

## The Woman's Missionary Society.

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

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### A MISSIONARY PRAYER.

[Beginning a new year of work, the prayer of this hymn may well be offered by us all.]

Great God, thy Spirit now outpour  
Upon thy church and children dear,  
That they henceforth may love thee  
more  
And hearken when thy voice they hear.

Wean them, we pray thee from the  
world;

Inflame them with new zeal for thee  
And souls, till shall by them unfurled  
Immanuel's blood-red banner be.

In every land, in sight of all  
Who're going down to death and hell,  
Without a Christ on whom to call  
With whom for aye in heaven to dwell.

Help them by love of Christ, so great,  
So true, so free, to be constrained;  
And may their zeal in naught abate,  
Until the world for Christ is gained.

Help them their all to thee to give,  
To thee by right belongs their all;  
All else forgot, henceforth to live  
To crown their Jesus Lord of all.

### A REMARKABLE CONVERSION.

Mrs. Heinrich writes from Ramapatam, India: "We had a most remarkable conversion here recently. It was an old Mala woman, who came from a distant village for baptism. When asked in church to give her experience, she arose, and in a clear ringing voice, and with a very remarkable language for an old uneducated Hindu woman, gave such an experience as I have seldom heard. She had long felt the desire for something which her Hindu religion could not give her and had been groping for the light. Then she heard the gospel from one of our seminary students, and with very exceeding joy gave herself to the Saviour. I asked her the next morning what she would do if the people persecuted her for becoming a Christian. She gave a happy laugh and said, 'These old bones, this old skin, they can destroy them, but my soul, they cannot hurt that.'"

### WHY DID YOU DELAY?

A missionary in India reports that recently the Bible women were most powerfully impressed by the words of an old Mohammedan woman in one of the villages which they visited. After giving their message, an old woman, held in estimation amongst the villagers as very religious, asked, "How long ago is it since Jesus, about whom you speak, died for sinful people?" The Bible woman explained that this took place a very long time ago. "Then why," said the old woman, "has God never told me of this? Surely he ought to had let me known of this long ago!" The Bible woman remonstrated against any one blaming God in this way; whereupon the old woman replied with

vehemence and earnestness, "Where have you been all this time, that I have never heard of this wonderful news? Look at me. I am now an old woman. All my life I have said the prescribed prayers. I have given alms. I have gone to saints' shrines. My body is dried up and become as dust from fasting. And now I am told that all this is useless, and that Jesus died to take away my sins. Where have you been all this time, and what have you been doing that I have not heard of this before?" The Bible women were conscience stricken and have since then been much more diligent.



### BABY MARRIAGES IN INDIA.

Under two years we find the number of widows in Bengal to be 574; under three years, 651; under four years, 1,576; under five years, 3,861. Here we have something like a holocaust, a sort of burning alive of these little mites of humanity, who but for the prevalence of a rigid sex monopoly would probably live to be true wives and truly happy mothers—the mothers of future heroes and patriots. What possibilities are lost to the race forever under a system which has not one word to say for itself.

It is much to be wished that young Bengal had joined hands with old Bengal in making such "marriages" impossible. Surely a hundred years of liberal education ought to suffice for this elementary item of national improvement.

Terrible, according to our Shastras, are the effects of a curse pronounced by a woman; much more terrible when the curse remains unuttered. Who can tell how much of India's misery arises from the unuttered sufferings of her daughters?—*The Voice of India.*

### Mission Notes and News

—Among new missionaries sent to the field last year by the English Church Missionary Society, are the eldest son of the martyr Bishop Hannington, and a daughter of David Livingstone, with her husband, the Rev. Mr. Wilson.

—A Hindu author, in a recently published book, says that there are over two thousand different castes in so small a town as Surat. Surely India needs the socializing influence of Christianity, which should be only another way of saying that it needs its religious influence.

—In the Livingstonia Mission of the United Free Church of Scotland, situated in Central Africa, are 232 schools, 448 Christian teachers, and 16,082 pupils. There are 29 missionaries and 138 stations in connection with the evangelistic work.

—Rev. J. Anderson Brown, missionary in India, believes that the old religions of India have lost their hold on the educated classes, and that the religion that will take the place of Hinduism will neither be Islam, nor a purified and enlightened Brahminism, but Christianity.

—Rev. W. I. Chamberlain, of India, writing to a native Christian community of India, says: "Its influence is great. It is bound to continue and increase. It has its ideals, and these are of life and conduct. They are based on the teaching of Christ and will conquer India."

—The latest report as to the number of Protestant Christian communicants in China give 112,808, in a population of 426,447,325, which includes Manchuria,

Mongolia, Tibet, Turkestan. Reckoning only the eighteen provinces of China proper, the census gives a population of 407,737,305.

—The Bible, translated into the language of Tibet, is now being carried even into that forbidden land, in advance of foreign commerce and travel. The Russian government, which hitherto intolerant of missionaries, gives the Bible itself free course among the people. It is admitted free of duty, and has often been transported free of charge.

—The English Baptist Missionary Society has appealed to the Christian Endeavor and other young people's societies connected with the Baptist churches, to raise the funds for a new steamer for the Congo. The new vessel is to be called Endeavor. The two steamers hitherto in service need to be replaced. The new steamer will cost \$25,000 and freightage, and re-construction will add another \$10,000.

—There are about 5,500,000 men in India who had given up all earthly employment, who live apart as ascetics, and spend their time in roaming around the country as religious meditants. They are the most pestilential in their morals of all the people in the land. Many of them, at the same time, both regard themselves and are regarded by their coreligionists as the acme of piety. Nevertheless they daily trample under foot every command of the decalogue.

—The Foreign Christian Missionary Society, which represents the Disciples of Christ, has sent a band of three missionaries into the exclusive land of Thibet. They are the Rev. Dr. A. L. Shelton and wife of Kansas, and Dr. S. C. Rijnhart of Canada. Some years ago Dr. Rijnhart and her husband explored a part of Thibet, and the husband lost his life in the undertaking. The society named has just closed its twenty-eighth year with receipts above \$200,000 and contributions from more churches, Sunday-schools and individuals than ever before. It has recently sent additional workers to Japan, China, and the Philippines, and has a number of men in preparation to go out next year.

—*Mission News* of Japan believes that Christianity has accomplished much more in Japan than the statistics indicate. "The Christian population, that is the section of the population which is measurably controlled by Christian sentiment, and which is in close and sympathetic relations with the various branches of the Christian church, cannot fail to be estimated lower than 300,000. Indeed, if one were to classify the population of Japan according to religion, giving the same latitude of meaning to the term Christian, which must needs be given to the terms Shinto, Buddhist and Confucianist, the figures for the Christian population might properly be placed at 500,000—that is, a little over one per cent of the total population."

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