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Mrs J. Smith

"The World for Christ."



Monthly Letter Leaflet.

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

VOL. VII. TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1890. No. 6.

SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.

October.— Special thanksgiving for extension in the home work; for personal, family and national mercies, and for the bounties of God's providence. Confession.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me bless His holy name. . . . Forget not all his benefits. Who forgiveth; who healeth; who redeemeth; who crowneth; who satisfieth."
—Ps. ciii. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

Thanksgiving.

By a reference to our "Subjects for Prayer" it will be seen that this month we are called upon to offer unto God Thanksgiving for special mercies in our individual, family and national life, and for enlargement in the Home Work of our Society. In all these respects God has been gracious unto us— "His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

In order to refresh our minds, and for the purpose of stimulating within us a thankful spirit, it may be profitable to us to recall some of His gracious dealings with us during the past

year, and to make mention of "His loving kindnesses, for they have been ever of old."

How much we have received in comparison with the little we have deserved. How manifold and rich the blessings coming to us through the "unspeakable gift," our blessed Redeemer, how precious the privileges of His house, and His day; how edifying the instruction, given in His Word, and how many our opportunities for service! Into our individual lives much of brightness and sunshine have entered, and with gratitude we recognize the "many pleasant little things" which, by his grace, have cheered us from day to day. At times "clouds and darkness have been round about Him," and as God's hand has rested heavily upon us the temptation to murmur has arisen. But the difficult lesson of patience has been learned, and, through the grace of the Lord Jesus, even heavy chastisements have been borne with meekness, as we have remembered that "these light afflictions, which are but for a moment, are working out for us a far more exceeding, and eternal right of glory."

Wondrously has the God of Missions dealt with us as a Society. At the close of our first year we numbered eighteen Auxiliaries and Mission Bands. Our report this year records six hundred and thirteen branches. The increase of the Home Work has made the extension of the Foreign Work possible, and now, instead of being represented by one solitary lady missionary, we have many educational, medical and zenana workers in the various fields. In view of these facts we are led to exclaim: "What hath God wrought!"

In Bible times God's ancient people coupled with their public thanksgiving, the "thanks-offering." They presented their "first fruits," their "wave," "heave" and "free-will offerings." According to the Levitical law, these offerings must be without "blemish," or perfect, in order to be acceptable. The blind, broken or maimed might not be offered to the Lord. Following the spirit of this suggestive and beautiful example, our Auxiliaries and Mission Bands now, almost universally, arrange for a "Thanks-offering service" in connection with the October meeting. With sorrow and humiliation we confess that, in the past, we have not given to God our *best* gifts. We have robbed God in tithes and offerings. From our "abundance" we have "cast in" to the Lord's treasury, not from our self-denial and

self-sacrifice. At our meetings this month let us come to our kind and loving Father with confession on our lips, and with earnest hearts let us ask that we may be enabled to offer unto the Lord, not only the sacrifice of thanksgiving, but to honour Him for the extension of His kingdom, with our substance and the first fruits of all our increase.

Expenditure for 1889-90.

THE members of the W. F. M. S. will see from the following statement: that the *actual expenditure* during the past year is \$238.50 less than the *estimate*—the reason being that Mr. Harris kindly contributed \$250 towards his daughter's outfit and expenses, also that both Miss Harris and Miss Jamieson refunded part of their travelling expenses on reaching Indore. Then the closing of the school at Piapôts—which was alluded to in the October and December Monthly LETTER LEAFLETS for 1890—considerably lessened the amount necessary for that reserve.

The balance of \$238.50 now in Dr. Reid's hands will be available towards Miss McKellar's outfit and passage to India.

INDIA.

Salaries of Misses Rodger, Beatty, Oliver, Scott and Sinclair, \$730 each.....	\$3,650 00
Miss Ross, furlough allowance.....	365 00
Salaries (4 mos.) Misses Harris and Jamieson, \$240 each.....	480 00
Travelling expenses Misses Harris and Jamieson	845 00
Expenses of schools and dispensaries, including the salaries of the Misses Stockbridge....	3,828 00
Miss McKellar's passage to and expenses in London.....	544 72
Allowance for exchange.....	50 00
	<hr/>
	\$9,762 72

Estimate, \$10,125. Expenditure, \$9,762.72.

CHINA.

Formosa.

Two teachers.....	\$120 00	
Girl's school, Tamsui.....	192 00	
Bible woman.....	72 00	
	<hr/>	\$ 584 00

Honan.

Salary Miss Sutherland to Sept., 1889.....	\$167 00	
Salaries Misses Graham and McIntosh, \$250 each.....	500 00	
Outfit Misses Graham and McIntosh.....	400 00	
Travelling expenses Misses Graham and McIntosh.....	659 00	
	<hr/>	1,726 00
		<hr/>
		\$2,110 00

Estimate, \$1,987. Expenditure, \$2,110.00.

NORTH-WEST.

Prince Albert.

Miss Baker.....	\$100 00	
	<hr/>	\$ 100 00

Mistawasis.

Miss C. B. McKay.....	\$100 00	
Building.....	200 00	
	<hr/>	300 00

Stoney Plains

Mr. Anderson.....	\$300 00	
Building.....	460 00	
	<hr/>	760 00

Piapot's.

Miss Rose.....	\$ 75 00	
Maintenance.....	150 00	
	<hr/>	225 00

Indian Head..

Teacher.....	\$194 00	
	<hr/>	194 00

<i>Muscowpetung.</i>		
Teacher.....	\$300 00	
Maintenance.....	826 00	
Building....	300 00	
	<hr/>	1,426 00
<i>File Hills.</i>		
Rev. Alex. Campbell.....	\$300 00	
Misses Campbell.....	287 50	
Mr. Skene	275 00	
Maintenance.....	540 27	
Building..	100 00	
	<hr/>	1,502 77
<i>Round Lake.</i>		
Mr. Jones.....	\$300 00	
Mr. E. F. Ferry.....	177 00	
Maintenance.....	352 00	
Building.....	750 00	
	<hr/>	1,579 00
<i>Birtle.</i>		
Mr. G. G. McLaren..	\$550 00	
Miss McLaren, (matron),.....	400 00	
Maintenance	600 00	
	<hr/>	1,550 00
<i>Okanase.</i>		
Teachers	\$450 00	
	<hr/>	450 00
<i>Crowstand.</i>		
Mr. G. G. Burgess.....	\$112 50	
Misses Armstrong and McLean.	327 50	
Maintenance.....	352 00	
Building.....	400 00	
	<hr/>	1,192 00
<i>Portage la Prairie.</i>		
Miss Walker.	\$300 00	
Maintenance.....	465 00	
	<hr/>	765 00
		<hr/>
		\$10,043 77

Estimate \$9,383.00. Expenditure \$10,043.77.

Miss McKellar at Kingston....	\$300 00	
Miss Fraser.....	300 00	
	<hr/>	\$600 00
	<i>Trinidad.</i>	
School....		\$600 00
	<i>New Hebrides.</i>	
School.....		\$600 00
		<hr/>
		\$23,716 50

The total estimate was \$23,955.00, and the expenditure \$23,716.50, leaving a balance of \$238.50 in favour of the W. F. M. S.

\$3,000.00 additional was paid to Dr. Reid—by decision of the Society at the Annual Meeting—for extra salaries allowed Foreign Missionaries who are married.

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

Serious Illness of Yesodabai, the Matron of the Hospital.

INDORE, *June 2, 1890.*

DR. MARION OLIVER,—Your letter came to hand last mail, and I am going to be very punctual this time with my reply.

We are coming near the close of another hot season and are beginning to cast anxious eyes skyward in search of signs of coming rain clouds. One newspaper tells us the monsoon has broken in Ceylon, but another says "The monsoon has not yet broken in Ceylon, though there have been several heavy showers." We allow four weeks for it to travel from there as far north as Central India, and should one or two real showers fall a week or two beforehand, our impatience cools with the fall in the temperature. On the whole, this has been a very pleasant hot season. Few days could be called excessively hot,—*i.e.* for India,—and the winds have been more constant than any season since I came to the country. Of course we are all beginning to feel more or less fagged, but otherwise quite well.

Death though has been busy among the children of our little Christian community. Two weeks ago, after a few days'

illness, Phulibai, one of Miss Rodgers' teachers, lost her youngest child, a little baby boy of six months. Then last Sabbath morning, Kinokabai was called to give up her eldest daughter, a bright little girl of three-and-a-half years. She was seized during the night with cholera, and only lived a few hours. Two months ago we nursed her baby sister through a very severe attack of pneumonia, not knowing for some days but that any hour might be her last. We all feel very much for Kinokabai in her trouble, her husband is such a lazy, shiftless fellow. It was a most sad and touching sight to see her sitting with her little dead girl on her lap and the tears silently falling down her cheeks. Doctors are supposed to always have their feelings under control, but if my tears had not mingled with hers, I would have had to ask myself, "Have I any heart?" Nothing speaks more forcibly to me of the power of the Gospel of Christ to comfort bereaved hearts than the contrast between the silent grief of the mother, who, realizing that her little one is safe in Jesus' arms, bows her head, saying, "It is well with the child," and the howling and loud lamentations that go up from heathen mothers when their little ones are taken away.

Among my house patients, at present, I have one woman whom I enjoy visiting very much. She may live many years, but is never likely to be other than an invalid. When first I began visiting her she was very unhappy, and grumbled constantly over having to suffer so much. She is the daughter-in-law of a woman Miss Rodgers has visited for years, and had, therefore, heard much about the Christian religion. But that God sometimes used suffering in order to lead people to seek for a Saviour for the soul's sickness, was a new idea to her and ever since her mind has taken hold of that thought, all her discontent and unhappiness is gone. How much of the idea of bearing pain patiently in this life, so as to be freed from punishment in the next—a belief dear to Hindoo minds—is mixed in with her new faith, I cannot venture to say. Certainly her belief in God's love for her has wrought a change in her disposition.

11th—Was not able to get this off by last week's mail as I had hoped. We are in much trouble over the illness of Yesodabai, our hospital matron. She has been ailing for some time, but would not hear of giving up work until three or fou

weeks ago. Lately, symptoms of consumption have developed, so that we fear much for her recovery. We have her here with us, so that we can see to her being properly cared for. She is a loving, gentle, earnest woman, ever seeking the good of her fellow countrywomen, and we pray God that it may be His will to restore her to health, and spare her for many years in His service here below.

We are trying to devise a plan whereby the Girl's Boarding school may be commenced at once, by Miss Harris, as we have more girls than they can accommodate at Nussurabad, not to speak of the many disadvantages arising from having our Christian girls educated in another Mission.

PS.—Had a card from Miss McKellar this week, from London. We shall welcome her with open arms, but think she should not leave England before the end of September. September is our worst month. —M. O.

Honan, China.

FROM a copy of the minutes of the third regular meeting of the Presbytery of Honan we learn that, for the present at least, our missionaries have delayed *settling* in that province. The steps already taken for the securing of mission premises in Chang-teh have been rescinded. This change of plan is in accordance with the advice of experienced workers now in the field, and is due to the fact that it appears from certain clauses in the Treaty between England and China that British subjects have no right whatever to *reside* in the interior, but only the right to travel. Pioneer work will be continued, and as the recent "tours" of our ordained and medical missionaries have been so successful, arrangements will be made to repeat these visits at regular intervals. May the members of our Society earnestly wait upon God in prayer, that a "great door and effectual" may speedily be opened to them, whereby the millions of our heathen brethren and sisters dwelling in Honan may hear the Gospel story. Prayer is also requested for Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Mackenzie, that the "God of all comfort" may sustain and cheer them in the loneliness occasioned by the sudden recall of the little daughter who, in His goodness, came to their distant home a few weeks ago.

LIN-CHING, CHINA

REV DR. J. F. SMITH, —I have no doubt you will be pleased to hear a little about the women of Honan, and to know something of the prospect of work among them. Well, I am going to give you a few jottings from my experience on our recent tour. We left Lin-Ching February 21st, Dr. McClure and Mr. McGillivray bound for Chang-te-fu, and Mr. Goforth and myself for Hsüin-Hsien and Wei-hui-fu. Travelling by house-boat is much slower than by cart, but much more comfortable, besides it affords us a home to which we can retreat after our day's work is over, and escape the worry and annoyance of the gazing throng. A sail of seven days landed us at Hsüin-Hsien, and we commenced our work on the first day of March. Here we remained twelve days, working every day, and from the first we had large orderly crowds. We rented two rooms in an inn. One we called the chapel, over which Mr. Goforth and the native preacher presided; while I, with the help of an assistant, took charge of the dispensary, where we also took every opportunity to tell the "old, old story of Jesus and His love."

The third patient who came to be treated was an old lady over fifty, and she seemed quite pleased with her visit, and thanked me over and over again for what I did to relieve her sufferings. The men were admitted one at a time to be examined and treated, but when the women came they were invited in at once and a seat provided. At times there were groups of from four to seven women in the room at one time, and they proved most attentive listeners, and would often sit for a half hour or more. Although they seemed anxious to go into the other room, I think, with one or two exceptions, they never got beyond looking in at the door. Quite a number of those who came were young women, and in such cases the husband and mother-in-law, together with one or two other elderly ladies were sure to be along. This was quite a help to the Doctor; if he succeeded in gaining the confidence of the escorts, the fair patient was bound to submit to the treatment, whether willing or not! However, very few of the women were obstinate, and in painful operations they displayed much more fortitude than the men.

Wei-hui-fu was reached in less than two days, and we were

glad to get that much rest. We remained in Wei-hui sixteen days, but our reception was not nearly so hearty as at Hsui-Hsien, although we had fairly good crowds every day.

The sadest part of my work was to send away those women and children who were totally blind, with the words "too late." I saw in all forty blind women, the majority of them quite young, and the cause in every case was traceable to their own or their parents' carelessness after some previous sickness. One morning a very bright, pleasant looking woman came into the room and bowed, and went through the usual routine of compliments. She was from a village about eighteen miles away (over fifty li), and had ridden on a donkey, escorted by her husband and son. On examining her eyes I saw that nothing could be done, and when I told her so, she began to cry bitterly. I sat down and commenced to talk to her, and told her how much better her lot was than that of the poor children whom I sent away every day. Then she was told that the healing of diseases was only one part of my work, that we came to tell of One, who was able to make even a blind woman like her happy here and hereafter. She listened attentively, and went away feeling much better and promising to pray no longer to idols, but to the one great, true Spirit, the Father of all. Another day there were seven women in the room, to whom I had spoken for a long time, while a number of men listened. When I had finished, a silk-robed gent who, I afterwards learned, had heard the Gospel at another place, stepped forward and re-iterated what I had said in a very eloquent and telling manner. It made a wonderful impression on the crowd, and the women asked many questions, and three of them, before all the crowd, said they would never go to worship the gods in the temples again. These promises are worth something, but it is only after patient toil and much teaching, under the direction and influence of the Holy Spirit, that women, such as these, will be led into the light as it is in Jesus.

On this tour I saw in all 325 women, and out of a total of 105 surgical operations, twenty were for the female portion of my patients. There is a glorious work in store for the ladies who have been sent out to Honan to labour for the women, a work which can be done only by women, and a work which commences the first day a dispensary is opened, and which will not

be thoroughly established until a woman's hospital is erected, together with a female school. I am glad that there are so many ladies in Canada praying and working for the women in Honan. The Lord of the harvest Himself shall reward His servants on that great day.

A Visit to the Mission at Pang Chuang.

LUI CHING, *May 22, 1890.*

MISS M. McINTOSH,—Your kind letters of January 27th and February 24th, also the *leaflets* duly received.

We are very glad to know that the friends at home are holding the ropes.

I am afraid I have very little in the way of news to give you. a retrospect of our life in China, would not reveal anything in the shape of variety. The days come and go so swiftly, while struggling with this terrible language, and yet we seem to accomplish very little, and often would give up in despair but for the many promises, such as "we can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth us."

About the middle of April, Mr. and Mrs. MacVicar, Mrs. Smith and baby, Miss Graham and I, took a trip to Pang Chuang, a distance of three hundred li, or one hundred miles. We went by house boat.

You may have some idea of navigation and its speed, when I tell you that it only took us three days to reach our destination. The country was looking beautiful, the fall wheat (in ear) waving with the wind, fruit trees in blossom, and grass, which we at home consider a necessity, only conspicuous by its absence. The land is irrigated by wells, worked by means of a windlass, in which the water is pumped from the river to the land above (the river being very low at present).

On our way we passed a corpse in the river, a most revolting sight to us, but the Chinese themselves think nothing of it. Another sight was ten little urchins standing on the shore, with no other covering than nature provided for them. However, one becomes accustomed to these kind of things.

The American Baptist Church Foreign Mission has a flourishing Mission in Pang Chuang, established ten years ago. Now

they have a chapel seated for four hundred, one part being screened off for the women. They also have two rooms fitted up with k'angs, where the women from the surrounding villages come and stay for say fifteen or twenty days to be taught. They are only asked to bring their bedding, the missionaries providing food for them during that time.

At nine o'clock every morning the bell is rung for prayer, the men going to one room and the women to another. Those who can, read in turn with the missionaries, then they are asked questions on what they have read. After some explanations and the singing of a hymn, one of the women engaged in prayer, remembering the Honan Mission, especially Dr. McClure and his work, as they know him very well.

We visited the hospital in company with one of the ladies. First thing on entering we were asked to get up on the k'ank, which we did, and sat in real Chinese fashion. Then they, the women, recited for us the Commandments and other portions of Scripture. One old lady over sixty years of age, who six months ago could not recognize one character, now reads very nicely, but time would fail me to tell of all we saw and heard while there, sufficient to say that we came away with a new inspiration, and long for the time when we will be able to tell "the old yet ever new story" to the women of Honan.

A few days ago Dr. Smith was hurriedly summoned to attend a woman who had attempted suicide. She had been hanging three hours, and when the Doctor reached the house he found her pulse beating but feebly, and although everything was done to save her life, all efforts proved unavailing, she died. On enquiring the cause, it was found to be the old story, "her husband had been whipping her." *This is the fifth case of suicide Dr. Smith has been called to since his arrival in China.*

The weather has been very warm, several days the thermometer registered 100" in the shade, but on Monday it rained all day and has been cooler ever since.

Mrs. McClure is very anxious to communicate with some of the ladies of our Board. She has been in the habit of corresponding frequently while in connection with the American Board, and if some of the ladies would write to her she would be very glad to reply. We expect Dr. and Mrs. McClure to come

and take up their abode here next week, so the Mission will be altogether.

Miss Graham received your letter, and wishes to be remembered to you. I am glad you are able to resume your Foreign work again.

NORTH-WEST.

“Let us not be Weary in Well Doing.”

STONY PLAIN RESERVE,

EDMONTON, N.W.T., *June 11, 1890.*

MR. M. ANDERSON,—Yours of May 6th to hand, for which we return our sincere thanks, as it is very encouraging to know that so many are interested in our efforts towards the enlightening of those who have been living so long without that knowledge which pertains to their temporal and spiritual well-being, and also to know that so many earnest supplications are being presented before God for His blessing to rest upon all missionary enterprise of which we form a part. Without His blessing accompanying our efforts, our labours will be in vain.

We are somewhat perplexed through the influence which the Roman Catholics have among the Indians by the favours extended them by the agent (who belongs to that body or church). He has been somewhat opposed to our work and wanted to know what authority we had to start the boarding school without giving him official notice for doing so, when it was sanctioned by the Government officials at Regina to the Presbyterian Church Missionary Committee before he was appointed to office.

The boarding school is not so successful as we would wish. Two of the children have been taken away from us through the interference of the priest, who ordered the parents to take their children away; they have done so, and now the children are entirely lost, as they go to no school, but roam about like the wild animals of the desert, that being all that was requested of them. The battle between the Roman Catholics and ourselves for supremacy is very keen, and has created considerable enmity among the Indians which was never known to exist previous to the opening of the R. C. school.

Although thus opposed and discouraged, we still trust in the aid of Him who over-ruleth all things for his own glory and our good, and also trust that the Indians may yet realize for themselves that it is for their good we are now labouring among them and not as a means of temporal gain or honour to be obtained from them.

We have only five children in the boarding school, these will remain until the vacation.

The children are getting along well and many more would come were it not for their parents, who are led to believe that we are seeking to obtain some personal benefit which we do not want to reveal, instead of sacrificing both time and money for their sakes. However feeble our efforts may be, or how unsuccessful our labours, we feel as if we were spending our time and money for the Lord's sake in extending His love and mercy among those who have been living in ignorance and heathendom and therefore expect to receive the fruit of our labors in due season, if we faint not."

You desire us to make known our wants unto you, we therefore beg to state that we wish for some boots and shoes for the children; we have got some for them ourselves already, but as we are only servants and have many small and trifling things to do and get for them, the more important and beneficial we expect to be supplied with, that we may be the better able to provide for the comforts and enjoyments of the children.

We are glad to see of the financial prosperity of the society and trust that it may be spent in a proper way and that it may be found to increase from year to year according to the demand, for missionary work cannot be carried on without a considerable amount of labour and money.

We are very thankful to the members of the W. F. M. S. for their kindness, for the help and sympathy they have extended to us, and also for their encouragement expressed in the letters forwarded to us. May they still continue in doing all that is laid to their charge in such an honourable and successful way as they have been doing in the past, and may they also experience the joy which is afforded to others through their kindness and help.

With kind love to all the members, and especially to yourself and those who hold office with you, from my helpmate and myself,

Progress of Mission Work at Cote's Reserve— Extracts from Letters.

CROWSTAND SCHOOL, *February 25th, 1890.*

REV. GEO. LAIRD,—Now a word about our work, as I am not sure that either Mrs. Laird or the other ladies will write in time for your report.

We have 55 Indian children in school at present, quite as many as we have accommodation for. They are making encouraging progress under Miss Armstrong and Miss McLean. They are contented and happy, many of them rarely wanting to get home, and none of them ever leaving the school without liberty. Of course they make a great deal of noise, and tax our patience at times pretty severely, but this is to be expected. Mrs. Laird and Miss McLean are kept pretty busy looking after their clothing and keeping it in repair. The larger girls have made wonderful progress in knitting and sewing. The time is not far distant when they will be able to do all their own knitting. The women too have nearly all learned to knit, and come asking for yarn very often. There was a large supply in the boxes, and we were able to give them as much as they needed, but the stock is now getting low. An uncommon interest has been taken in knitting, both by the women and girls, and you can see in any of their houses to-day mits and stockings knitted by themselves. There are also specimens of the girls' work at the school. The boys too, I am glad to say, have made great improvement. Their deportment, on the whole, affords me much satisfaction. They always render a cheerful obedience, and do any work which is assigned them; they are for the most part diligent at their lessons, and their improvement in manners and general intelligence is very gratifying. Some of the bigger ones speak and write English quite well.

With regard to Mission work, it goes on much as usual. We are badly in need of churches in which to meet, and we hope to have at least one built this spring. In the meantime we hold our meetings at private houses, and often quite a company assembles. The number of stations at which I hold service is 6. There are at present 30 members in full communion.

I have to close this letter somewhat hastily. Miss Armstrong

will write before long. We are all well. With kind regards to all the ladies in which our whole staff joins.

June 16th.

We are now busily at work on the new school building. The foundation is dug, and quite a quantity of stone on the ground. A kiln of limestone is at present burning, which will supply sufficient lime for all purposes. It is to be 24x34 feet inside, with two class rooms on the first floor, and girls' dormitories on the second. We hope to have it ready for occupation some time in the autumn.

Miss Armstrong was suddenly called to Winnipeg week before last by the death of her sister. She has not yet returned. Mrs. Laird intends writing.

MISSION STUDIES.

(Sixth Paper).

Missionary Work in the Islands of the Pacific Ocean.

BY MISS FERRIER, CALEDONIA.

When the first feelings of grief and horror caused by the sad news of the death of Mr. Williams and Mr. Harris were over, it was felt by all interested in the South Sea Mission that the effort to win the New Hebrides for Christ must not be given up, so the Missionaries in the Samoas sent more native teachers. And surely the faith and love which made them willing to go was very wonderful. The London Missionary Society sent two Missionaries who settled on the island of Tama, on which you will remember, native teachers had been left by Mr. Williams, but a fierce war soon broke out on this island, which compelled them to fly for their lives, and though native teachers continued to be sent to some of the islands, and were visited from time to time by the Samoan Missionaries, little fruit was visible for some years; but I must now hasten to tell you how the New Hebrides came to be one of our Mission fields. When, not long before his death, Mr. Williams was in Scotland, the Secession Church (now United Presbyterian) gave him £500 to enable him to open up some islands to which they might send

Missionaries, but soon after that church began a Mission in Africa, and being unable to take up the South Seas also, it was proposed that the branch of their church in Nova Scotia should do so. The Nova Scotian Church gladly assented to this, and chose the Rev. John Geddie, a man full of faith and Missionary zeal, to be their first Missionary. It was arranged that he was to work under the direction of the London Missionary Society, and that he would settle wherever the Missionaries in Samoa thought best. He, his wife, and two little children left Nova Scotia in the year 1846, and after a long trying voyage and some necessary detention at the Samoan Islands, set sail from them in the Mission ship "The John Williams" for the New Hebrides, which had been chosen as the scene of their labours, and in the year 1848, settled on An-neit-yum, the most southern of the group, an island fifty-five miles in circumference, and with a population of about four thousand. They were accompanied by an experienced Missionary and his wife from Samoa, who went to help to start the new Mission, and stayed a year, and there were already on the island two Samoan teachers who stayed with Mr. Geddie, and were a great help. At that time the inhabitants were all heathen, fierce naked cannibals, and for three years after the Missionary from Samoa left. Mr. and Mrs. Geddie and their little children were alone with no friends to help or cheer them but the Samoan teachers. Sometimes they had very little food, for the natives would not sell them any, and often their lives were in danger. One man afterwards confessed that once he hid behind a bush, with his club raised, ready to kill Mr. Geddie as he passed, but that when he did, something seemed to hold back his arm so that he could not strike. Thus God protected His faithful servants, and they never lost patience or hope. Mr. Geddie was almost as clever with his hands as Mr. Williams had been, and he had such a kind manner and such skill in dealing with the natives, that they soon got to trust him and to listen to his teaching. Both he and his wife learned the difficult language very quickly, and soon they began to translate the Scriptures and other books, and to teach the people to read them. We can scarcely imagine how hard it must be to translate books into a language without an alphabet, grammar or single written word, and which when spoken sounds as if all the words

of a sentence were but a single word, yet in four years time, 1852—Mr. Geddie had prepared and printed, on his own little press, a simple reading book, a catechism, six hymns and a book of selections of Scripture, and had translated the Gospel of Matthew—but you must wait till our next meeting to hear more of Mr. Geddie's labours.

QUESTIONS.

Was the effort to send the Gospel to the New Hebrides given up after Mr. Williams' death? What was done by the missionaries at Samoa—by the London Missionary Society? What Church in Scotland had assisted Mr. Williams, and with what object? What led to the U. P. Church in Nova Scotia taking up the mission? Who was the first missionary sent out by that Church? Under whose direction was he to work and settle? When did he leave, who went with him, and when did they reach the New Hebrides? On what Island did they settle, and who went with them? What is the size and population of this Island? In what condition were the inhabitants? Tell of some of the trials which Mr. and Mrs. Geddie had to endure? In what ways were they well fitted for Mission work? What did Mr. Geddie begin to do as soon as possible? Why was this very difficult work? How much reading matter had been prepared and printed in four year's time?

INCREASE.

Presbyterial Societies.

- OWEN SOUND.....*Keady*.—Auxiliary.
 KINGSTON.....*Burnbrae*.—Seymour Church, "Happy Circle"
 Mission Band.
 BRANDON.....*Austin*.—Auxiliary.
 " *Douglas*.—Auxiliary re-organized.
 STRATFORD.....*Moncton*.—Auxiliary.
 " *Mitchell*.—Auxiliary re-organized.
 " *Hampstead*.—Auxiliary re-organized.
 ORANGEVILLE.....*Black Bank*.—"Cheerful Workers" Mission
 Band.
 BROCKVILLE.. ..*Mainsville Harvesters*".—Mission Band.
 " *Prescott*.—Mission Band, the "Light Bearers".
 Three new Auxiliaries, four Mission Bands and three Auxil-
 iaries re-organized.

NOTICES.

THE Board of Management meets on the first Tuesday of every month, at three o'clock p.m., in the Managers' Room, Knox church, Toronto. Members of Auxiliary Societies, or other ladies interested in the work and desiring information, being introduced by a member of the Board, are cordially invited to attend.

Letters concerning the organization of Societies, and all matters pertaining to Home work, are to be addressed to Mrs. Shortreed, 224 Jarvis Street, 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, should be addressed to Mrs. Harvie, 80 Bedford Road, Toronto.

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

All correspondence relating to the sending of goods to the North-West, or other Mission fields, will be conducted through the Secretary of Supplies, Mrs. A. Jeffrey, 142 Bloor Street West, Toronto.

All requests for life membership certificates should be sent to the Recording Secretary, Mrs. G. H. Robinson, 625 Ontario Street, Toronto.

Directions about The Monthly Letter Leaflet.

1. The year begins with the *May* number. 2. Subscription, 12 cents a year, *payable in advance*. 3. Subscription may begin at any time (one cent a copy), but must end with the *April* number. 4. All *orders and money* to be sent through the Presbyterial Secretary to Mrs. Telfer, 72 St. Alban Street, Toronto.

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- " 22. The Beginning of It.
" 21. A Study in Proportion.
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- " 37. What is Foreign Missions' Rightful Share.
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Mite Boxes, 1 cent each.
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