

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Annual Missionary Meeting

OF N. S. CENTRAL BOARD AND THE HALIFAX WOMEN'S MISSION AID SOCIETIES.

The Annual Meeting of the N. S. Central Board, and Societies connected with the Granville Street and North Baptist Churches, was held in the North Baptist Church on Tuesday of last week.

Dr. Delaney, by invitation, occupied the Chair.

The meeting commenced by singing "The morning light is breaking," and reading Isaiah xxxv.

Prayer was offered by Rev. E. M. Saunders.

The Chairman briefly stated the object of the meeting, and expressed the pleasure it gave to himself and the members of Granville St. Ch. to meet unitedly in this way for such an object.

After singing "What hast thou done for me," the Report of the Granville St. Society was called for, and was read by Miss Robinson, the Secretary being absent from the city.

The Report of the North Church W. M. A. Society was read by the Secretary, Mrs. Manning. These interesting and valuable documents were listened to with close attention, and produced a solemn effect on the meeting.

We should be glad to give them in full, but their length would prevent our placing the operations of the Central Board before our many interested readers in connection with the Societies throughout the country.

After singing "Rescue the perishing," the Report of the N. S. Central Board was called for, and read by the Secretary, Mrs. Selden, as follows:—

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF W. M. A. SOCIETIES FOR NOVA SCOTIA, 1877.

In reviewing the work of the past year the Central Board are conscious of some falling off in the amounts sent to their care, and entertain fears that the interest once so warmly manifested by the different Societies in the missionary cause, is somewhat declining.

This may be accounted for in part by the pressure of hard times, and also by the fact that for some time past, no representative from these Societies has been labouring in the land of the Telugus in connection with our missionaries.

But when it is taken into account that our money goes to support schools now in operation, and to assist in the erection of mission premises, it must not be thought that we are doing nothing.

The Board decided last November to forward three hundred dollars to the wives of our three missionaries—Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Churchill, and Mrs. Sanford—for them to expend as they thought proper for schools and other purposes.

The Treasurer's Report shows that our Mission Bands and Sabbath Schools have done nobly this year, and their money is always set apart for the education of children in the schools under the care of the missionaries engaged in this work.

We have the names of seventy-two Societies on the list kept by the Secretary, but only forty-three have reported themselves this year, so that it is to be feared a large number may be extinct or not in working order.

The name of one Life Member has been received, and four new Societies organized—Parrsboro', Cow Bay, C. B., Hubley Settlement, and Ingram River.

In May of last year the Central Board dispatched the Missionary Box which conveyed so many tokens of love and esteem from friends in this Province to the sisters in India.

It was received by them in August, in excellent condition, and gave unbounded satisfaction to all concerned.

The sum of \$47.22 was donated towards the expenses connected with this enterprise, of which amount \$40.38 was expended, leaving a balance of \$6.84.

Letters have been received regularly from our missionary sisters. We append a few extracts:—The family of Mr. Armstrong have all suffered much from the fever of the country during the last year.

The latest accounts being us the intelligence that they had been obliged to go back to Chicacole. Mr. Armstrong's medical advisers thinking it necessary that he should be on the sea coast.

MRS. ARMSTRONG, under date of June 28th, writes: "In looking over the year's work, it distresses me that more has not been done. We have been ill so much of the time since our coming, that we have been physically unable either to study, or teach, or speak for the Master as we earnestly desire to do.

If the Lord gives us mastery of this fever the coming year, we have good prospect of sowing much seed in this region. The ground is well broken up now, we have access to many children, and through them to their homes. It becomes us to put on the whole armor and prepare for face to face conflict with the Prince of Darkness, in these, his own domains.

The Lord has prospered us in our attempts to gather schools. We have all the children we can attend to, and prospect of numbers more, when we are ready for them. I want you clearly to understand our school work, that you may give of your funds, and pray intelligently. Our oldest school developed into an Oriya one—you know the people here are of two nationalities, though their worship is the same. This Oriya school consists of thirty-five boys and seven girls, under an Oriya man of the "clerk" or writer's caste. We hope he is a Christian, though he has not yet been baptized. Nau-nau and I plan to visit the schools and teach the girls sewing two or three times a week.

The next school formed was our verandah Telugu school. This school, which is most promising, is taught by two native teachers, who work heartily with us, and it is largely through their influence that about one hundred children, including Nau-Nau's girl's school, have been gathered in. Pray earnestly for their teachers, for without the Spirit of God in their hearts, we spend our strength for naught.

The first of May, a Pariah village, about a mile and a half away, besought us to give them a school for their children. This call it did not seem right to disregard. The children are very poor and degraded, but none seem so gladly to learn of Christ. We have built them a small house at a cost of ten Rupees, and pay a man four Rupees per month to teach them to read. They come here for Sabbath School every Sabbath evening, and we visit them and teach them what we can through the week. This school numbers thirty-eight boys.

The last school formed was a girl's school, begun the 1st of June. This is under Nau-Nau's care, on the side verandah of our house. This school already numbers fifteen. Dear, bright little faces, I wish you could see them. Little slaves they are to all intents, unless the Gospel sets them free.

We are looking so longingly for some sign of up-springing seed here, and ask the prayers of my sisters that He to whom nothing is impossible will come and speak to the people by His Spirit so that they will hear and live."

At a later date we hear of the arrival of the Box sent in May last from this Province. Mrs. A. says:—"The Box is here safe, in perfect condition, and came in quicker time than we had dared to hope. When opened, the contents were found to be uninjured in any way. We laughed, we rejoiced, we were almost too happy, as parcel after parcel came to light; here a word, there a note, and here only the handwriting of a friend, but all covering substantial proofs of the 'one family' in which we 'dwell in Him,' however widely separated materially. For years the effect of your Box will be influencing the lives and comfort of your missionaries, and very, very many around them. Nau-Nau was delighted with her share, and has received fresh impulse in her work from the knowledge of sympathy for her in a far-off land. We are all very happy in the reception of your fresh tokens of love and remembrance, and pronounce your Box a perfect success."

The latest news came this week. Mrs. A. writes under date Oct 27th:—"I wrote you last from Chicacole, after the receipt of our long-looked-for Box. Not a day since that has not had its comfort from the contents of it. The framed mottoes are a constant pleasure, and other mementoes meet me in every part of the house. Indeed, it has made a very pleasant episode in our history that time cannot rob of its sweetness. It has given me a fresh hold of friendships at home just at a time that I needed them, for I cannot tell you what a great blank my mother's death has made. Looking homeward now, I see no home nearer than the everlasting shores. Many would welcome me to my native land no doubt, but the mother's heart I thought to cheer has passed beyond my reach."

We have no light task in Kimediy, for it is unlearned by the truth that has penetrated to many other corners of heathendom; such dark night broods over the people, and any process of enlightenment must be so slow. The people listen, but they know so little, and there is so much superstition and prejudice to be overcome before they are willing to learn, that our task would be utterly hopeless, indeed, were it not for the Master's promise, 'I will send you the Comforter, and he will dwell with you, and he will be in you, and he will glorify you, for he will take of mine, and will give unto you.'"

CHICACOLE, Nov. 25, 1877. "I fear you will think me very negligent about writing. Indeed this con-

stant fever and sickness, and the trying to keep up our school work, and the necessity of changing from place to place so frequently, has quite disorganized everything, and made letter-writing very different to what it was. We spent a few weeks in our own house, then removed to Mr. Amslie's for the wet season, fearing the dampness, but there Mr. Armstrong fell so ill we feared for his life, and came in all haste back to Chicacole. I have been very much interested in reading of your Jubilee in Granville St. Church. I am sure it must have been exceedingly pleasant to all engaged in it. I could not but imagine how "good" it would have been "to be there." I so often long for the "Communion of Saints." When I went down to Bimli last year, and I heard them all singing and worshipping as those do who love it, I could not sing for weeping; I had not heard anything like worship with those who worship in "spirit and in truth" for so long, that it seemed too good to bear quietly.

Nau-Nau and I make up our female prayer-meeting—the promise is to "two or three." When shall we see a worshipping people gathered together here? Surely in God's good time "we shall reap if we faint not."

MRS. CHURCHILL writes from Bimplipitam of special work among the women of the country. She says:—"To be allowed to visit these women, and give them the gospel of Jesus Christ is the greatest desire of my heart, and to do this we must take something with us at first that they desire—not connected with our religion, otherwise we should be excluded from their homes altogether, and they left to perish. It was with this end in view that I toiled in Madras, that I might qualify myself, so that I might minister to their bodily infirmities, if I could reach them in no other way, and thus, after gaining their confidence, give them the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord. A converted Brahmin in Madras told me that in this way I might reach them when all others failed, and that if I could relieve their bodily infirmities, I would be sure to gain their love and esteem, and might then do whatever I wished with them. The little I did in Cocanada, and the visiting with those Zenana workers in Madras has given me an intense longing for the work, and it has also given me an insight into the immense obstacles in the way of the salvation of those women, that I might not have got, though living years in India, in any other way."

After the arrival of the box, Mrs. C. writes:—"I feel as if I want to write to each friend from whom I received anything, to thank them for the pleasure they have given their missionary sisters, by their kind remembrance, as well as by their useful gifts; this will be about impossible, but I am sure the Father knows them and will reward them for their kindness, and I hope the sisters and friends at home may receive an hundred-fold, both spiritually and temporally. My verandah school waxes and wanes; those who come regularly are doing well. I had four very interesting women for a time. They can read the Testament quite well, and I gave them portions which they promised to read every day."

MRS. SANFORD is also engaged in school work, as the following extracts will show:—"My wished for school is now a reality. Nine interesting little girls came on the first of May, eight of whom are boarders, expecting all their wants in the way of food, clothing, &c., to be supplied. Mary, their present teacher, is a good Christian woman. Although the work of native helpers needs looking into daily, I feel that we were fortunate to secure her. Besides the girls' regular studies, we teach them singing, sewing, and also have a Sunday School, and weekly prayer-meeting in Telugu."

At a subsequent date she adds:—"Yesterday, we at Bimli were gladdened by the arrival of the good things from 'the Box.' I cannot tell you how much pleasure we found in looking them over. As our thoughts turned homeward to the dear friends there, we felt assured of your loving remembrance. The ointments, pictures, pencils, thimbles, &c., will be very useful in the school. We earnestly hope that all who have thought of us so kindly, may be abundantly blessed."

NAU-NAU, THE KAREN WOMAN living with Mrs. Armstrong has been labouring faithfully the past year, teaching her own school and visiting others. Mrs. A. says of her:—"Nau-Nau's grandmother is very aged, and frequently writes for her to come and see her; many others, make her good offers if she will return, but she says, these people have no one to care for them, while there are many Christians in Burmah, and she cannot go back."

This completes our survey of foreign work, and we turn to see what has been done nearer home.

THE REPORTS FROM THE HOME SOCIETIES have not come in so ready as we could have wished.

As regards money matters, the auxiliary Society of Windsor, always to the front, now takes the lead as the highest contributor for this year. She is closely followed, however, by her sister Society in Amherst. We subjoin a few extracts:

Great Village.—We have again reached the close of the year—another year of missionary work in connection with our Society. Through the summer months, from various causes, our monthly meeting almost proved a failure, and we were fearing our yearly report would shew that we were going backward instead of advancing. However, in making up our accounts, we find we have more money to send than last year, and hope the coming year will be the most prosperous yet.

North Brookfield.—There seems to be a falling from the ranks of our Society during the past year. We feel the need of being aroused to greater effort in the cause of missions. Yet the prayers of the faithful ones are still directed to our Father, who is also the Father of the "dark nations," that He will "rescue the perishing." Heaven bless the cause of Missions in our own and foreign lands!

Sydney.—Though our Society this year numbers only sixteen members, our meetings have been more than usually interesting, on account of having had among us two returned missionaries. In the early part of the year Mrs. Boggs was with us, and the latter part we have had Mrs. Crawley, so that our Society has been signally favoured.

Hantsport.—We cannot speak of enlargement or great prosperity in our Society, but are still holding on our way. Sometimes we have felt exceedingly discouraged on account of the little interest manifested by many, but at other times we have been much encouraged in our small meetings when we felt the promise verified, "Where two or three" &c. At such times we have felt there was no such word as fail, for the Lord is on our side. We are glad to have a little more to send you this year than last.

Cow Bay, C. B.—We keep up our regular meetings and endeavour to instil in our members as much of the missionary spirit as we can by reading all the missionary news we can get, believing that the more we know about the heathen, the more we will feel for them, and as the consequence will be constrained to do for them.

Pine Grove.—Our Missionary Aid Society cannot report much progress this year. We have received one addition. The members stand firm in their adherence to the cause of missions, and continue to sympathize with, and pray for the success of those, who are toiling on by faith in God's promise, that the heathen shall be given to His Son for an inheritance.

Milton.—We are sorry we can do no more at present, but hope that in the next year our prospects will be brighter. We have held a meeting every month, though our numbers have been very small.

Hammond's Plains.—During the past year, quite a number of sisters left our Society, weary as it were, of well doing, leaving us but sixteen. We try to make the meetings as interesting as possible, so as to encourage the members and others to attend, but here, as in other places, but few find their way to the monthly prayer-meeting. We are not as strong in numbers as we were last year, and therefore cannot send in as much money, but we feel, one and all of us, a wish to keep the Society up and working. We have resolved, that as many have left us, we will do our best to make up for their loss, and thus add to our treasury for the benefit of the heathen. We know we must not think of self when working for Christ, but of His love for us.

It will be seen by the letters from our missionaries that there is much need for help, as schools cannot be maintained without money to pay Teachers, and supply necessary furniture and books, &c., for their school-rooms. We have heard that some of the former friends of the cause have excused themselves from giving, because we have no lady sent and supported by our Societies at present working in foreign fields. But surely the education of the children lies at the very root of future success, and to aid in such a cause is as truly missionary work as any other. The Central Board trusts that this will be the last year when we shall have to say that there is no representative of our Societies working side by side by those sisters who have been toiling in heathen lands for some years. The Secretary of one of our Societies said in her Report, "There is no such word as fail." Shall we not adopt these words for our motto this incoming year? Fail not to pray, fail not to remit, then the Mission will progress, and next year's Report will present a more favorable balance sheet."

Respectfully submitted, M. R. SELDEN, Secy and Treas.

NOVA SCOTIA CENTRAL BOARD Treasurer's general account with Women's Missionary Aid Societies for the year 1877.

By cash received from Societies \$843 21 Donations 67 21 Mission Bands 69 93 Interest from Savings Bank 6 88 \$987

To amount remitted—Quarter ending March 31st \$257 59 " " June 30th 272 44 " " September 30th 171 33 " " December 232 99 980 35

To Stationery, Postage, Express charges, Discount on Notes, &c. &c. \$5 75 Balance Interest remitted 1 08 6 83

M. R. SELDEN, Sec. & Treas. The above account having been very carefully examined and found to be correct, is respectfully submitted.

L. M. SMITH, Auditor

List of Societies contributing during the year 1877.

Table listing contributions from various societies such as Amherst, Aylesford Upper, Aylesford Lower, Upper Wilnot, Annapolis, Barrington, Bear River, Berwick, Canning, Cleaveland, Cahard, Clarence, Cambridge, Canso, Cow Bay, C. B., Deerfield, Digby, Falmouth, Great Village, Guysborough, Hammond's Plains, Halifax Gr. St. Ch., Halifax Nth. Church, etc.

Mission Bands—Sabbath Schools.

Table listing contributions from Mission Band Sewing Circle, Temple Church, Yarmouth, Judson & Arthur Kempton's Mission Box, Mission Band, Granville St. Church, Sunday School, Amherst, Mission Band, Great Village, Mission Band, Canning, for the support of a little girl at school in India, Do. do. at Peraux, Two little girls, Sabbath School at Canso.

Donations.

Table listing donations from A Christmas present from A Friend, Indian Harbour, Contributions by friends in Aylesford and vicinity to constitute Mrs. S. C. De Wolfe, A Life Member, Mrs. W. E. Hall, Melvern Square, Proceeds of Sale of Socks, Torbrook, Knitting Circle, Woodville, Mrs. T. Uhlman, Deerfield, Deacon E. Crosby, A Friend, Upper Falmouth, Mrs. S. Condon, Melvern Square, for the support of the native "Oriya" preacher, Mrs. B. Phinney, New Germany, Gideon Fleck, Holland's Harbour, Mrs. Arnold Martell, C. B., Collected by Mrs. Boggs at Margarets Bay, Mrs. T. Fletcher, Debert, Mrs. Robert Nelson, Upper Stewiacke, For loan of box from India, from Wolville, Yarmouth, Milton, Queens, & Great Village.

After the reading of these documents the chairman called upon Rev. E. M. Saunders who gave an earnest address in which he pictured some of the difficulties experienced by the missionaries, and the intense longing they feel for the salvation of the heathen.

Being there, surrounded by the darkness of heathenism, they rest largely in the expectation of blessings coming in answer to the prayers of those under whose auspices and for whom they go, giving up all the blessings of home and Christian society. He noticed particularly the fine Christian character seen in Nau-Nau, the Karen teacher, who came from Burmah with Mrs. Armstrong, and now labors with her as a teacher in the land of the Telugus. He expressed the belief that a great work was before us among that noble race of the people of India, and although reverses may come in the sickness or even death of the missionaries, yet the work would go on and bring forth fruit in converts to Christ in larger numbers in future years.

Mr. I. C. Archibald then addressed the meeting briefly in some highly appropriate remarks.

Rev. Jas. Meadows, having come in to the meeting, was invited to speak. He occupied a few minutes, during which he brought out some soul-stirring thoughts calculated to inspire those who are engaged in caring for the heathen and sustaining the cause by their contributions and prayers. He shewed what men are without the hopes and joys of the gospel, and to what they are raised when made new creatures in Christ Jesus.

After singing and the collection, Rev. J. W. Manning, the pastor, closed the meeting by Prayer and the Benediction.

Hatters have a tradition that while St. Clement was fleeing from his persecutors his feet became blistered, and to afford himself relief he was compelled to put wool between his sandals and the soles of his feet. On continuing his journey the wool, by the motion and pressure of the feet, became an uniformly compact substance, which has since been denominated felt. When he afterwards settled at Rome it is said he improved the discovery, and from this circumstance has been dated the origin of felt.