

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. Jos. McLeod, Fredericton.]

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LETTER FROM MISS GAUNCE.

Dear Sisters,—

No doubt many of you are wondering where I have been, and what I have done since my last letter. The first Sunday in March I had a meeting with the church at Head of Millstream, and on the evening of 12th of March was in Sussex. The end of the month found me in St. John. While there I met with the C. E. Society of Waterloo St. Church. I wish to thank the members of said Society for the contribution of five dollars (\$5) towards a violin for work in India. I also met with the Mission Band at North End, at their regular meeting. The first Sunday in April was spent with the church at West St. John. In the afternoon I spoke to the Sunday school; the attention of the children was perfect, and I could not help feeling it a great pleasure to address them. In the evening the pastor of the church gave me his appointment.

The following Wednesday I went to Grand Manan. I shall keep silent regarding my trip thither; but must say to you that the island was an agreeable surprise, like others who have been there, I wonder why some of our ministers have not preferred the island churches. I was met at North Head by Miss Dakin, of Grand Harbor. Besides two public meetings in the church, I spoke to the Mission Band and Sunday school. The missionary interest in this church is good, and this year the C. E. Society and Mission Band have decided to adopt a little famine girl in Sinclair Orphanage; formerly they were paying her board. While at the Harbor I went across to White Head; had one public meeting and a meeting for children there. At Seal Cove I held three meetings, one of which was with the Mission Band. At Castalia had a public meeting, and in afternoon spoke to the Sunday school. There is no W. M. Society or Mission Band in connection with the church, but this year I think something will be collected for the work. The evening before I left Grand Manan I had a meeting at North Head.

From Grand Manan I went to Lambert's Cove, Deer Island. Had a meeting with the church there. This church has no Mission Society or Mission Band, owing, I suppose, to the fact that they are without a regular pastor. I wished to meet with the other churches on this island, but it was not convenient. Sat-

urday morning I took the Viking for Campobello, where I was met at Wilson's Beach by the pastor of the church, Rev. A. J. Prosser. That afternoon I spoke to the Mission Band. Sunday afternoon I spoke at Welchpool, and the same evening at Wilson's Beach. The congregation of this church is large, and the missionary interest seems good. I enjoyed speaking to the people. The next morning I took the steamer for St. John, and came on to Sussex, where I intended to spend a few days before going home, but was persuaded to remain until Sunday. The topic of the morning service on that day was Missions, and I had the privilege of telling the people something about the women of India, also about some of the workers whom the Mission Band have this year decided to support. It is my desire as I go from church to church, to leave some thought that will remain, and that the people here may be led to see more of the blessings and benefits of Christianity, and the need of those who are without it. At present I am on a trip to churches up the St. John river, about which I will write later.

Yours sincerely,

L. E. GAUNCE.



TRACEY MILLS SOCIETY.

The annual business meeting of the Woman's Foreign Mission Society was held at the home of Mrs. John S. Palmer on May 12th. Miss Hattie Toms presided. The following members were appointed as officers for the coming year: The President, Mrs. James Sloat, was unanimously re-elected to that office. The appreciation of her past efforts, exhibiting faithfulness, devotion and energy, was expressed by several of the members and replied to in very feeling and helpful terms. Vice-President, Mrs. E. L. West; Sec.-Treas., Mrs. J. S. Palmer. The report of the year's work is very encouraging. The Society has been re-organized and visited by brother and sister Barnes; their visit and addresses were of great help to the Society. New methods of interest have been adopted, new members have been added, a larger attendance is reported, and the meetings are held more regularly. Death has removed one of our best and brightest younger members, and through ill-health another has been forced to try another land. We miss them both. We are looking forward to the Second District meeting, when we hope to receive new energy through meeting our other sisters in the work, and hearing of their labors.

MRS. JOHN S. PALMER,
Secy-Treas.



—Rev. W. R. Hunt, of Nanking, China, is said to have made this statement: "There is in China the conviction that in a few years there will scarcely be a man of any education who will dare to be recognized among the devotees of heathenism."

Mission Notes and News

—According to the last report of the American Bible Society, the total distribution of Bibles for the year ending March 31, was 1,993,558, a gain of 269,767 compared with 1902. The society's total receipts were \$412,406, and the expenditures \$401,490. This does not look as if interest in the Word was diminishing.

—Bishop Foster once visited a beautiful temple in India. He asked the attendant how long it would all last. "Not long," he said. "Why," asked the bishop. And the attendant, lifting his eyes to the southwest, and scanning the whole horizon, uttered the one word, "Jesus." May God hasten the prophetic day.

—A memorial arch erected to the memory of the thirteen missionaries of the American Board who were killed in China during the Boxer outbreak, was dedicated at Oberlin College, May 14. The monument, which consists of an extended arch spanning the walk along which each day the larger number of the students pass, cost \$20,000. The expense was largely borne by an unnamed New York member of the American Board, although 400 persons had also some hand in the erection of the monument.

—It will be a surprise to many to learn that there are nearly as many ordained missionaries laboring in Africa as in India, the number being respectively 1,158 and 1,169. Of unordained men there are many more in Africa, 634 to 464. But there are 120 more missionaries' wives in India — 899 to 799 in Africa — and an overwhelming preponderance of other missionary women — 1,304 in India to 480 in Africa. The deadly nature of the climate in some parts of Africa and the social conditions of vast territories are a natural and a proper explanation of the comparative fewness of women in Africa.

—There are now in India 2,555,122 Christians. Added to these the Eurasian Christians, and we have in all 2,775,716. In the last ten years there has been an increase in ordained missionaries of 156; female agents 3,271; ordained natives 165; catechists and preachers, 2,406; congregations 561; communicants 122,609; adherents 306,291; Sunday-school membership 150,179; pupils, male, 66,514, female 29,354; zenana pupils 7,235. This is the increase in 1900 as compared with 1890. The pace of progress is continually improving.

—Romanism in China follows the same diabolical course concerning the Scriptures which has characterized that ecclesiastical hierarchy in all its history. The people are not allowed the free use of the Bible, and the limited portions translated in the Chinese language are changed and interpolated to suit heathenism. In translating the Ten Commandments they leave out the second commandment, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image;" the fourth commandment, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," they translate, "Keep holy the festivals," and cut the tenth commandment in two, so as to make out the decalogue.

—A heathen in Burma happened to obtain a copy of the Psalms, left behind by a traveller who stopped at his house. For twenty years the man worshipped the God revealed in the Psalms, using the fifty-first Psalm as his daily prayer. Then a missionary appeared on the scene and gave him a copy of the New Testament. The story of salvation through Jesus Christ brought great joy to his heart, and he said: "For twenty years I walked by starlight; now I see the sun." This is but another illustration of the old Pauline idea that the law, or the Old Testament generally, is a school master to lead men to Christ.

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