

"I know it, mamma, but I wish my rush-light would burn brighter. I am afraid by and by it will go out for want of oil. Oh, you can't tell how I feel sometimes—

"While longing stirs through every nerve To march and face the fight."

The mother sighed and laid her cheek against the fair pale face of her child in token of appreciative sympathy.

"Fleda," said Hattie, looking up from her book, "have you forgotten those lines you quoted to me yesterday—'God is glorified as well in suffering as doing, in patient endurance as in vigorous performance of his will'?" Then

"Buckle thine armor, grasp thy sword and bow, Fight the good fight of faith, and win the prize."

"Thank you, dear sister," said Fleda. "How often I need reminding!"

"Not half so often as the rest of us, dear child," said Mrs. Hammond, affectionately.

"Mamma," continued Hattie, "I read aloud to Fleda that essay on 'Missions,' from Dr. Goodell, and the 'Plea for China,' from Mr. Vrooman, together with the full report of the last meeting of the Mission Board. I am thinking that she feels somewhat as I do—that she wishes we could all be missionaries."

"Oh yes, mamma; you can't think how it all looks to me as I lie here and see so many living all for dress and show and vanity, wasting their beautiful years—for what?—till my soul burns for a voice to reach the world!"

The burning spot on Fleda's cheeks and the flashing eyes attested more eloquently than her words even the deep feeling that thrilled her voice with unwonted energy. Hattie had come round to the sofa now, and throwing herself down beside her sister, playfully laid her finger on Fleda's lips, saying:

"There, little lady, you have said enough now; it's my turn to talk. I ought to have known better than to excite you so with that reading. Mamma, you once thought of going on a mission; what prevented it?"

A shadow of pain crossed Mrs. Hammond's face as she replied:

"Yes, dear, it was your father's greatest wish to be a missionary; his plans were all laid, but my parents would not permit. I have often thought, had not his life-plans been so crossed, he would have been living yet. He experienced fearful conflicts between what seemed to him clashing duties. Your father's marriage was unfortunate for his usefulness," said she, with a sigh.

"Don't say that, dear mother," said Fleda. "What was that you were reading yesterday from Taylor's 'Holy Living'?"—"Providence runneth not on broken wheels."

"Yes, daughter, and I try to console myself with the fact that I was willing to go if not withheld. How different my life has been," she continued, "from one spent on missionary ground! Your father's early death, with the changes which have come to us with this inherited estate—wealth and worldly influences—make me feel so far removed from him that I tremble lest I never more than catch a far off glimpse of him in heaven. You never will know the half of what you have lost, my children," said she with deep emotion.

"I can remember, mamma, when father used to hold me in his arms, and sing, 'My faith looks up to thee,'" said Hattie.

"Yes, Hattie, he died singing that hymn. It was very touching, as his death was so sudden that he himself was overwhelmed, for a few minutes, saying, 'It cannot be; I have only just begun to live, and God wants me to work yet.' When assured by his physician, he turned his face to the wall and wept, but after recovering himself broke into that triumphant hymn, and then expired."

Pausing to control her painful emotions, she again continued: "Well do I know, dear children, that God's *finis* written across the page of earthly love need put no end to an affection springing from the affinity of two souls; but worldliness may put a more effectual barrier."

"May not his mantle fall on us, dear mother?" asked Fleda, softly, after a pause.

"The fondest hope of your father's heart was to see his children grow up to do the work in which he was not permitted to engage; and yet how could I give any of you up?"

"For Jesus' sake, mamma," murmured Fleda, with clasped hands and closed lips.

"Because he first loved us," echoed Hattie; "therefore count it all joy."

The Ninth Annual Report of the Central Board of W. M. A. Societies for Nova Scotia.

It is with pleasure the Central Board again submit to the friends and supporters of the Mission, their Report at another annual gathering, with the knowledge that they have once more a representative in India. This has not been the case for some years, and, though the funds at our disposal have, as we trust, been judiciously appropriated in aiding schools and building mission premises, yet it should never be forgotten that the primary end of our organization is the "support of single women as missionaries, school teachers, Bible readers, &c.," according to the terms of our Constitution. It is therefore with great gratification that we announce the probable arrival of Miss Hammond on the scene of her future labours as our missionary in India, and bespeak for her the prayers, sympathies and support of the friends of Missions in this Province. Miss Hammond sailed from New York in October, and is to live with Mrs. Sanford at Bimlipitam, assisting her in the schools as soon as she has acquired the language.

During the past year Mrs. Armstrong has written to the Board for an assistant, but up to this time, no one has volunteered to go, and we are still anxiously looking for some one to fill the place. Who will go? Is there no one with the love of Christ and perishing souls in their heart, possessing the necessary educational qualifications, and having a large amount of self-denial in their temperament, who will offer themselves, a consecrated sacrifice to this great, this noble work? Such an one is needed now, for Mrs. Armstrong requires assistance after her many years of toil and sickness. Mrs. A. has established an Orphanage at Chicacole during the last few months, and the Board donated one hundred and twenty dollars towards its maintenance. This sum provides for the support of six orphan children for one year. Any one desirous of helping in this form of mission work, is invited to send twenty dollars, which will enable Mrs. Armstrong to rescue another child from the sad fate which otherwise will probably befall it.

In July last the first number of the *Canadian Missionary Link* was published, a monthly paper devoted to missionary intelligence from India and elsewhere, prominence being given to letters and news from those who are labouring under the care of our own and the Canadian Boards. A considerable number of copies are taken by members of our Societies, but not so many as the Editors of the paper require, in order to make the enterprise remunerative, and with a wish to give ample information from our own Boards, as well as those under their own care. The terms are twenty-five cents a year.

There are several Societies in large and influential churches, as well as some feebler ones, who have not been heard from this year, and it is feared that, as their interest has declined, they may have died out. Out of one hundred and eighty churches connected with the Associations in this Province, only fifty-one Societies reported themselves this year. If in each county a Secretary were appointed to visit and look after the Societies in their own localities, perhaps a revival of former interest might be manifested.

Intelligence from the wives of the missionaries now in India has been received during the year, from whose letters we glean a few items which are of special interest. Mrs. Armstrong, of Chicacole, writes:

"I have been very much pleased with the way the little girls have answered to our call to come and learn with us. We have two Brahmin girls and others of all castes in regular attendance. We have quite a number of little boys, too. Three little folk came for admittance the other day whom I should like you to have seen—two little boys, and a mite of a girl that looked more like a little black doll than a human being. The boy of six was husband to this little woman of four; she had been engaged and married, and left her mother for her husband's home at that tender age. There is a large field of work open to us here. Any number of children are ready to be taught, and hundreds of women are within fifteen minutes walk of our house, most or all of whom would be

accessible to a skilful visitor. The fields lie ready to our hand, but the ploughing and the sowing must precede the reaping.

July 3rd.—You will be glad to hear that Mr. Armstrong baptized two people last Sabbath in the village where there was such a tumult last year. One of them was the man who made the boldest stand then, but was prevented from coming to us by the violence of his heathen friends. They have found it is of no use to oppose him, and he was baptized quietly in his own village after all. The other was the son of one of our Christians.

Sept. 4th.—Our girls' school is very interesting; there are over twenty, and they are beginning to show marked improvement on the ignorance in which we found them. It is the only school for girls in the town, and as it is a new thing, many are unwilling to allow their girls to learn anything. It is not our custom, they say, and they think the answer unanswerable. We were cheered last month by the accession of one more to our church membership—the young man supported by the Wolfville Sunday School,—who has for some time past given satisfactory proof of his sincerity, was accepted for baptism by the church, and the ordinance was performed in this town for the first time.

Mrs. Churchill, of Bimlipitam, speaks of the work in her locality as follows:

"Mr. Churchill has been to Bobbilly and secured some land, and is only waiting now till the monsoon shall change, and the rainy weather be over, to go out and erect our temporary home. He is very busy overseeing the carpenters, sawyers, &c., getting the doors and windows made, for houses in this country have so many and such large doors and windows, so as to be able to have the houses as open as possible. It will be a good work over, when the three mission stations are supplied with buildings suitable for mission purposes; then the missionaries can give their time to more direct mission work, which will be more agreeable to themselves and to the friends at home. As the great heat subsided, I got into a little missionary work, which keeps me pretty busy, with my sewing, writing, and household duties, and gives me a great deal of pleasure, too. I have taken some little girls three afternoons a week to sew, and have a little meeting with them once a week."

Mrs. Sanford directs attention particularly to the school under her care. In a letter dated June 26th she says:

"The last English mail brought us five hundred dollars for the purpose of building a school-house for my girls. I am very thankful indeed for this, for though the school is not large, we have felt the want of a suitable place for their use. We are still using a room in our house for them, but have a small native house near, on the Compound, which was built for them to eat and sleep in. We humbly trust they are day by day advancing in useful knowledge, and we do not feel discouraged in caring for their wants. One of the orphans has asked for baptism. As she is young and has so much to learn it seems best for her to wait awhile.

We shall be delighted to see Miss Hammond this fall, and earnestly hope nothing may prevent her coming, for I want her so much in the school. Although I love these little girls, I cannot feel it my duty to do much for them at the neglect of my own family; neither can I give them up entirely to native teaching. It all requires overseeing."

Some of our Societies have sent brief reports, from which we give such extracts as may be of general interest, and illustrative of our home work.

Clarence.—This closes the sixth year of our existence as a Society, and while you have received pretty regularly our contributions during that period, this is, I believe, the first time that a report of our progress has been forwarded to you.

We rested content with sending our moneys, thinking that was all that was needed, but after reading the somewhat discouraging reports presented by many of the Societies last year, we resolved in future to send you, if possible, a few cheering words in reference to our little band of mission workers.

Looking over the years that have passed since our organization, we feel that we have abundant reason to thank God for his great goodness to us. We began with a membership of 20, others joined our ranks until we numbered 31. Since then two have passed away to the better land, some have gone to other fields of usefulness, leaving our present number 25.

During the summer our meetings are held monthly, the rest of the year quarterly. Our meetings, in general, are very interesting, because well attended. One of our number prepares a synopsis of Missionary intelligence, two or three others, previously appointed, write Essays on religious subjects, and the remainder of the time is devoted to prayer and remarks on mission work.

Our Society receives much encouragement from the regular attendance of our worthy pastor.

We still feel encouraged to hold on our way, truly thankful that we are permitted to do something for that dear Saviour who has done so much for us, and that in some small measure we may assist in sending the 'glorious news of salvation to the perishing heathen in distant India.

Bear River.—Under all our discouragements we have been enabled to hold our regular meetings, which have not been devoid of interest, although the attendance has been small. A few at least are determined to persevere in the work, hoping and praying that our numbers may be increased, our faith strengthened, and our earnestness deepened.

Our number for the last year was twenty-one. Remittances to the Board in all \$21.

We hope that the present year may be one of progress and prosperity, not only to our own Society, but to all Societies in connection with our Boards, and that great good may attend our feeble efforts.

Pine Grove, Annapolis Co.—In presenting our annual report we wish to express our gratitude to the Master for preserving mercy and sustaining grace; not only to ourselves as a Society, but to the beloved band of brothers and sisters labouring in a distant land,—for while pain and suffering have in some instances been theirs, yet the death angel has been commissioned to pass them by.

We cannot record all the enthusiasm in the missionary cause that is desirable, yet we trust a strong underlying current of love for the souls of the perishing still exists among us. Amid trials and discouragements we still wish to labor on in this work, so emphatically,—God's own cause.

Our Treasurer has remitted to the Treasurer of the Central Board the sum of \$17. We regret that we could not send more, and hope that another year will find our membership largely increased.

Canning.—"Though the monthly missionary meetings have been but thinly attended, they have been held regularly since the organization of the Society in 1870, and will, we hope, continue to be, during the lifetime of at least some of its members; for there are those here who really believe that the command, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature,' imperatively demands that those living in Christian lands sustain the laborers in the foreign field both by their prayers as well as their contributions. Blessed be God, there is every encouragement to send the gospel abroad. Thousands of converts from heathendom are now followers of Christ, and we are taught that the redeemed before the throne will be of all kindreds and nations and people and tongues."

Amherst.—Our Society is gradually increasing, and we are glad to be enabled to send a few dollars more to the treasury than on any previous year, and hope to have a still greater increase for the next. We enjoyed Miss Hammond's visit exceedingly. Her heart is evidently in the work, and she seems to be just the one to go out to labour. Our earnest prayer is that God's presence may go with her, that her health may be continued, and many souls be saved through her instrumentality. We received a few copies of the *Canadian Missionary Link*, are much pleased with the little paper, and one of our members is soliciting subscriptions.

We hope to be successful in getting perhaps twenty names. Our membership is gradually increasing, so that we now number over seventy. Our monthly meetings are regularly kept up; true, the attendance is sometimes small, but on every month the faithful few meet together to pray for the cause of missions, and have felt their own souls blessed and their spiritual strength increased by so doing. We feel interested in those of our own friends and acquaintances who have gone out to labour, and earnestly pray that their health may be continued and souls saved through their instrumentality."

Windsor.—"We regret exceedingly that the amount sent by the W. M. A. Society is so much smaller than that

sent last year. The deficiency is owing we think more to the 'hard times' than to lack of interest in the Society. Our monthly meetings have been quite as well attended as in former years, and several of the members have added to their usual subscription. Those who were not able to pay this year hope to be able to do so in the next. It is our earnest prayer that the new Year may prove a very prosperous one to the Society.

Great Village.—We are thankful that our Society is not dying out, even though the progress is not all that we could desire. We have had the addition of four new members during the year, and our meetings are pretty well sustained. All seem interested in our Foreign Mission work and anxious to do all they can to help.

But while we have much to encourage us, we have also had sorrow, for during this year death has come and taken from us one beloved by all; we miss her sadly, but for her 'it is well!'

We were much pleased in the summer to see Miss Hammond, and trust she may have health for the work to which she has given herself. It seems so sad to think that any of our Societies, or individual members should weary in the good work. Could not some of our sisters be persuaded to act as County Secretaries and try to revive the interest where it is flagging?"

Hammond's Plains.—"We are not discouraged, although we have many small annoyances and some opposition. Many of our members speak encouragingly at our monthly meetings, and will do their best toward the advancement of the Society. Are there any reasons for us to grow weary? Ought we not all to feel abundantly repaid for our small endeavours when we read of so many of the benighted natives of India coming to the knowledge of the Saviour. May God help each of us to think more of our heathen friends, and to pray more earnestly for those who have not come under the mild sceptre of Christ, whether they be far away in India, or around our own firesides."

Wolfville.—Our meetings during 1878 have been regularly sustained; on some occasions the attendance has been very small, while at other times a good number have assembled, so that as a whole there has been no falling off in that respect, but we hope the coming year may witness some improvement. During the year six new members have joined our Society, making our present number thirty four.

Deerfield.—Our last year has been much the same as formerly; our meetings have been as regularly held, and about as many have attended as usual, though from the scarcity of money the subscriptions are not as regularly paid as heretofore.

A good many of our sisters take the *Missionary Link*, and enjoy the reading of it very much indeed. We read with a great deal of pleasure and interest the letters from our dear missionaries, and our prayer to God is that many more may be raised up to join them in heathen lands in telling the story of the love of Jesus to perishing men and women."

Four new Societies have been received this year—from Upper Stewiacke, Margaret's Bay 1st Church, Bridgewater and Newport. Amherst heads the list this year as regards finances, and we hope others, by increased exertions on the part of their Secretaries and officers, will be able to report better tidings next Anniversary.

Our own Board in connection with that of New Brunswick and Prince Island have expended the following sums during the past year:—

Mrs. Sanford for school.....\$ 500 00
Mrs. Armstrong for Orphanage 120 00
Mrs. Sanford, for building mission premises at Bimlipitam 1,000 00
Also, Miss Hammond's outfit and travelling expenses to India.

It will be seen by the accounts, that the amount received by the Treasurer falls short by a considerable sum from that obtained in former years, and if continued, will prove disastrous in the extreme. We trust, however, that we have arrived at the lowest point, and that from this time our course may be "upward and onward."

MARIA R. SELDEN, Sec'y.