

Convention be convened, and ask the co-operation of the W. M. A. Societies. Let the churches of these Maritime Provinces be called upon to prayerfully send their delegates up to investigate the sad difficulties which exist between our Board and our missionaries, and with the promised blessing of God a full and satisfactory deliverance will, I feel assured, be vouchsafed.

R. M. A. K.

Extracts from Annual Reports of W. M. A. Societies.

Prepared by the Secretary of the Central Board, and appended to the Annual Report.

AMHERST.—Our meetings during the past year have been well attended and very interesting, particularly the one held in December, when extracts were read from letters from Miss Hammond and other sisters who are devoting their lives to the work in India. Earnest prayer was offered that they may be sustained in their arduous labors.

We appreciate the presence of our sister Mrs. George, returned missionary, who often meets with us. Her deep interest in the work tends to arouse us to a greater realization of the needs of the heathen, and our duty toward them, than we have ever felt before. We regret exceedingly the resignation of our former missionary, Mrs. Armstrong, as our thoughts have always gone out toward her in connection with our Societies, but we trust that even this disappointment may be over-ruled for good to the work.

We are happy to have been able to do a little more than usual, in consequence of having societies in the early part of the year, by which we collected an amount sufficient to make our Treasurer a Life Member, beside raising the usual \$70. Our membership stands about the same, though there have been changes through death and removals.

Mrs. R. E. BLACK.

CANARD.—I wish that I could report that every sister in our church was a member of our W. M. A. Society; then I would be able to send you a much larger amount for Foreign Missions than I now can. Yet we are thankful that so many remember their obligations to Christ.

We live so far apart, that it seems impossible to keep up our monthly meetings, but we do not lack in interest for the cause of Missions. I have not been able to call on the members as formerly, on account of Mr. Kempton's illness, but they have kindly remembered the "Dollar," and brought it to me. We have had the pleasure of receiving one Life Member into our Society during the year. I cannot but believe that where there is such manifest interest, there are prayers also for our dear brothers and sisters who are labouring for Christ in foreign lands.

We feel very sorry to see the notice of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong's resignation; but we hope that matters will yet be adjusted so that they may again join our staff of missionaries. We hope that our mission will prove as successful as that at Ongole.

Mrs. S. B. KEMPTON.

CANNING.—The attendance at our monthly meetings has never been large; at times only enough were present to enable us to obtain the Savior's promise to be one of our number. It has been a felt fact that Jesus has met with us, inasmuch that sometimes with Peter we have been constrained to say, "It is good for us to be here."

In common with our sisters throughout the Provinces, we do not allow our contributions to this Society to interfere in the least with the claims of other religious or benevolent objects; but we are fully committed to the work of missions, and shall do what we can for its furtherance, till the gospel of the kingdom has been preached to all the world for a witness to all nations.

MARY L. T. WITTER.

CLARENCE.—We have held more meetings during the year than usual, all of which have been well attended. It is quite evident that the interest in the good cause is steadily growing among us, and we trust that as the years go by our history shall be one of increase, both in numbers and sympathy.

Our Society has received a great stimulus by the regular attendance and interest manifested by our President, Mrs. J. T. Eaton, whose heart is still so

fully in the work since her return from the mission field.

We are encouraged by the intelligence given in the pages of the Link, and we shall not forget to pray that God may bless all the efforts put forth.

Mrs. S. N. JACKSON.

GREAT VILLAGE.—As the year draws to a close I am reminded that it is time to send you a few words relative to our progress. Our story is much as usual. Meetings have been kept up, also the interest in the cause for which we work. We have added one new name to our list, and have not had to take any off. Acting upon a suggestion in the Link, we met not long since in the evening at the house of one of our members, (those who had husbands taking them of course), and spent the time in social converse, interspersed with readings, a recitation, partaking of refreshments, and taking a collection.

As a Society, we feel that our mission has sustained a great loss in the withdrawal of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, but our prayer, is that good may in some way come from that which seems so adverse.

S. R. C. FREEMAN.

HANTSPOUR.—We have met as usual, and our meetings were usually interesting. We have had an addition of two to our Society, which numbers eleven. We are always interested in the letters of our missionaries in the Messenger and the Link.

We trust the health of Mrs. Armstrong may be restored by her return to her native country, to enjoy for a time, relaxation from her arduous labours in a trying climate.

Mrs. R. McCULLOCH.

HALIFAX—GRANVILLE ST. CHURCH.—The year that has just closed has been with us as a Society almost a duplicate of the one preceding it. There has not been any change in our organization. We have had no increase of membership. Our monthly meetings for prayer have been so poorly attended, that we fear they would have ceased to exist, were it not for a few faithful members who, at the formation of this Society, pledged themselves to sustain them. Our retrospect is a somewhat gloomy one, and we gaze almost enviously at the Reports that flow in from sister Societies, telling of large meetings, increased membership, and growing enthusiasm. We need the Christian zeal that springs from the dedicated hearts of our sisters.

We trust that the coming year may add to our missionaries in the foreign field. We also hope that it may add to our Society many sisters who, while not called to leave their homes, are yet entreated not to stand idle, nor yet afar off, but to hasten the time when the whole earth shall behold and worship its lawful King.

SARAH ROBINSON.

HALIFAX—NORTH CHURCH.—As a Society we have reason to bless God and take courage. The number of deeply interested ones is greater than ever before. Our meetings have been regularly sustained, and all who engage in them feel to have been greatly profited; it is an hour well spent and yields a tenfold blessing. We have this year had seven new members. One of our number God has, in His wise providence, called away to serve Him in the church triumphant. One has been constituted a life member.

Our Mission Band called Willing Workers has been in successful operation for a year. It numbers now about one hundred. The meetings are exceedingly interesting. Our object is to raise money for the support of schools and native preachers among the heathen. Mrs. Armstrong has told us of three young men who were attending the Mission School in Chicacole, who have been converted, and are very anxious to pursue the study of the Bible, that they may become native preachers. One of these our Band has undertaken to support. His name is David. He is now going to Cocanada to study theology under the instruction of Mr. Timpany. Here we have a definite object for which to labour,—to educate the young man, and fit him to proclaim the gospel to his perishing fellow-countrymen. Surely having the water of life, we are guilty indeed if we refuse to slake the thirst of those who are ready to perish.

The great necessity just now seems to be for more laborers. The W. M. A. Societies have but one young lady when they might support three. Is there none

who has been made partaker of the heavenly gift, and all her life long has been drinking from the pure fountain of life, who will carry to our thirsting sisters in the East the living water of which Christ says, "If any man drink, he shall never thirst again"?

S. J. MANNING.

LIVERPOOL.—We have tried to make up the usual sum, but have found it impossible, as our ranks have been so thinned by the changes of time.

We have nothing encouraging to report from our Society, but there are a few of the sisters who are still working and praying for that part of our Father's vineyard where the story of the Cross is unknown.

NEW GERMANY.—This is the first time that we have had the pleasure of reporting to you. Our Society has only been in existence seven months, but long before that time we had a desire to do more for missions, and often talked of organizing a Society with that purpose in view, but never did until last May.

We are a small band yet,—only thirteen,—but although small in numbers, and young in this department of christian labor, it is the desire of all to do what we can to aid in sending the gospel to those who have it not by contributing of our means, and by our influence and prayers.

Money is necessary to make missions a success, and yet the Apostle Paul, with all his zeal, felt the need of the prayers of the brethren as well, that the word of the Lord might have free course and be glorified. So must our missionaries need our prayers, and if we do not pray for them, can we say we have done what we could? We are looking forward to better times, when we will be able to do more, and are endeavouring both by private conversation and public meetings, to enlist a deeper sympathy in the hearts of our brothers and sisters, so as to awaken them to greater activity in this great work.

At present we take eight copies of the Link, and almost every copy seems to add another link to the great missionary chain, which binds us more firmly to the work. Enclosed, please find our contribution, \$20.00, and we trust that this will not be our largest or last.

ELLA S. BARRS.

NEWPORT.—We are still encouraged to toil on in so good a cause. We are a feeble band, yet all are very much interested in those dear ones who have left their homes to tell the story of Jesus and His grace to the poor heathen, who know nothing of a Saviour's love, and our earnest prayer is that our efforts, however small, may be blessed to the salvation of souls.

Mrs. R. RITCHIE.

PINE GROVE.—We have been encouraged by some additions to our number, yet regret exceedingly that we have not that deep interest in the welfare of those benighted souls in the East, which should form a prominent part in the character of Christ's redeemed ones.

We have struggled to maintain our monthly meetings, yet with limited numbers. Will some of our sisters who are more successful than we, in making their meetings interesting and profitable, as well as in securing a larger attendance, give us through the Messenger their plan of working?

JESSIE WOODBURY.

WOLFVILLE.—The year just closed completed the tenth of our existence as a Society, and a review of this period is not without interest to those who have been members from the beginning.

We recall the pleasure with which we aided Miss Armstrong (now Mrs. Currie) in preparing her outfit, also the sad parting with our first President, Mrs. A. Crawley, on her return to India in 1874, and other occasions that specially enlisted our sympathies. It is encouraging to be able to state that though our growth has been slow, a steady advance can be noted. Let us hope the future may show a still brighter record.

During the past year our meetings have been sustained without interruption, and with usually a good attendance. A special meeting was held in September, when we had the pleasure of welcoming our beloved founder, Mrs. Armstrong, and the large number who then assembled, at very short notice, gave evidence of the interest aroused by her presence among us.

Last year we reported forty members, and it was suggested that possibly the

names of fifty might be obtained before our annual meeting. It is a satisfaction to know that our list for 1880 contains fifty-four. Twenty-seven copies of the Mission Link were taken this year, and the number will probably be enlarged for the coming one.

The collectors have been much gratified by the interest expressed in the objects of the Society, and the prompt liberality with which their solicitations have been met. There still remain a large number who, we hope, may be induced to unite with us—the encouragement of the past year lead us to believe they will do so, thus bringing nearer the time when in numbers, contributions, interest, and zeal, the Wolfville Society shall be second to none.

MARY A. CRAMP.

For the Christian Messenger.

A Pleasant Visit to North River.

A short time since we accepted an invitation from Bro. C. C. Burgess to spend an evening in his pleasant home. On arriving, we found his barn surrounded with horses and sleighs, and his home filled with cheerful faces. Conspicuous among them was that of our venerable and much loved father in the gospel—Pastor M. Ross—whose presence alone is sufficient to dispel all gloom from any company of which he is one. It is unnecessary for me to labor by argument to convince your readers—pastors in particular—that our Bro. Burgess and his good lady looked happy; and as such pleasant visits at the North River pastor's home are yearly events, always leaving the home happier and healthier, our good host, like the man at the gate of the temple, "gave heed unto the company" expecting to receive something of them, although he is neither lame nor in need of alms. Nor was he disappointed, for, after a few hours delightfully spent in conversation, vocal and instrumental music, and after feeding upon the rich provision made by the ladies, a purse containing \$30 was presented to Bro. Burgess, accompanied with an appropriate address, which was suitably replied to by the happy receiver, happy, not so much for the gift, as for the kindly feeling that prompted it. Other addresses were given, interspersed with singing, which added to the enjoyment of the evening. The singing was simply grand. Our hearts did magnify the Lord and rejoiced in the power of His grace, as we listened to charming voices which had a few months ago, been loud in songs of carousing, now as loud in the songs of Zion.

D. G. McD.

Charlottetown, P. E. I., January, 1881.

P. S.—The above mentioned amount was supplemented by several useful articles. All was a donation, no part of the salary.

D. G. McD.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

BERWICK, N. S., Jan. 17, 1881.

Dear Bro. Selden,—

God is reviving His work in this church. Backsliders are returning, souls are being converted, and sinners are anxious about their souls. Yesterday (Sabbath) was a more than usually interesting day with us. Some forty or fifty expressed a desire last evening for special interest in the prayers of God's people. The church is evidently waking up to a realization of the vast importance of being more in earnest about the glory of God, and the welfare of deathless souls. They who are wise are wise for themselves, but the scorner must bear the consequences of his sins.

Yours, &c., J. C. BLENKNEY.

ANTIGONISH.—Dear Editor,—Burning of the "midnight oil" I am reminded of Burton's lines:

"Time is winging us away To our eternal home."

The first month of 1881 is now closing. A few minutes more and January will be lost to view to appear again only in "that day." Have we been faithful to the vows we made at the beginning of this year? Let the "Religious Intelligence" column in our paper tell. Week after week we have looked to this, but looked in vain.

When we think that in this Province our membership is upward of 23,000, and 100 ordained ministers, this silence is significant. With such a membership

how many thousands, even of adherents, are there yet unsaved? What is to be done? Humbly, faithfully, re-consecrate ourselves to the great work of winning souls. It is useless to cry, "Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O arm of the Lord," unless we are prepared to bear the voice of the Lord responding, "Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion." At least, this is the experience of the little Baptist church down here.

Considering the number of resident members, 52, circumscribed field, and peculiar surroundings, quite a degree of success has attended recent efforts. Since August last, sixteen have been added, eight by letter and eight by baptism, the larger part since the beginning of this year. But we have

1. A benevolent church. The members give (a) voluntarily; all the objects are sustained by "free will" offerings. (b) Promptly; weekly offerings. (c) Liberally; support the pastor for all of the time, and give to the benevolent objects of the denomination.

We have 2. A praying church. The members pray (a) humbly; (b) earnestly; (c) trustfully.

We have 3. A working church. The members work (a) unitedly; (b) constantly; (c) expectingly.

If we continue consecrated as now, doubtless we shall continue to realize by increased faith, and joy, and membership, that God "is the same yesterday, to-day, and forever."

Let other churches bring all the tithes into the storehouse, and prove God, and February will not go out without such churches being blessed.

Yours, &c., L. M. W.

January 31, 1881.

FREERPORT, DIGBY CO., Jan. 28th.—Rev. J. F. Kempton in a postscript, sends us the following pleasant words of his operations and success:

P. S.—I am glad to inform you that the Lord is blessing the church and people of Freeport. A good many of the members, lately gathered into the church, and some who united with it long ago, had wandered far away from God, and had consequently lost the joy of salvation. But they have, many of them, returned to God, and have been led to rejoice in His pardoning love.

Several who were not members of the church have found hope in God, and will, I believe, shortly come to the church. Others, still are anxiously seeking Christ. We are glad and hopeful. Let us have the prayers of all believers who see this note.

We are having our coldest weather here just now pretty severe; yet not such as is experienced on the main and inland.

J. F. K.

LONDONDERRY, ACADIA MINES, Feb. 7, 1881.—Bro. Selden.—Our meeting house at this place was opened for the worship of God yesterday morning. Rev. C. H. Martell occupied the pulpit at 11 A. M. after opening prayer by Rev. Dr. Clay; text 1 Cor. iii. 10.

After the sermon, addresses were delivered by Rev. Mr. Mack, (Methodist); Rev. Mr. Logan, (Presbyterian); and Rev. Dr. Clay. At 3.30 P. M., Rev. M. P. Freeman preached from Luke xii. 24. Addresses by Rev. C. H. Martell, Rev. T. B. Layton, and Rev. Dr. Clay. At 7 P. M., Rev. Dr. Clay called our attention to Isa. lxxvi. 1, 2. Remarks by Rev. M. P. Freeman, and others.

The congregations were large, the attention good, and the occasion one of deep interest to our people. In less than four months this house has been built. Size 45 x 30; posts 16 feet; with arched ceiling; end gallery; seats free. Cost \$1,200, debt \$300. Many thanks to friends who have assisted us in this work for God.

Yours in hope of eternal life, G. F. MILES.

P. S.—The singing by friends who volunteered their services was excellent.

WOLFVILLE.—Four persons were baptized on Sunday last, and received into the fellowship of the church at Wolfville, by Rev. S. W. deBlois. Mr. deBlois, we are sorry to learn, is still in feeble health.

DARTMOUTH.—Rev. J. E. Grant administered the ordination of Christian Baptism to two believers in Christ on Lord's Day morning. It was a noble baptism without any ice obstruction near the Marine Railway, in Halifax Harbor.

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