

Correspondence.

MISSIONARY ANNIVERSARY.

It has been the custom to hold the Anniversary meetings of the Women's Missionary Aid Societies in this city alternately in each of the churches.

On Tuesday of last week the meeting was held in Granville Street Church, Hon. Judge McCully occupied the chair. After a few preliminary remarks, he gave out the hymn,

"Jesus shall reign where'er the sun,"

read a portion of Scripture and, called on Rev. J. F. Avery to offer prayer. The choir sang the Anthem,

"Praise ye the Lord."

The reports of the Women's Missionary Aid Societies represented were then read—that of the North Church Society by Miss M. R. Eaton, and that of Granville Street Society by Miss E. Robinson, shewing what had occupied the attention of the sisters during the year—the attendance at the monthly meetings and the amounts severally contributed, and the deep interest felt by the members in our mission work.

The chairman then called for a communication to Mrs. Selden, when Mrs. E. M. Saunders read the following address, which, with the reply, we, by resolution, were requested to insert in full.

ADDRESS TO MRS. SELDEN.

The Ladies of the Granville Street Woman's Missionary Aid Society to Mrs. M. R. Selden, Secretary of the Central Board of the Woman's Missionary Aid Societies of Nova Scotia:

The members of the Society connected with Granville Street Church, have from the first, been deeply impressed with your successful services as Secretary of the Board appointed to perform general labors for the local societies of Nova Scotia.

They do not forget how heartily you entered into the work of organizing our society, which of the 52 now existing was one of the earliest. Miss Norris, now Mrs. Armstrong, found in you after her own heart, for you cordially co-operated with her by appealing to the Churches generally on this subject, and rendering them aid in forming societies, and your zeal like hers has never abated.

The Ladies of this Society are persuaded that they express not only their own feelings and sentiments, but those also of the Ladies of all the societies in the Province, especially so, in admiring your arduous labours, notwithstanding your delicate health, which would be a sufficient cause for less courageous spirits to withdraw from such onerous public duties.

They are also reminded of the great and undiminished zeal with which your beloved father directs the work of the Foreign Missionary Board as Corresponding Secretary. In making honourable mention of Dr. Cramp, the Ladies of this Society are deeply sensible that no words can express the feelings of gratitude everywhere felt on account of the faithful, various, and abundant labours of your much honoured father in his Master's vineyard, and it is especially pleasing to them, that the Ladies of the Woman's Missionary Aid Societies in Nova Scotia have, for their general Secretary one who emulates her father's zeal and does honour to his name in laboring in the great cause of Missions. These manifold labours of both father and daughter are separated from ordinary worldly considerations, for, in the case of both, remuneration is neither desired nor accepted.

The Ladies of the Granville Street Church Society beg you to accept from them, in addition to the above statements, this Certificate of Life Membership in their Society, as a slight token of their appreciation of your services, and also as an acknowledgement of the obligations under which you have placed them.

They feel that it is a great pleasure to be permitted by contributing the amount required, \$25, to the treasury, to constitute you a Life Member, and it is the prayer of the donors that your life may be long continued, and your health preserved to labour in this department of our heavenly Master's vineyard.

On behalf of the Ladies of the Granville Street Woman's Missionary Aid Society, Mrs. E. M. SAUNDERS, Mrs. ALLISON SMITH, Mrs. E. D. KING.

Mrs. Selden not having been previously informed of this address, made a very brief verbal acknowledgment; but, in compliance with the resolution of the meeting has put the same in form, as follows:

To Mrs. Saunders, President of the Woman's Missionary Aid Society of Granville St. Church:

Allow me to thank you and the members of the Society with which I am connected, for the kindness you have shown in presenting me with a Life-membership in our Society. It is an honor entirely unexpected, and I may say undeserved on my part, for the little work which belongs to the office of Secretary and Treasurer is truly a labor of love, both as regards the general objects which engage our attention, and the dear missionaries who are under our care.

While health and life shall last, I hope

to serve in so good a cause, which commends itself so warmly to the sympathies of every christian woman in our denomination.

I thank you most sincerely for the kind manner in which you have referred to my dear father in connection with myself, and I know you will believe that it is my earnest desire to deserve the honor you have conferred, and which is so valued by me, till the latest moment of my life.

MARIA R. SELDEN, Sec'y & Treas. of Cen. Board.

The following Report of the N. S. Central Board was read by the Assistant Secretary, Mrs. E. D. King:

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CENTRAL BOARD

of the Woman's Missionary Aid Societies of Nova Scotia.

We are just entering upon the fifth year of the Woman's Missionary Aid Societies. We are women, and our aim is to do woman's work, to aid our suffering, neglected sisters of Burma and Siam.

What is termed "Woman's Rights" finds no favor with us; but we have a firm belief in woman's privilege. We believe that woman has a right to pray, and to labor, and to give. And it is in this way that our Societies aid the great cause of Missions. We are grateful to our heavenly Father for the privilege of being fellow-laborers together with Him. We have cause this year to rejoice, as indeed, we have had every year, since we banded together to send the 'glad tidings' to those who have never heard the joyful news.

From a tiny seed we have grown into a tree, whose branches will eventually we trust, reach from 'the rivers to the ends of the earth.' Some have given themselves, others money and earnest prayers, but the Master accepts as work for Him what is given out of a heart filled with the love of Christ.

In 1871, the first year of our formation, we had thirty Societies. Now in the beginning of 1875 we number fifty-two, with a membership of 1202, which does not include 11 societies which have not yet reported. In 1871 our receipts amounted to \$1,075.71. This year our treasury contains the sum of \$1,524.08.

In 1871 we trembly pledged ourselves to support one sister in the foreign field; now we can confidently send three, and are ready furnished to send still another when the way opens for her to go. At first, the cry was that our work would diminish the general interest in Missions; in reality, the receipts, independent of the Woman's Aid Society, have been greater, and the interest increased.

Even the children, little girls in our Sabbath Schools, have formed miniature Societies, and work that the children in these heathen lands may learn of Christ. From these alone we have received this year \$70.23.

The sum in our treasury is not so great this year as last, and we account for it thus. Last year we sent from our Province seven Missionaries to the foreign field; as the demand for means was proportionably greater than usual, every one made an extra effort to meet this demand; besides which the Societies in P. E. Island, which formerly sent their moneys to us, have within the past year formed a Central Board in their own Province, and therefore take the oversight of their own funds.

There have been added this year 8 new Societies and 5 Mission bands, also two life members. One, Mrs. Selden, Secretary of the Central Board, and the other, Miss Hill, of Sydney, C. B.

The various societies have not sent in their reports as promptly as we could wish, but brief extracts from those we have received, will give an idea of the state of feeling existing in all. The Secretary of a new society at Westport writes:—

"Some of us had long thought that our churches here, should be doing something for Foreign Missions. At length, through the efforts of our Pastor, a few assembled on Christmas day last to see what could be done towards the formation of a society. Not more than twenty persons were present, sixteen of whom volunteered to band themselves together and do what they could for the missionary cause. Our number since that has increased to fifty. We have held two prayer meetings, which were well attended, and considerable interest manifested. May God bless our missionaries, our societies, and all engaged in the glorious work."

From Milton, Queens County:— "Our Society is now going on three years old. We cannot boast of numbers, as all the sisters of the church do not take an interest in it, but those who do, feel it is good to wait upon the Lord' in this way. We have each year observed the Anniversary in January by a public meeting, and we maintain a monthly prayer meeting."

The Billtown Society in regretting the

low state of their funds, and small number of members, says:—

"A few are determined not to give up, but work on, still hoping others will come in. We are trying to get up an Auxiliary Society of some sort among the young people. We number only fifteen, but these are earnest warm-hearted christians, and our small sums are always followed by many prayers."

The Amherst Society reports slow but sure progress:—

"During the past year the monthly meetings have been regularly kept up, with only one exception, and that was on account of the weather. The faithful few are always present, and earnest heartfelt prayers are offered for those who have left home and friends to tell the story of the cross to the benighted heathen."

From the Secretary of a Society just formed in Lapland, near Bridgewater, we have the following:—

"In the Christian Messenger from time to time we have seen accounts of Mission Aid Societies formed in various places throughout our province, and have been led to enquire, Why may not we form a Society here? Still something was needed to arouse us to action. This we had in a meeting held by J. M. Longley, Licentiate, who kindly furnished us with the constitution and bye-laws. Thus armed we met on the evening of July 27th, and proceeded to organize ourselves into a Society. Our number was small, only seven. Thus far we have reason to be thankful, instead of seven, our little band now numbers twelve, and we trust ere long to report an increase in numbers as well as interest."

The Tremont Society reporting an increasing interest in the missionary cause, says:—

"One of the young sisters who has recently united with our church joined our society at the last meeting, and we hope that many more of our young sisters will feel it their duty and privilege to unite with us in the good work of rescuing our perishing sisters."

From Hantsport:—

"In reviewing the past year we have nothing to boast of in the way of doing missionary work, or enlarging our society and making it more efficient. Our monthly meetings, though small have been generally interesting, but we have not succeeded in inducing many others to attend than have hitherto attended, although we have usually interesting missionary intelligence to read."

The Society at Pine Grove, one of the earliest formed, after referring to removals by death and otherwise of prominent members, says:—

"We are numerically this year much the same as heretofore, namely, twenty-two. Dues have been paid promptly, and in one instance doubled. Monthly meetings for prayer and missionary conference have been attended as punctually as circumstances would permit, and although we feel that our part in the great work is very small, yet we earnestly desire that the gospel seed being sown, may be successful."

We now aid in supporting three missionaries.—Miss Eaton, who is with Mr. and Mrs. Churchill, laboring in Siam. Miss Armstrong, who is in Tavoy, with Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, and Miss DeWolf, who returned to this country two years since in quest of health. At present she is in Boston, pursuing a course of study with a view to being still more useful, should her health permit her return to her loved work. A letter recently received from a near relative, expresses the regret that her health is not yet sufficiently restored to endure an Eastern climate, but adds 'she is sanguine, and hopes by next autumn, to be able to decide. She is very anxious to go and be at work' if the Lord's will. Her intention is to return to Nova Scotia in March, and as far as she can to visit the Societies in different parts of the Province.

An extract from one of Miss Eaton's letters dated Bangkok, Siam, and written to the W. A. Societies says:

"My dear sisters:—More than six months have passed since I bade good-bye to you and my loved home-land; six months of journeying and waiting, and oftentimes earnest pleading of the Lord to show us his way and lead us in a plain path. Doubtless ere this reaches you, you will have heard of the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Churchill from Tavoy, and our determination to proceed at once to Bangkok and begin the study of the Siamese language. During the five weeks spent with our complete Mission band in Tavoy, we thrice, now in Bangkok, felt that we were not in the place where the Lord would have us remain.

With these feelings, we could not be quite satisfied, yet were afraid to trust in our own judgment, lest we make a mistake. The rest of our party sympathized in our perplexity, but were unable to advise. After much prayer and many hours spent in consultation, we sisters met one morning in Miss Armstrong's little room, and taking the entire matter to God, left it in his hands feeling sure he would direct us. Since that day my confidence that the Master would teach us the right way, has been firm and unshaken.

These, my first words penned on Siamese heathen shores, I address to you my dear

sisters, to express my gratitude to the Lord and to you as the instrument in His hands of my being here.

I rejoice as often as I think the sisters are praying for me. I hope you will remember the Missionaries when you bow at the throne of grace, for we need the Master's presence and blessing continually, and we know that 'Prayer moves the arm that moves the world.'

The following from one of Miss Armstrong's letters dated Tavoy, July 9th, 1874, will be read with much interest. She says:—

"I have very little to tell you of work that I have completed, but what I have seen I can tell you, and I am sure you will be glad to hear from one of the Mission circle."

The Karen and Burmese schools of Tavoy are in a very flourishing condition at present. Upon the former the Lord has been graciously pleased to bestow a special blessing within the last few weeks. This blessing seems to have been given just in connection with the daily christian exercises and instruction in the school. All the girls, and many of the boys, have asked for baptism; while some have given good evidence of a change of heart. Last evening one of the boys, considered by some of the teachers as a hopeless case, prayed in the meeting, confessing his sins before God and asking for mercy. There has been no excitement, indeed, everything has been so quiet, as to excite our astonishment when we see the result. Thus the Lord works. I feel that the home Churches who have enjoyed a similar blessing, have been praying for this school, and now this is the answer.

Karens often come in from the jungle, to visit the schools, and sometimes we see persons from Siam also. A few days ago several Siamese Karens came to Tavoy to make a final effort for the recovery of the price of an elephant which had been sold by one of them to a Burmese about a year ago. They were heathens, and Mrs. Armstrong told them about the true God. The man to whom the elephant belonged had been in Town before on the same errand. He said that all the way from Siam there were many gods, and he had worshipped all of them hoping to obtain their assistance. But now Mrs. Armstrong told him to pray to God. In the afternoon he returned with the money which he had obtained without any difficulty, declaring that he wanted to learn about the true God, for he had prayed to Him most earnestly that morning, and he had heard and answered him, while the other gods could not help him at all; now he wished to learn how to worship him. And I saw him the same evening at the chapel listening most eagerly, to all that was said. Before leaving he promised to place his son at the Mergui school that he might learn to read before coming here for instruction.

Thus, sometimes the blessing comes immediately after the sowing; but in how many instances in this heathen country years of patient working and waiting must pass before any result is seen. I am afraid that I envy your Missionary that day, as I saw her talking with and instructing the heathen, for many others came, and some from the Burmese also.

One of the Burmese teachers brought his heathen school of between forty and fifty to visit Mrs. Armstrong. When in the distance I saw them coming, very gaily dressed, and carrying flowers, I thought they were going to the Pagoda just beyond to worship, but they came up here filling the verandah sitting on the floor before Mrs. Armstrong, with the flowers raised before their faces, as a token of respect—precisely as they do in their worship. She heard them read, shewed them pictures, and talked about our holy religion for about an hour, when some of them presented their flowers and all left again in procession.

It is a blessed thing to be tired in such work and I long for the time when I too can do thus. The clouds which have so surely separated me from the Karens, are beginning to lift, and I hope before many months have passed they will disappear entirely. I can talk a little and teach some. It is easier to make them understand me than for me to understand them, for they talk very fast. But when I try to talk with the teacher and others they are generally very patient and try to speak more slowly. I know that with time all these difficulties will vanish.

I have noticed with great pleasure and gratitude the movement at home with regard to "Mission Bands." There are many ways in which these bands may materially aid the mission work. Our work is among the children to a great extent. Why should not the children at home work for the education and salvation of their dark brothers and sisters here? or rather how can they help doing so if they know? I never saw such numbers of wretched looking children before as I have seen here. Many do not live beyond childhood and it seems well that they do not. Some of the children are very interesting looking, and often some little bright eyed heathen face reminds me of some dear little one at home."

From these extracts we can see that our Missionaries are full of faith, and hope, and zeal. They are not disheartened though their discouragements are many. They feel that it is the Lord's work, not theirs, they serve the Lord Christ, and must stay beside all waters and He will ensure the harvest. In their letters our sisters repeatedly refer to the fact, that one great source of their strength lies in the thought

that the Churches at home are praying for them. Let us not forget the difficulties and discouragements which await them in that far off land. And while we pray that their faith may be strengthened, may we remember that the Master will require a faithful account of the talent he has committed to us. Now that the old year with its record of neglected duties has passed from our sight may the advent of 1875 impel us to renewed earnestness. May the sincere cry of each one be, 'Lord here am I, take me. What wilt thou have me to do.'

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

HALIFAX, Dec. 31st, 1874.

General account of the Treasurer of the Women's Missionary Aid Societies for Nova Scotia.

Table with columns for 'By Subscriptions from Societies 1874', 'Donations', 'Balance from last year', etc. Total: \$1523 89.

Table with columns for 'To amounts rendered to Treasurer of F. M. Board', 'To amount expended for Missions', etc. Total: \$1528 89.

The above account having been carefully examined and found to be correct, is respectfully submitted.

L. M. SMITH, Auditor of Central Board.

List of Societies, and amounts received from them respectively during the year 1874:

Table listing various societies and their contributions, including Amherst, Beaver River, Bridgetown, etc. Total: \$1335 88.

DONATIONS.

Table listing individual donations from friends and churches, including A. Friend, B. H. Hubey, etc. Total: \$93 47.

Donations from Sabbath Schools for the education of heathen children:

Table listing donations from Sabbath schools in various locations like Sunday School, Temple Ch., Yarmouth, etc. Total: \$70 23.

MARIA R. SELDEN, Treasurer. Halifax, Dec. 31, 1874.

Rev. A. S. Hunt was then called on and gave an excellent speech on the late develop-