his wife) he drove her out, saying that this other girl was now his wife. She wandered around for three days and nights without being able to find a friend, at last followed us to school and pleaded with us to take her. I shall never forget the poor, sad, hungry-looking girl. We took her home with us and gave her food, and she then became my own peculiar care. I kept her beside me until June, when I decided to put her in Mrs. Johory's Home, Indore. She is there learning how to read, write, sew and do other useful work; but, better than all, she is learning of Jesus and His love. It is my daily prayer that she will soon come out boldly and acknowledge Christ as her own, loving, personal Saviour.

It is really wonderful what a difference the knowledge of the Gospel and coming in contact with God's people makes on these poor creatures. It is true, there is much, very much, to disappoint the faithful missionaries in the lives of even the very best converts. Their old life does show up at times, and they, like ourselves, are very far from perfect; but yet, when we begin to make comparison between them and the heathen around us, we cannot help but exclaim, "Oh, the wonderful work of redeeming grace!" Let me refer to one case, and that is the old woman Miss Calder has under her care. I mention her as she has been daily in and out of our house ever since I came here, and so I have been in a better position to study her life than any other. Think of her, born, brought up and grown old, and never once heard of the love of Christ. Three short years ago she and her two sons were providentially led to find a friend in Miss Calder. The two boys are attending school, and will, from all appearance, make useful, godly men. The old woman (I feel certain) is a true, trustful Christian. This is only one of many such cases, and I feel sure that in that day when the Lord shall make up His jewels there will be many bright, sparkling ones to adorn our blessed Saviour's crown from dark, degraded India.



After one year spent in India, I can gladly assure all the dear Woman's Foreign Missionary Society workers in Canada that their time, money and prayers, and the time and strength of their representatives, are not being wasted, but that daily much good seed is being sown, which must and shall spring up and bear much fruit.

Regarding the school work in and around Mhow, I am glad to say it has been carried on very successfully this year. Miss Calder, who is blessed with a wonderful amount of strength, and this, together with a perfect love for the natives and the work, has been able to keep the schools in a good condition.

The work in the zenanas is every day increasing. So many now wish us to visit them; but alas! the time cannot be found. I consider the zenana work most important, for if we reach the mothers with the Gospel, who can tell what grand work that mother's influence is sure to have on her children. We are praying and trusting that soon you will be in a position to send more workers to this needy field.

We received the mission boxes about Christmas time. I am sure you would all have felt that your labour was not in vain had you seen the bright, happy, joyful faces of these little dark children as they received their presents. The most of the children love the dolls so much; but their joy in many cases is short-lived, as their parents, being very poor, send them back with a request for cloth.

I am glad to say that our home life has been exceedingly happy. I shall never forget Miss Calder's kindness to me during my trying illness. My own dear mother would have found it hard to do more than she did. For this and all the way I have been led and protected this year, I thank God. I trust, if I am spared to welcome a new missionary to Mhow, I shall be able to make her life as bright and happy as mine has been during my first year in India.

Dr. and Mrs. Smith and children are all well. How sad that Mrs. Ledingham has to go to New York with her baby.

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### GIFTS ACKNOWLEDGED.

FROM MISS SINCLAIR.

Indore, Feb. 25, 1898.

I hope others have been more prompt than I in acknowledging the receipt of the mission boxes. But my dilatoriness is not due to any lack of appreciation of my share of the useful things, for I was delighted with what was sent to me. There was so much more cloth than I had expected, all of which will be very useful. I am trying more and more to get the Christian parents to provide clothes for their children as far as they are able, but there are always some—in fact a majority in the school—who have to be supplied by me.

We all agreed in thinking that the dolls this year were specially pretty. I showed some of them to the famine orphans. How their eyes sparkled! I was tempted to make each child the happy possessor of one, but as we had just got over the excitement of a first Christmas I decided to wait a while, and reserve the dolls till the closing of school for the hot season holidays. Then the orphans will have them to play with during the holidays.

There were a number of note books in my box, and I want to say a special "Thank you" for them. They were the very thing that we seemed most to need just at the time in school, and the more advanced girls have now very neat notes on grammar, geography, Euclid, etc. Miss Thomson gave us some of her's, too, so that each girl in the Bible class might take notes on the Sunday school lessons. There were also two writing desks, some lead pencils and pen-holders—all acceptable and useful.

My personal thanks are due to the friend who sent the tack-down. It has been in use ever since it came. We cannot be too grateful to the kind friends at home who think of and plan for our comfort.

We have had an unusually long and steady cold season, but the heat will be here before this reaches Canada. Even with the memory of ears frozen when going to the Kingston Presbyterial meeting two years ago, it is difficult to realize that March is such a cold month at home.

Work goes on as usual. The orphans are quite at home now, and are very happy. Several of them will soon be able to read, and I have promised each girl a Testament as soon as she becomes able to use it. After school I asked one of them—a very bright girl—what she had learned to-day, and after telling me she quickly added, with beaming face, "I shall soon be ready for a Testament." I said, "Wouldn't you rather have a hymn book?" (they are all singers), and she said, "I'll take God's Word, if you please." I wish I could tell you what a change these few months have made in these children. Surely there can be no work more encouraging or more productive of good and lasting results than work among children. God's seed sown in their hearts must bring forth God's harvest. Will not the Mission Band children at home pray for these children, that they may be truly the Lord's, growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ?

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Feb. 23.—I was delighted with my share of the mission box. The cloth will be used as you directed for the boarding school girls. We shall make it up in the school, so there will be no extra cost. I am not going to the hills this hot season, so have decided to get the most of the year's sewing done in the holidays. Now there are so many

## FOREIGN MISSIONARY TIDINGS.

orphans, who will know no other home, and it is much better that they should be employed a good part of the day than running about playing. While in the full swing of regular work we can have only one hour's sewing a day, and that does not make it possible to overtake the extras. The orphans have only had two suits (two skirts and two jackets) of coarse red cloth since they came. They are looking decidedly shabby, and, now that they go regularly to church, they need an extra suit. So I hope we shall make up about 100 skirts and 100 jackets during the six weeks' holidays. Not exactly holidays, you see.

The work is going on nicely. The matron is a very great help to me; and while I teach six hours a day, and do many other things beside, yet I do not feel at all overworked. She saves me so much worry over little things, but yet important enough to demand attention.

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 EXTRACT FROM MISS GRIER'S LETTER.

On Monday night we said good-bye to Miss O'Hara, and last night to Mrs. Ledingham, though both ladies expect to return again before very long. We are all so sorry to hear of Miss McKellar's illness, and do trust it may not prove so serious as to prevent her return to India.

This is the week of the Hindu festival, the Holi, and all our work is closed. None of the women or children will venture into the streets while this festival lasts, nor is it very safe for us to go into the city, as red paint might be thrown on us or nasty things be said.

Our long cold season is at last over, and the warm weather signs are all here, but this year we cannot complain about the hot weather, as we have had such a fine, long, cold season, which should have braced us up in order to face the heat.

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 Honan.

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 LOOKING FORWARD HOPEFULLY.

FROM MISS MARGARET M'INTOSH.

Ch'u-wang, Honan, Jan. 17, 1898.

We have no one now to act as Bible-woman, so I must depend upon the women here who are on probation, and also upon the little, old lady who was baptized last year for company when visiting; and,

on the whole, I think that it is good for them, for it helps to make them more courageous, and shows what kind of material they are made of.

The feeling in the town certainly is improving, for I can go out on the streets now without attracting much attention. Only once last year did I have a great following, and that was in a part of the town I had never been in before. Some six or seven women, who had often been here before, but never to attend meetings, have begun coming on Sabbath afternoons since the beginning of the year, and we hope they will continue to come.

The prospects just now are bright, and I trust that by more earnest, patient, prayerful work we will be able to present a much better report next year. "According to your faith, so be it unto you."

We are all enjoying the best of health at this station, for which we are thankful. We were so glad to welcome Mr. MacKenzie back again, and trust that before the autumn comes Mrs. MacKenzie and Douglas may join him. We were delighted to learn by last mail that Dr. Malcolm was convalescent.

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### STATION CLASS FOR WOMEN.

FROM MISS PYKE.

Chang-te Fu, Honan, China, Dec. 9, 1897.

After my pleasant visit at Hsin-chen, the accompanying trip with Dr. and Mrs. Malcolm to the coast, and the return to the interior with the incoming party from Pei-ta-hoa, I reached Chang-te on the evening of October 9th, having been absent about ten weeks. Although very tired after the day's cart ride from Ch'u-wang, I enjoyed so much our family re-union at tea in the new residence of Mr. and Mrs. Goforth.

The following busy days and weeks quickly passed, and the time arrived for the second semi-annual station class for women.

Mrs. Yang, of Moa-Liang-Tien, and Mrs. Wang were sent to visit the homes of those interested, and invite them to attend the class. In a few days we gladly received thirteen dear women whose hearts have been touched by God's Holy Spirit, and who have already in some of their near and remote villages been witnessing for Christ.

It meant much to some of them to come here, while bitterly opposed and persecuted in their own home because they have ceased to bow to the gods of their ancestors, and delight in serving a risen Lord. This gathering in of the few we firmly believe to be a stimulus to each member, but far above human aid or sympathy their faces

gave evidence of the joy unspeakable as they from day to day better understood and memorized some precious and helpful promises from the Word of God.

Each day we held our usual morning service at 8 o'clock; then Mrs. Goforth gave a course of teaching on the parables. Later, after the women had breakfasted, we began our daily, constant drill. Mrs. Yang and Mrs. Wang gave much assistance, and apparently were untiring in their efforts, which is saying a great deal, considering the utmost patience and perseverance required in teaching those who never before had concentrated the mind to the extent of committing to memory or calling by name their curiously shaped characters. Several of the mothers hour after hour plodded on, constantly interrupted by a little one in the arms or another wee tot by the side, affording us good examples of faithfulness and earnestness. Again, before separating for dinner all assembled from the three teaching centres, and special attention was given in the teaching of the hymns. Each afternoon work was continued in the same way, with the exception of a special Bible class for the more advanced women, taught by Mrs. Goforth. A prayer meeting was held each evening in their rooms before they retired. The work was most enjoyable, and during their stay with us they were able to attend the Sabbath services and witness the sacraments of baptism and Lord's Supper.

Mrs. Menzies and I are still busy with the language. Just one year ago to-day we began house-keeping in this (my own) little abode. To-day we had arranged to visit our Christian friends in Moa-Liang-Tien, but were prevented by unfavourable weather. These friends there, to whom I referred in a previous letter, are ever earnest, and it is a real delight to be with them. Two of the little girls from there have, when possible, attended the girls' class, which I have on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons. This work with the girls is most interesting, particularly so as I have found pleasure in mingling with the boys and girls in the class-rooms at home. At four o'clock each day the boys from the school make merry in the yard, and fine little fellows they are. In addition to their regular school work, Dr. and Mrs. Menzies devote one evening a week in their homes teaching them to sing. This is not only to them a great help, but assists greatly in the chapel worship singing. They are now using their knowledge of hymns and tunes thus acquired in teaching on certain nights the members of the men's station class now being held.

Our friends have not yet arrived from the coast, according to the tidings of to-day's mails. However, as Presbytery is soon to be held here, we shall have the pleasure of welcoming them personally as co-workers in the Lord's needy work in Honan.

Another year is rapidly drawing to its close, and my heart is filled with praise to God for all His numerous blessings. I pray that during



the coming year I may live more and more unto the glory and praise of God among our dear sisters, who are groping in the intense darkness of heathendom.

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## North-West Indians

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### THE DEATH OF A HERO.

The life and work of one of our Lord's dear lambs as recorded in "Progress" will be a stimulus, we trust, to the members of our Bands. All cannot do just as Birrell did, but all may find a way of working for Christ if their lives are consecrated to His service.

"It is our sad duty to record the death of a dear friend of the school in the person of William Birrell Gillespie, who passed away on Tuesday morning at the age of twelve years and three months. Although an invalid for nearly ten years, it was only for these last few years that he was confined to the house, and for two years or more to his couch. It is now over two years since he has been able to sit up. Although unable to use his feet, still he seemed to have all the more power in his little hands—those hands which were never idle through the day, and often did he work till late at night when not tortured with pain.

"It has been little Birrell's great delight to work for missions. For three years he made many pieces of fancy work, and held a little bazaar each spring. Two years ago when told by those friends waiting on the fancy table for him that the sum now reached over thirty dollars, the child was wild with delight, so pleased to think he could do so much to further on Christ's kingdom. Last year when he spoke to his friends of being nearly ready for another sale he said, "I do hope we will make as much this year." As his work was even more beautiful than the year before, one felt there was no doubt but that the sum wished for would be realized. The day of the sale came—a delightful, bright day. Everything seemed to be in Birrell's favour; articles were arranged and everything got ready. So many ladies waited on the fancy work tables, and so many young girl friends helped with the cups of tea and cake, poor Birrell watching all the proceedings from his couch. How often did he turn to his friend sitting by him and say, "There's another one gone," or "Another article gone." He was able to take in everything although unable to move from his couch. After the busy day was over, how delighted he was to find that not only had he made the \$30 for another year's support of his New Hebrides missionary, but he had \$30 over. This he gave to his treasurer, and asked that \$5 should be sent to missions in South America, in Korea and in India. He wished \$15 to go to

Great China. His \$60 was all sent away, and one of Birrell's greatest pleasures consisted in receiving letters from the different missions in which he had an interest.

"About six weeks ago he began work again, and often spoke about what he was going to have for his sale this year. He worked away till after ten o'clock at night on January 26th, having nearly finished his sixth doylie for his sale. On the 27th he was feeling too sick to work, so his work was laid away, never to be finished by him, but he asked his mother to finish it for him. His death was as calm and peaceful as that of an infant going to sleep. He said he felt he was safe in the arms of Jesus.

"Birrell's example will be felt far and near. Even while with us he has been the means of having more than one Mission Band organized, and now his young friends who have helped at his sales other years express the wish to join with his mother and meet as a Mission Band to finish the work he began.  
Regina, Feb. 15th.

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FROM MISS M'LEOD.

Birtle, Jan. 3, 1898.

The children were home for New Year's, all but ten. We expect them all back to-day, and I am so glad it is such a mild, fine day—just a rare day for Manitoba. When the Indians come to-day they will stay all night, so we are going to have an entertainment for them. A friend of Mr. Small's, who teaches in the country, has a graphophone, and he has promised to bring it in to-night, and I expect they will be astonished. We will give them refreshments, and try to give them a good time. The children had a happy Christmas. You would laugh to see the forty stockings hanging up, and to see them examining them in the morning. Our member, Mr. Mickle, sent them such a fine box of toys, books and things from Winnipeg, and with what we had we were able to make them all happy.

We have three dear little girls since you were here—little Jean Harvey, whose mother died, Lucy Thunder, and Elsie Jacob's little sister. They are all motherless little things, and we all love them. I did not go home this winter, as I expected. It is so hard to get away in the winter. Nellie Bemer keeps poorly, and poor Sarah scalded her foot. It takes a long time to heal, so it seemed impossible to leave although I was sorry to disappoint them at home. I take the girls down to the rink once or twice a week, and they do enjoy the skating. Rose has been working out in the country for a month. She got home for Christmas and New Year's, and will be back to stay in a week. I always have my hands more than full when



Rosie is out, she is so thoughtful and good and kind with the little ones.

Mr. Small, Miss McLaren and myself are all very well. Hugh keeps well, too, and does his work very faithfully. He is a good boy. Mr. Small let him spend New Year's with his friends, so he will be back to-day with the children.

We miss Mr. Frew very much. He was always so good to the children—always gave them a Christmas treat of some kind. I hope we will soon get a minister, but there does not seem to be any prospect as yet.

I often think of the prayers that I know go up for us, and it helps us to try and do our part and leave the results with God.

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FROM MRS. M'KENZIE.

Hurricane Hills, Wolseley, N.W.T., Jan. 10, 1898.

I take pleasure in letting you know some things in connection with our work here during the past month. Three quilts have been finished—five women taking part. To-day Mrs. Crooked Arm was here seeing if she, too, might make one. Our reply being in the affirmative, she is to be here with her daughter to-morrow to commence work. We were much pleased to see them take evident pride in quilting. Now that they know better the intrinsic value of a quilt, they can appreciate more fully the gifts of Ontario friends.

We held a social in our hall on the evening of December 24. Forty-three Indians had invitations, and all these except two were present. Two came without invitations, so we had the full complement. Rev. Mr. McKechnie and Mrs. McKechnie came from Wolseley to make merry with us, and Mr. and Mrs. Aspindin and their three daughters were also of the company. Our programme was a varied one. At 2 p.m. tea was served, with salmon sandwiches, cookies, pies and plum pudding as eatables. Thereafter entertainment for the higher man followed, consisting of short, pointed addresses by the gentlemen friends and music by the ladies. Then came the unveiling of a Christmas tree and the distribution of its fruit. Not a little laughter was occasioned by the chief and his wife both getting beautiful dolls. At the close the chief made a short but eloquent speech, expressive of gratitude for the good things they had received. The singing of the Doxology—Praise God, etc.—in "Sank" and the benediction, pronounced by Mr. McKechnie, brought a most enjoyable and harmonious meeting to a close about 5 p.m.

Our friends from Wolseley were not a little struck with the robust frames and intelligent faces of many of the young men. Indeed, our people look anything but a "dying race." Influenza is prevalent just now, but there are no serious cases. Major McGibbon, the Inspector,

was here last week, and visited every family. There is a good deal of over-crowding in the tepees, which must be hurtful to health and morals, but on the whole we have a hopeful lot of people to deal with.

Mr. McKenzie's class keeps up, and the progress they are making is most satisfactory. One was able to-day to answer a letter, shortly, to a brother in Regina. Everything considered, for the short time we have been here we feel we have good reason to "thank God and take courage," "for greater is He who is for us than all who can be against us."

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FROM MISS CUMMING.

Industrial School, Regina, Jan. 8, 1898.

We have had considerable sickness here. First measles, followed by German measles, kept us busy: but now these are all past, and the children for the most part are enjoying good health and seem in excellent spirits. We are always so thankful for the blessing of health. It means so much to us. Besides the extra work sickness always brings, we cannot forget that off in Indian homes are fathers and mothers who have entrusted their children to our care, and are looking to us for the welfare of their loved ones, and sometimes it is so hard for them to understand that the best is being done for them. But it has its bright side, too. Not long ago it was thought better for one of our boys to go home for awhile. He was troubled with hemorrhages of the lungs, and when he became a little better his father came for him and took him home. He was home nearly two months when he wrote Mr. McLeod asking to come back, saying he was stronger, but he thought he would get better treatment at the school. Robert Badger is looking much stronger now than he has for a long time. It did him good to be ill, in more ways than one. Our out pupils are all back now, with the exception of Hugh McKay at Birtle, and all have settled down to work, preparatory to leaving in April.

There are ten girls and twenty boys who expect to leave us then, to make their own way in the world. We shall miss them indeed. They are all so big—young men and young women now. We hope much from them, and pray that God, through grace Divine, will enable them to lead good and useful lives wherever their lot may be cast.

I cannot close without expressing my thanks and appreciation to the many kind friends who supplied us so liberally with clothing this year. I know Mr. McLeod has thanked you, and, though my thanks are late, they are no less sincere. The nice rag carpet I was so glad

to get. It has covered two rooms—Mr. Stewart's and Miss Duns-  
more's, our new teacher, who came Tuesday.

Christmas and New Year's passed off very pleasantly. The chil-  
dren were delighted with the number of good things Santa Claus  
brought them.

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FROM MR. ALEXANDER SKENE.

File Hills, Jan. 17, 1898.

Our boys are all back with us, and I think enjoy the home life  
the better from their summer's outing. The winter started quite  
severe, but the past few weeks have been very pleasant—mild and  
bright. Our children are all in good health, and spend a great part  
of their time coasting and skating, and when too cold for these, or  
they desire a change, they take the football. Of course it is not all  
play, as you will know when I tell you that we are alone this winter,  
and it is only by all lending a willing hand that we manage to get  
along.

At 6 a.m. we begin the day's work: Bertie puts on the fire in the  
dining-room, then he and Fred go to the stable, feed the cows and  
horses, and also drive the horses to water at a lake about three-  
quarters of a mile away; Ben and Ernest clean the stables and draw  
the manure out and spread it on our potato patch; Stanley puts on  
the fire in the kitchen, and he and Willie milk the cows; Peter puts  
on the fire in the school-room and sweeps the floor; Sam attends  
to the water (our supply is got principally by melting snow); Roy  
looks after the smaller boys, and sees that they are washed ready  
for breakfast; Eleanor, with the help of Fanny and Winnie, prepares  
the breakfast, while Rubv helps the little girls to dress and wash, to  
be ready for breakfast. After breakfast the boys have beds to make,  
wood to cut and pile near the stoves, hens to feed and water, water  
to get, etc., while the girls have beds to make, sweeping and dusting,  
dishes to wash, preparations for dinner, and other chores. During  
the noon hour dinners are put upon the table, dishes washed and  
floors swept, cattle watered and fed: and after school wood is brought  
for stoves, water is put into the barrels, potatoes peeled for next day,  
cattle and horses attended to, etc. This does not include the washing  
and ironing, the making and mending, to say nothing of the baking,  
required for our household of twenty-two. However, we are well,  
and that is such a relief. Mrs. Skene is fairly well, but her eyes still  
trouble her, especially if she reads or sews after night. Fanny is  
better this winter than usual—though her eyes are not sore, yet she  
is quite short-sighted, scarcely being able to read her work from the  
blackboard at any distance away.

## FOREIGN MISSIONARY TIDINGS.

## GOODS ACKNOWLEDGED.

FROM REV. HUGH M'KAY.

Round Lake, Whitewood, Assa., Feb. 17, 1898.

Your kind letter of January 17 has come to hand. We have also received the goods sent. We were so much pleased receiving the additional supply. We would like to send our thanks to the Bethel Union Sabbath School, Fisherville. to the Scotch Ridge, to Salt Springs, and to other kind friends who came to our assistance in a time of need. Mrs. McKay was delighted when she found so many made up little garments.

The material sent for pants is now being made up. The boots are very nice and in good time. The quilts make the little ones more comfortable in their little beds. The socks and mitts and all the articles contained in the bale and boxes are useful.

We have thirty-eight scholars at present, and there are others who would like to come. A. D. McKay is well and enjoying his work in the school-room. Several of our Indians are sick at present, and will not likely recover.

Again I thank you and all the kind hearts who have been assisting us in our work.

## THE INDIANS AT HOME.

FROM MISS M'LAREN.

Birtle, Feb. 21, 1898.

Hugh and I were up at the Reserve this week, and I must write you while the visit is fresh in my mind. I do enjoy a day or two with the Indians, or longer if I could only take the time. They all appear so genuinely glad to see you, and after all there is a fascination about their way of living, in summer time their tents, and in winter time the open fire, and everybody sitting around apparently quite free from care or worry. We left on Tuesday. It was rather colder than the day you drove up. I had two fur coats on. We rested a while at that farmhouse so near the trail, and so were able to make several calls before putting up for the night. We first called on the old chief and then took the houses as they came—our own Indians and Roman Catholics alike. All were delighted to see us. Hugh is a capital interpreter. He is interested, and that is everything. At one house, "Townbits," we found all the members of the family outside helping to unload a jag of hay. After talking a while, I said, "We will drive on now," but Hugh said, "There is one old woman inside; won't you come in?" and I noticed when we went in he

gave her a few pounds of flour. Her gratitude was touching. He looks at these poor old creatures so pityingly. It must do them good to see him, even if he does not help them otherwise.

At one house the man asked me if I could send up a minister to hold a service at the chief's house, as he wished to have his baby baptized. The baby was then strapped in its cradle, and though less than a week old, just standing up against the wall. On reaching the chief's house I spoke to him about it, and when Hugh was explaining what was wanted, and the nature of the service, the chief's wife said, "I think soon I ask to be baptized, too." May the day soon

Night coming on, the horses' heads were turned towards the best stable on the Reserve, and here we put up. For a while, it was all hurry and haste, melting snow for us to make our tea and doing everything in their power to make us comfortable. Several dropped in in the course of the evening, and how they did talk. Once, when laughing very heartily at a story one man was telling, Hugh explained that he was telling them about once he had asked Schooltime about the shape of the earth, and then could not understand why we did not all fall off. It was getting late, and one by one they slipped out as silently as they had come in. After looking about, Hugh got a broom and swept the floor, brought in the robes and quilts, and made a bed for me on the floor. As there were three women, two men and two children in that small room, he went to the next house and I slept perhaps not quite so soundly as I would at home. To our great disappointment the morning brought a storm. We scarcely knew what to do, but started out and made some calls. We did not follow the old summer trails, but crossed lakes, dashed through scrub and snow banks up to the horses' backs. There is a slow but sure improvement noticeable in every house. Poor old Long Claws was not in the house in which you called, but over with his son. He has been ill, but we found him bright and cheery and very grateful for the kindness he had received. The storm grew worse, and we did not venture to Mr. Black's side of the Reserve. I was very sorry to have to miss any, but we only overtook thirteen calls. We crossed the lake to Manitou-winga (that new house we noticed), and I wish you could have been with us that day. The house was as neat and clean and bright almost as it could be. Fires burned in both the kitchen and front room stoves, white curtains at all the windows, the walls nearly covered with pictures. You go into very few Indian homes now in the winter which are not brightened with a picture roll.

I would like to acknowledge, through the Tidings, the gift of a door-bell from the Mission Band of St. Stephen's Church, Winnipeg, also a very handsome donation of Christmas presents for the children from our member, Hon. C. J. Mickle, M.P.P. There was a present for every child, Ballantyne's books for the larger ones, kid



dolls and paper dolls, kindergarten work, paint boxes, drawing slates, picture books, everything imaginable, and all beautiful and useful. Some of them are too dainty for common, every-day use, but the others come out all times and seasons and help to pass many an hour.

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**"SICK AND YE VISITED ME."**

FROM REV. HUGH M'KAY.

Round Lake, Whitewood P.O., Assa., March 9, 1898.

The additional boxes of clothing have come to hand. I enclose receipts, signed. The things sent are suitable and we shall be able to keep our scholars well clothed now.

I fear you will not be able to get much that is interesting in my letter for Missionary Tidings. We are having beautiful weather now. The cattle are out grazing upon the hills. All at the school are well. Those visitors from the Reserve called to see us often this winter. They come to see their children and they like to stay awhile.

Yesterday I had service at Chief Kewistahaw's and Kennies', and in the evening at Round Lake. Had a drive of forty miles. After the first service I called to see some sick people. One old man said, "I prayed to God this morning to put it into your heart to come to see me, and now I am so glad that He answered my prayer. Saw one poor fellow about gone with consumption. What a sad sight. He could not speak above a whisper. During the past three days he did not eat. His wife said they had nothing in the house to eat except a little flour. I lingered long at his bedside, feeling that this was our last meeting in this world, and that he would soon stand in the presence of the King. "Will you trust Him, will you take the hand of a living Saviour, who is waiting to lead you into a beautiful home, where there is no sickness, no pain, no tears? What shall I tell your daughter, who is with us at school, and who prays for you, and who longs to know that you love her Saviour?" I waited for a reply, and after a long pause he said, "Tell my daughter that I am glad she is being taught in these good things, and tell her that I love her God."

At the next house I found four persons, an old man and his wife, and an old, helpless woman and a little girl, aged four. All were ill, the little girl lying upon a pillow on the floor. I stooped down beside the little one. "Do you know me?" I asked. There was a little smile at one corner of the little lip, and she whispered, "Mc-Kay." Shall not the Great Shepherd gather the lambs? The poor old people and the little one, all sick, and they said they had nothing to eat.

At the next house I found two sick people, and they are very poor. We then drove to our next appointment, and then home by the White-

wood road. Late in the evening I was called to visit another home in which there is sickness—the mother and child ill. In this home, which is a Christian home, we administered the ordinance of baptism. We are all well at the school. Mrs. McKay joins me in kind greetings.

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### CHRISTMAS TREE AT MOOSE MOUNTAIN.

FROM MRS. DODDS.

Moose Mountain, Feb. 4, 1898.

Mr. Dodds started this morning for the West Reserves, a distance of thirty-five miles, and purposes remaining three days. Circumstances prevented me accompanying him this time, so we'll have a talk about our work here.

Yes, the mission house is completed, and is warm and comfortable. There are three rooms upstairs and one very small clothes closet, the view from any of these rooms being very beautiful. Downstairs there are three rooms and a small shed. The front door opens into the sitting-room unfortunately. There is a nice dining-room, with two windows, the one in front looking out on a pretty lake, the one in the east toward the Agency buildings. It is divided from the sitting-room by curtains, and the stairs go up from this room. The kitchen, though small, is quite large enough for us, now that our Indians have a room for themselves. We have a good cellar, nicely boarded inside, and nothing has frozen in it this winter. We go from the kitchen, through the little woodshed, to the Indians' own room, the brightest of all. It has two windows, and the walls all covered with bright pictures and ornaments. A blackboard, too, which is made use of every day. Several of our young Indians read and write in the syllabic characters. They are always willing to write on the board any verse selected from the Bible in these characters. Others come in and read it, often aloud, and in that way even those who cannot read for themselves hear it in their own language. They come in at all hours, and those who can, read the Bible very attentively.

The chief's youngest son asked the missionary how much he would take for the New Testament. It could not be given to him, as we have but one copy and one of the Old Testament and New combined. On hearing this, Major McGibbon kindly offered to supply one or two more. The smaller Indian boys write our alphabet and figures on the board; one can count up to one hundred. We have been supplied with many scrap-books, with pretty pictures. Young and old enjoy looking at these. The little lads like to spin tops where they have a smooth floor. They whip the tops with a little whip made with a



stick and selvages of cloth tied on it. This seems to be their chief amusement, and it never seems to annoy the older ones.

On the 21st of January there was a Christmas tree for the children in the mission room. It was loaded with cards, candy bags, beads, rattle-boxes, and very many other little things, which when distributed were enjoyed by the children, and the enjoyment was shared by the fathers and mothers of the little ones. Among those who were present were Major McGibbon, H. R. Halpen, I.A., Miss Morrison and all her pupils, of Cannington Manor School, who are actively interested in the mission, and to whom we were indebted for much of the fruit of the tree. The candy was supplied by the "Bickell" Mission Band, Mount Forest. There were two boxes, one from "Ruby," and the other box had the name blotted out, but it certainly is written where it shall be remembered.

We were quite touched as we opened the bales by the labour of love shown in each and by the words of encouragement to the missionary, which accompanied some. We have long been connected with the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, but never realized as we do now the extent of the work done by our Society. All the aged and sick have been recipients of the quilts and other things provided by the Saugeen Presbyterial. We have been thankful to Mr. McLeod, of Regina, for his timely advice not to distribute all the goods at once, but to keep a stock on hand. Two families were burned out, escaping only with their night attire, and the missionary had the necessaries to supply them again. These two families lived in one house. One of their little girls set fire to her clothes outside of the new house which had been built in place of the one that was burned. She was so badly burned that she died, and because she drew her last breath in this new house both families deserted it. John, or rather Jack, has been suffering dreadfully with an abscess in his head. It has burst, and he will soon be able to be out again. We were glad to have a warm hood and scarf to send him yesterday.

While visiting the homes last Sabbath we found the chief's son (Alick) had moved into his father's more commodious dwelling, with a very sick child. Alick had never allowed the missionary to read the Bible to him. He read to the chief, and later to three other young men in another corner, but Alick paid no attention. He was not ill-natured at all, and took the little things provided for the sick child. It died on the Monday night following, and was buried (as their custom is) early next morning. The missionary and family followed to the grave. It was very cold, but all the women sat on the snow and mourned. The father and mother felt badly, indeed. It was their only child. They were all invited into the mission house and served with much-needed refreshments and a cup of warm tea. Alick and his wife were taken into a private room, and, to our surprise, he asked the missionary to read the Bible to them. Cor. 15 : 20-58 was

read, in Indian, and he said, "That makes me feel better." Our hearts went out in gratitude to God. The next morning they visited the grave of the child and came into the mission house, uninvited this time, and were pleased to listen again to the Word.

According to your instructions, Mrs. Jeffrey, the missionary was trying to get some work out of an able-bodied man for a suit of clothes. Bob said, "If you'll give me a suit I'll get all the Indians to come to church"; but his terms were not accepted. Then he said, "I'll bring a squaw, and be married like a white man," and still the missionary remained firm. He said, "I'll be baptized"; but on finding all his offers of no avail he went to work. We hope to see him coming to be baptized from the proper motive.

Mr. Dodds has kept an account of value received on goods. The supply last year was very liberal, and well assorted, for which we are very thankful to the Saugeen Presbyterial. It would be well to bear in mind that the clothing should be very loose. They ask very often for thread, and sometimes for combs, for which we are truly grateful.

We thank the Board in Toronto for the grant made for the new room, and hope with you it may prove the birthplace of many souls. Our Indians do not turn out for service. Mr. Dodds goes to them each Sabbath afternoon and reads to them. We have Sunday school every morning. Some come irregularly, but white children come regularly.

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## British Columbia.

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### WORK IN SCHOOL.

FROM MISS ARMSTRONG.

Ucluclet, B.C., Feb. 15, 1898.

Your letter of 10th December reached me by this mail. I wonder if you can imagine how long the time seems and how anxiously we watch for the steamer when mail day draws near. During the winter months we get letters twice in the month as a rule; but last month our mail steamer was sent off to the Klondyke district, and we did not see her for twenty-eight days. Of course we never know what is happening outside our little world here, and so keep watching and waiting, hourly expecting the steamer, when she is perhaps hundreds of miles in another direction.

We see very little of the men in summer; they are on the sea almost nine months of the year. They are out now, and as we are

having very heavy storms, the poor wives look very anxious. Two of my school-boys went this year for the first time. They are only ten years old. I was loath to see them go, but as their fathers were going along, too, and the boys themselves were so eager to see all about seal-hunting, I could not say very much against it, except on account of their youth. But it is quite in order for boys so young to go seal-hunting, and as that is to be their life business they may as well begin early.

I have had a number of the young men attending school during the autumn and winter. They are very bright fellows, and made very good progress in reading, writing and arithmetic. They are now out on the sea, but intend coming to school when they return. The attendance at school this year is very good—not large, but regular. Three of the school children died since last May. Two are on the sea, so that my enrollment is five short of this time last year. The children are making wonderful progress in their school work. Two are reading in the second reader, and can write very fair composition exercises. Ten read in the second Primer, and are able to add, subtract and multiply quite quickly. The others are all quite forward in their classes. They all learn hymns in both English and the native very quickly, and sing them quite well. Our Sunday school is carried on in Chinook and the native. Old and young attend, and seem to enjoy it very much.

Septice has been of very great help to us. I do not know that I can tell how helpful he has been, and how quickly he has grown in Christian experience. It is simply wonderful how he has been enabled to hold fast to his profession and to show by life and conversation the new life that is in him. I am sorry to tell you that he is ill. I fear it is his last illness. He has not been laid aside long, only about six weeks, but he has failed rapidly in that time. When I look at his wasted frame and hear his terrible cough, it seems useless to look for his recovery. He has been here in the house with us for about five weeks, and we are doing everything possible in the way of nursing. I sent to Victoria for some special medicines for him, but the boat did not return for twenty-eight days, and now that it has come it may not help him much. I often wish we had a few special medicines to use while we are waiting for those supplied by the Department. It takes so long to get orders filled that a patient might easily die before medicine comes for him. I miss Septice so very much. I did not know how much I depended on him until he was laid down. He always took the Sunday service during Mr. Swartout's absence, and had prayer meetings three times in the week, besides helping in any work that needed a man's hand. The poor fellow has suffered all his life long, and now, with the sure hope he has of rest, I cannot see otherwise than that it is well; but I shall miss him. He learned so quickly, and was always eager to hear.

## Trinidad.

## COPY OF A CIRCULAR LETTER.

FROM MRS. MORTON.

Tunapuna, Trinidad, B.W.I., Feb. 20, 1898.

I have had many applications of late for a letter about my work. It is a matter of real regret to me that the amount of time and strength I am able to devote to writing about the work is far too small. Could we missionaries do more in this way to sustain the interest of the Church we know the effort would be well repaid, but the days are so crowded with effort of all kinds—so much lies all around to be done which we cannot attempt to touch—that it is little wonder if one stops too seldom to describe the work, or finds it too often next to impossible to concentrate the mind sufficiently to do justice to description.

My own share in the work presses heavily enough upon me since our daughter has gone to share that of the Couva district. House-keeping, teaching music, sewing, Hindi reading and religious knowledge, getting up evenings for temperance and instruction, visiting the people in their homes—these are a few of my duties.

When the work was new in this district, for some years all my leisure was given to teaching the people from house to house, on the estates and in the villages. Later on I tried gathering the women into the school-houses or other available rooms for prayer and religious instruction; these meetings occupied all my spare time for about four years, giving a whole day to distant places and an afternoon to the nearer ones. Fanny Subaran was my helpmeet in these meetings, and carried them on alone after I undertook the work of training girls under my own roof in the Girls' Home.

After five years spent in this way, usually assisted by my daughter, my health required lighter work, and the field had become so large as to take my husband a great deal away from the centre, leaving a great deal that might be done by me very near my home. The first thing I undertook was a Bible class in connection with the Tunapuna school, which I have kept up for the past two years. We are now in the third year, and a few of the boys and girls have been with me right through the course, while some have left since the New Year, and others come in their place. I have twenty-three on the roll, and they are often all there. We first studied the life of Christ, then Old Testament history, and are now taking a review of the life of Christ, and on Sabbath day the Acts of the Apostles. Rev. M. Carron, of

Picton, and others have visited and questioned the children, and all seemed greatly struck with their intelligent answers, and the enthusiasm which they showed in questioning the class in turn, which is our habit, and in all shouting out the answers together, which is another of the peculiarities in which they indulge. The Bible Class occupies all the week mornings except Saturday from 8.05 till 8.55.

At odd times four pupils drop in for music lessons. We find it greatly for the good of the work to teach a few of the most promising ones to accompany hymns on the small organs that we get from Mason & Hamlin, New York, for about \$25. It is not easy to get the young people to persevere, but my daughter and I have taught a few—unpaid teaching, of course. At noon I go to the school-house for fifteen minutes' singing with the children, sometimes Hindi hymns or Sankey's, and sometimes good school songs. At 12.15 the girls of Tunapuna school come to me for an hour's sewing. For many months last year I held this class daily, trying thus to increase the interest of the girls. Since the New Year I have only held it three times a week, so much time has had to be given to visiting other schools, distributing clothing from the boxes and little rewards for attendance in 1897. This duty falls upon me, and very pleasant I find it.

Our boxes usually arrive after the schools close at Christmas. We do not object to this, as the hope of receiving a shirt or a small reward helps to gather in the children after the holidays. Each teacher sends in a return of the attendances of each child, and the rewards are carefully apportioned—a few marbles or a shirt, book or doll to the best children. My supply of shirts is finished already; I don't know whether I shall get any more from Canada this year. We make a few in the schools, and try always to have some on hand for very poor children. I have usually eighteen or twenty girls in the sewing class. They are very small, and not easily got in. Some are often kept home to cook, to mind a child, or to go out with a grass knife and cut food for the cow; very tiny girls do this. All the larger ones are married. Most who come to me are mere infants, but it is all we can do, and I teach them myself, in order to make the class as attractive as possible. We have about three times as many as when I first undertook it. I also look after the sewing in all the other schools—that is, provide the materials, often cut out the garments, and see that they are neatly made.

A good deal of time is spent in seeing Christian people who come from a distance, and in attending to the weak and sick. We must always keep on hand quinine for fever, ointment for sores, and a few other simple drugs. In fact, the name of our duties is legion. Having given you this brief outline to-day, I hope at some near time to enter a little more into particulars about my work. Best wishes for all, and thanks for those who helped to fill the boxes.



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