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"Whatsoever he saith unto you do it."

MONTHLY LEAFLET

OF THE

Canada Congregational Woman's Board of Missions.

4. MONTREAL, DECEMBER, 1898.

Price 10c
a year.

SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.

For Constancy and Faithfulness."—1 Cor. 15: 58; Gal. 6: 9; Rev. 2: 10; 3: 11-12.

TOPICS FOR AUXILIARY MEETINGS IN "LIFE AND LIGHT."

December—Review of the year.

January—Constantinople: Its Place in Church History; on Eastern Question; Present Conditions and Mission Work.

THE MONTHLY LEAFLET.

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

Editorial Paragraphs.

The Treasurer acknowledges the Thank-offerings received from four Auxiliaries.

We print a paper on "Thanksgiving," read at the Montreal Emmanuel Auxiliary Thanksgiving Meeting, hoping its usual may incite some of the Auxiliaries that have not engaged for or held a Thanksgiving Service to do so; although late for November, the Thank-offerings will be quite as acceptable in December. We can commend this public and social assembling to show and express our gratitude to our heavenly Father for His daily and special mercies and kindnesses towards us, not only for the good we ourselves receive, but also as being of very great importance and benefit in arousing interest in the work of the Woman's Board of Missions. December 31st there will be due for salaries, \$568.76.

"Monthly Leaflet" subscriptions, 4th Vol. :—Ontario, 1,043; Quebec, 507; Manitoba, 100; Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, 100; United States of America, 1. Total, 1,785.

Mrs. Wickson, 16 Macpherson Avenue, Toronto, writes: "Miss Helen J. Melville is with us, and is remarkably well, though she has a tired look."

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ARCHIVES

"Thanksgiving."

BY MISS FLORENCE E. OUSHING.

Again, this afternoon, the old familiar word, Thanksgiving presses forward and demands a hearing.

This word is so easy of utterance that very few stop to think what it means and where it originated. Might it not be profitable to spend a few moments in considering its origin and significance.

To find this we have to travel a long way back, to almost the beginning of the ages. The earliest information is found in the Bible. In fact, the Bible contains more varied accounts of Thanksgiving services and gifts than time will permit us to take up to-day, but it might be interesting to speak of a few of them.

In Exodus xxxv., 20-22, we have the account of the first great thank-offering meeting, when all the people were asked to bring a willing offering according to their means to aid in the building of the tabernacle and thus help in the carrying on of the work of the Lord. Would that we could say of our thank-offering meeting what was said of this first offering, for we read in Exodus xxxvi. "The people brought much more than enough for the service of the work which the Lord commanded them to make." "For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work and too much." By their gifts showing that the old idea of thanksgiving was that of offering something to the Lord as well as of thanking Him.

In Leviticus xxiii. we find that the yearly thank-offering was placed among the laws of the people, and was called "the Feast of Tabernacles." It was kept after they had gathered in the harvest for the purpose of showing their gratitude to the Lord for what He had done for them, thus keeping alive the memory of His mercies to them.

Then we pass to the great Thanksgiving meeting held by David on the occasion of the bringing of the ark from Kirjath-jearim, I. Chron. xvi. We find in nearly all of David's Psalms a constant exhortation to give thanks to the Lord.

When Solomon had completed the building of the temple he proclaimed a thanksgiving of all the people, thereby acknowledging that the power to perform this work had been given by God.

We might mention numerous other instances of public thanksgiving in the time of Hezekiah, Nehemiah and others; nearly all these were connected largely with the work of the Lord. In looking through the New Testament we find continuing references to giving thanks not only with our lips but in a most practical way.

Paul, writing to the Corinthians, speaks of giving as a grace, placing it in the same cluster with faith, earnestness and love, giving us Christ for our example, who gave Himself for us. In his writings, Paul constantly tells us to give thanks at times and for all things.

If we turn to our own times we see the spirit of thankfulness displayed by a small band of people, afterwards called the Pilgrim Fathers, who landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620. They left England because they were not allowed freedom to worship God. This little colony, after a year's struggling for existence, amidst many privations and much suffering, issued a proclamation for a special thanksgiving for God's mercies to them through the year. From this little band, New England, and now the entire nation, has a yearly day of rejoicing and gratitude.

We, a small Missionary Society, have met to-day to hold Thanksgiving service. Might we not learn a lesson from the instances mentioned, or has the spirit of receiving so taken hold of us that we forget what it meant of old? Is the work of God completed or are there no calls for workers and means to carry it out? Surely God's work still depends and always will depend on the hearts and hands of his people, and without our help His work will not go on as it should. Can we close our paper better than by referring again to the first great Thanksgiving and see what lessons it teaches us? They brought their offering to the Lord as an act of worship; they gave from willing hearts, not grudgingly; they gave generously things that were valuable and costly; and they gave of what they had, (the rich of their wealth, and the poor of their poverty; they gave in proportion to their ability; they gave abundantly, so much that an appeal had to be sent to ask them to stay their giving. Have we not here also an early example of a Woman's Missionary Society when we read of the women spinning the wool and linen for the Master's use? Never has a greater need for help existed than now, when mission work is being abandoned for want of means to carry it on. May we, indeed, strive to show our gratitude to God for all the blessings which He is giving us by each one doing what we can to make this the best missionary year we have had.

From Mrs. (Rev.) W. T. Currie.

ARE REV. J. G. JOHNSTON.

BLOOMFIELD, New Jersey, U.S., Nov. 22, 1898.

DEAR MRS. SANDERS,—When I last wrote to you I did not think that the next letter would be from this part of the world. Our God is good in not permitting us to know the future. I feel

very much ashamed of myself in being sent away from Africa there is so very much to be done there, and so few to do. Although I had been feeling "played out" for some months yet it was a surprise to myself, as well as to everyone else, to have such a complete breakdown. It is by no means easy to be a patient exile, and I sometimes have to check grumbling thoughts by "counting up my mercies" like the old woman I have all heard of. This is Thanksgiving week, and as I look back over the past year, I can only say, as we repeated in concert at a prayer meeting last evening, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."

When leaving Cisamba, Lumbo said to me, "Ondona, do not be anxious, for God is near us. He will help Nana and Ondona Maggie with all their work, and we will always pray that you and Ondona Melville may soon return in good health." I often think of His words, spoken, as they were, with such earnest assurance shining on his face. Another lad said, "Perhaps the white people will send some one to help Nana if you ask. Ondona Melville tell them how many of our countrymen do not know God." It is very cheering to hear that reinforcements will very likely go out next year. Our Father always answers prayer in His own good time. Miss Melville has gone to visit friends in Toronto. We have been so long together that I can scarcely realize that we are separated.

Will you please send my present address to the "Leaflet." Those friends who have written to me this summer will please excuse me for not answering their letters. I have not yet had any medical opinion as to how soon I may hope to return to Africa, but I feel very well, indeed.

From Rev. W. T. Currie.

CISAMBA, Sept. 21, 1898.

DEAR MRS. SANDERS,—Your letter of May 25th was very welcome, so also are the Leaflets from month to month. We have been building mud houses of three rooms each. Miss M. Melville and myself, a house for girls, and one for the chief of Cyuka when with us. These were not begun before your dear wife was taken ill, but as the boys have worked hard, they are now being roofed. They are on a higher, drier, and less exposed site than our present dwellings, and fully half a mile away from the Uhalonga River. We think the change will be better for our health, make it less lonely for the lady teacher, and place us in closer touch with the changes going on in our growing station.

The bell—though badly cracked and not more merry in sound than an old tin kettle beaten with a stick—has rung for the marriages of three couples of our young people during the past few weeks, and will be rung again in two days for the marriage of one of our preachers (Saluruva), while two more young men have been engaged to girls in our school during this month, and one of our young men has been presented with a fine young boy; though, being away in the interior, he has not yet seen his baby. Our young people have brought in a fine harvest of corn this year without any disposition to seek help from the beer pots, and though for days, during the busy time, when the women could not pound corn, they went hungry; yet their happy songs, when they returned from the fields, made this station one of the most cheerful places in this land. We are thankful for this, especially as it seems to be in harmony with their daily life here and among the villages. So far as we have been able to learn, there is not a person living at this station who drinks beer or any form of intoxicating drink. May God keep them from the cup that has begun to work terrible ruin in this country. Could they but "see, and feel, and hear, and know all that my heart hath felt and known," they would fear, and shun, and hate it as they do snakes.

I am now teaching the class that was under my wife's care when here. Among my pupils is the chief of Ciyuka. He has twice read through the Primer, and is now reading the Gospel of John. All the old men in this part of the country are watching him and wondering what will be the result of the changes that have come over him. He drinks no beer, consults no witch doctors, goes to school like a boy, and yet he is not less chief than he was. We trust the Great Potter will turn him out a vessel to honor.

A young man from the Luimbi district, who heard some of our boys preaching in one of the camps on the way to the coast, expressed a desire to come to the station and learn more of the truth. He has now been with us about four months, and is proving himself to be a good workman, a diligent student, and already he has begun to take part in our prayer-meetings.

We have now with us three boys who were seized in the Congo Free State in connection with a Bihean caravan which was buying slaves. When they were released Mr. Campbell brought them out to the Lavalu country, and from there sent them on to me with 16 other lads. I set them all at liberty, but these have come to live with us. One of them was a slave from some place in the interior. The other two—very bright boys—were sons of a Bihean chief. With kind regards to all the friends at home.

From Miss Maggie W. Melville.

CISAMBA, Aug. 7, 1898.

DEAR MISS CAMPBELL (MONTREAL).—We received your note stating some articles which the ladies of Emmanuel Auxiliaire are sending us. Allow me to thank you heartily for them although they have not yet arrived, but are probably at the coast. We do not know certainly, as the shipping bills have not yet come to hand.

You will know before this why an acknowledgement has been so long in being written. We spent an anxious time while Mr. Currie was ill, and have been extremely busy preparing for the departure. She and my sister are now on the journey to the coast. They expect to sail the end of this month. Their going has left Mr. Currie and myself with a double burden of work and anxiety. But may our loving Father grant to us a double portion of His spirit. I now have charge of all four schools which, for convenience sake, have been thrown together into two, and, with the aid of two of the older lads, we manage fairly well. But progress, which is slow at all times, must be still slower now. We pray some one may soon come to our help.

But I must close this rambling note, and I am afraid no very great handwriting, as our coal oil is done. I have only a candle so cannot see any too well. Give Christian greeting to the ladies of your Auxiliaire.

CISAMBA, Sept. 17, 1898.

MY DEAR HOME FRIENDS,—I have just been reading of the "Kindergarten of Fifty Years" in the *Ladies' Home Journal*. How touchingly Burdette tells of the vacant desk, and how memory comes so frequently at times to inflict punishment as at other times to give comfort. Memory certainly brings to many pictures of the home friends and their loving help at prayers.

We have been enjoying our first rains; for several weeks the weather has been so very hot; the sun was scorching; so when three days ago during the night a gentle shower fell we seemed to breathe more freely. Yet often a shower, when the sun shines out brightly, the atmosphere reminds one of a hot house. Our gardens will, of necessity, be late this year, for all hands are required to hurry on the building of our houses. They are about half a mile further north and away from the stream, and, we hope, a more healthy spot. As they are built of sun dried brick heavy rain would soon bring down the walls. Mine, however, is roofed and thatched, and Mr. Currie expects to begin to thatch his on Monday, so if the heavy rains do not come for a short time they will be safe.

We are having another visit from the locusts; for several days they have been flying past, and if one thinks of sound only it reminds you of Niagara. The constant roll, as it were, of their flight. The people go in the morning early and gather them up in the bushels while it is still cold and dark and before they see them. They seem to enjoy eating them, for when they see them at a cloud of smoke coming, they give their native cry of joy, very similar to that given when carriers return from a long journey. We hope they may soon disappear, or there will be a very poor prospect of a good garden.

As to our work, it goes on as usual. Last Sunday we had a splendid service, considering the fact that almost all the male population of the country is in the interior trading or on a journey to the coast. But the women were there in numbers, and I had 45 little girls in my Sunday-school class alone. The boys' School is small at present, for this is the time for building, and a great number of them are using school time with my permission. The Girls' School, however, is very well attended, keeping us, the lad who assists me, and myself busy to finish in the allotted time.

Some one has kindly sent me the Kindergarten Magazine for this year, and allow me to thank you heartily for it. I cannot do so personally, as it comes from the publishers, so kindly accept my acknowledgment here.

Treasurer's Acknowledgments, September 30th to November 25th, '98.

TORONTO BRANCH.—Toronto, Northern, Auxiliary fee, \$10, and Thank-offering for the Misses Melville salaries, \$35.

GUELPH BRANCH.—Balance, undesignated, \$2.25.

LISTOWEL BRANCH.—Wingham, Auxiliary fee, \$10, and undesignated, \$2; Kincardine, Auxiliary Thank-offering, undesignated, \$3.

OTTAWA BRANCH.—Lanark, Auxiliary fee, \$10.

QUEBEC PROVINCIAL BRANCH.—Danville, Auxiliary fee, \$10; Montreal, Calvary C.E.S., for Foreign Missions, \$1.50; Montreal, Zion Auxiliary, undesignated, \$19; Montreal, Emmanuel Auxiliary, Thank-offering, undesignated, \$51.60; Cowansville, Auxiliary Thank-offering, undesignated, \$6.50.

QUEBEC (MISCELLANEOUS.)—St. Andrew's Union Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, \$3.83; Morton, Phillips & Co., date on bill, \$2.50.

Total for Ontario, \$72.25; Quebec, \$94.93. Grand total, \$167.18.

(MRS.) FRANCES A. SANDERS, *Treas. C.C.W.B.M.*,
125 Mackay Street, Montreal, Que.

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