

## The Woman's Missionary Society.

The Department is in the interests of the W. M. Society. All communications for it should be addressed to Mrs. Ios. McLeod, Fredericton.]

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### A MISSION STUDY OF INDIA.

Although India is but a peninsula of southern Asia, it is almost as large as the United States, contains more people than Africa and South America put together, and only six per cent of them can read and write, or one man in every forty-two, and one woman in every 858. These millions are divided into many races, having different religions, languages, and customs. Some of the native rulers are wealthy, but the vast majority of the inhabitants live like beasts, in a state of starvation, never knowing what it is to have their hunger completely satisfied. They are held down by the iron system of caste, which is the most distinct feature of Indian life. According to the last census, 3,000,000 of these people had been reached by the gospel, leaving 287,000,000 untouched by its influence. Cities of 5,000 inhabitants have never seen a Christian missionary, for India has but one Protestant missionary to every 250,000 people.

Some natives of Madura, India, said to a missionary: "It is now the fourth age of the world, and never till the missionaries came did we hear of this religion. Where has it been all this time? Who and how many are its followers? Where do they live? If it was intended for us, why haven't we known it before?" When they were told that most of the people in America and Europe were professedly Christians, one exclaimed: "What! and suffer us to go to hell for so many ages without even coming to tell us about it? What kind of a religion is that?"

Neither tongue nor pen can describe the condition of women in India. Slave of man, she has no other god than her husband, and if of good caste, she is either a wife or widow before she is fourteen years old. One-third of the girl babies are murdered in infancy, yet India contains 120,000,000 women, 21,000,000 of whom are widows, many of them under nine years of age, and all, except those the gospel has reached, subject to the most cruel treatment demons could devise.

As to India's gods, they swarm everywhere, 330,000,000 of them, under ground, above ground, in the air, sky, field, river, sea. The Indian's belief in the transmigration of souls makes the life of any animal safe. A missionary who was visiting a high-caste Hindu woman, whose baby had just died, brushed a cockroach from her dress. "Don't harm it," cried the mother, "I beg. My little baby's soul is in that cockroach."

Nearly all of India is under the government of England, — a non-Christian nation in a Christian environment. She is connected with the Christian world politically, commercially, intellectually, socially and religiously, and yet she remains a heathen nation. Why? First, the food problem keeps their minds bound down to slavery. Next, immorality, flagrant and shameless, is rife in India. Then, the ignorance. There are many villages where not a man can read. And, lastly, their fatalistic religions. They say: "When it has been ordered ten thousand years before I was born that I should commit this sin, why do you blame me? What else could I do?" Yet, amid all this deadness and lethargy, God is moving. A prominent Hindu says, and there are many of his class believing as he does: "There can be no mistake about the signs of a religious revival, which are now to be seen in almost every part of this vast empire." —*Record of Christian Work.*

—Dr. Torrey and Mr. Alexander are again in England, and have opened the winter campaign in Liverpool. The prayer and preparation which preceded this mission have already registered themselves, in the remarkable promptitude with which the heart of the people appears to be reached. The meetings have been crowded, and after-meetings were held on the opening day.

—There are in Chicago over 23,000 Presbyterians, and that the increase of the body since 1870 has been 286 per cent. The first Presbyterian church in Chicago was organized seventy years ago, when the city was only a year or two old. In 1834 the Presbyterians built their first church edifice. From 1834 to 1870 progress was slow. Since that date the Chicago Presbyterians have marched forward more rapidly than in New York or Philadelphia.

—There has been recently published a Union hymn book for the Christian churches of Japan. This is the result of united effort on the part of the missionaries of the Congregational, Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist churches. The book contains 450 hymns translated into the Japanese language by the most accomplished scholars. The *Belfast Witness*, noting the completion of the work, says: "If the missionaries of all these evangelical bodies can unite abroad — what is to hinder their combination at home?" This question is very much to the point.

### Marriages.

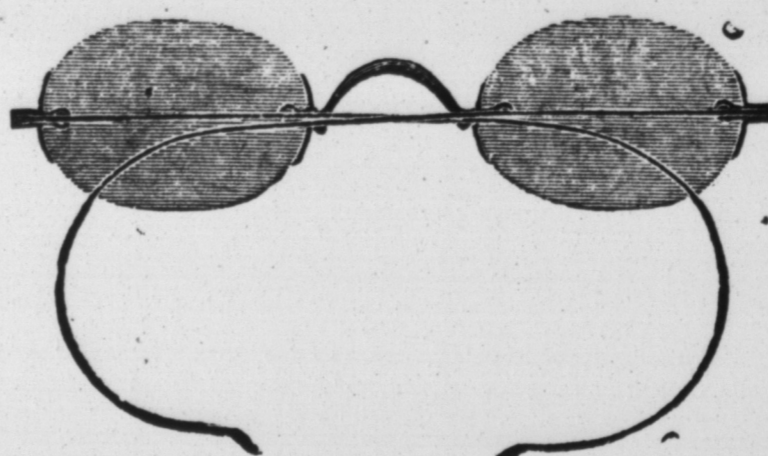
**HARVEY-SULLIVAN.** — At the Free Baptist parsonage, Moncton, November 7, by Rev. Gideon Swin, Reuben Harvey and Janie Sullivan, both of Moncton, N. B.

**MONTGOMERY-RODGERS.** — At the residence of the bride's father, by Rev. W. H. Perry, Nov. 18th, Wm. P. Montgomery and Eva B. Rodgers, both of Salisbury, West. Co.

**YORK-BRITTON.** — On the 18th inst, at the home of George L. Britton, Woodstock, by Rev. Joseph Noble, Henry Kimball York, of Victoria Corner, G. Co., and Bessie L. Britton, of Lower Wakefield C. Co.

### Deaths.

**RIECKER.** — At Bald Hill, Queens Co., Nov 1st, of Bright's Disease, Mary, beloved wife of W. H. Riecker, aged 57 years, leaving a sorrowing husband, four daughters and one son, four brothers and three sisters, who deeply mourn their loss. Sister Riecker was a member of the Free Baptist church at Bald Hill. The writer had the opportunity of visiting her during her illness; she frequently expressed herself as being confident of her acceptance in Christ. The sorrowing family are comforted in the hope that for her to die was gain. C. B. Lewis.



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