

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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A MISSION ROMANCE.

"Is it worth our while to hold the meeting tonight, do you think?" asked a Londoner of his friend one raw December night in 1856.

"Perhaps not," answered the other, but I do not like to shirk my work, and, as it was announced, some one might come."

"Come on then," said the first speaker, "I suppose we can stand it."

That night was as black as ink and the rain poured in torrents, but the meeting of the English Missionary Society for the Propagation of the Gospel was held, and in spite of the elements, in a bright-lighted chapel in Covent Garden. A gentleman passing by took refuge from the storm, and made up half the audience that listened to a powerful plea for the North American Indians in British Columbia.

"Work thrown away," grumbled the Londoner, as they made their way back to Regent Square.

"Who knows?" replied the missionary. "It was God's Word, and we are told that it shall not fall on the ground unheeded."

Was it work thrown away?

The passer-by, who stopped in by accident, tossed on his couch all night, thinking of the horrors of heathenism, of which he had heard that night for the first time. And in a month he had sold out his business, and was on his way to his mission work among the British Columbia Indians, under the auspices of the Church Missionary Society.

And thirty-five years afterward we found him, surrounded by his children, as he loves to call them, the centre and head of the model mission station of the northwest coast, an Arcadian village of civilized Indians. It is the romance of missions. The missionary referred to above is William Duncan, missionary to the Metlakaatia Indians.—*Selected.*

CRUELITIES OF HEATHENISM.

Writing to the *Missionary Intelligencer*, Mr. Royal J. Dye makes a strong appeal for missionaries for Africa, describing the depths of sin and wickedness to which the people have sunk. He says: "Need mention be made of the inhuman sacrificing of slaves proportionate to the wealth and importance of a

one of these we have seen, a man who had all the bones of both extremities broken, yet who managed to crawl out

of the grave and in terrible agony drag himself, under cover of night, to a safe distance away. When found, he was looked upon with such superstition that he was permitted to go alive, and is at the present time a living example of the need for a Saviour and a lesson of brotherly love.

Then, can some, even Christians, say the heathen are better off let alone? In a peculiar manner, the medical missionary is able to reach these and lead them into the light. Can it be necessary, we repeat, to tell of these conditions in order that Christians may be convinced that Christ meant heathen nations as well as America when He said, 'Go ye into all the world?'"

THE WIDOWS.

The last obtainable census of India gives the total of widows in India as reaching the enormous number of 25,000,000. Classified according to the ages they are as follows:

Total widows in India, . . . 25,000,000
 Widows under 4 years of age, 13,878
 Widows under 9 years of age, 64,040
 Widows under 14 years of age, 174,532
 Widows between 15 and 34, . . . 4,160,548
 Widows between 35 and 49, . . . 6,996,592
 Widows over 50 years of age, 11,224,933

THE BIBLE IN FOUR NEW TONGUES.

Four hitherto unknown tongues—so far as print is concerned—are now being added to the list of languages in which the British and Foreign Bible Society prints the Gospels, and of these three are for the benefit of subjects of his majesty. The New Testament is to be turned into Nyanja, for the tribes of the Shire River bank, Nyassaland, and in this work the Livingstonia Mission of the United Free Church of Scotland, the Blantyre Mission of the Established Church of Scotland, and the Meyera Mission of the Dutch Reformed Church are collaborating. A version in Yalunka is nearly ready for natives of the Falaba district of Sierra Leone, and in Bugotu for the inhabitants of Ysabel Island—one of the Solomon group. Lastly, a translation into Visayan, spoken by some two million persons in the Philippine archipelago, is being undertaken. All are enterprises of great interest to philologists.

Commercial Value of the Missionary.

Under this heading the *North China Herald*, of Shanghai, the leading secular paper of China, has an admirable editorial, which in turn has been suggested by Mrs. Bishop's interesting book, "The Yangtse Valley and Beyond," in which this distinguished lady traveller had said, "It has been remarked by consuls that missionaries unconsciously help British trade by introducing articles for their own use which commend themselves to the Chinese." The Shanghai paper adds: "This is an interesting side view of the good which, as Mrs. Bishop says, the missionary unconsciously does the trader of his native land. But it is

a view which many self-constituted, and as a rule ignorant, critics of missions overlook. We do not wish to claim for missionaries any additional consideration because they unintentionally foster trade.' The editor then, in a most interesting way, goes on to illustrate the point he has made, showing how the introduction of glass, and in like manner his stove, his American flour, sugar, lamp, etc. As it is, the missionary who penetrates the whole country, it is he who unconsciously introduces the foreign articles that ere long pave the way for a large import of these very goods, and thus the trader's interests are promoted, as well as those of the producers in a far off land, and in this way the missionary has a 'commercial value' that the critics have never even dreamed of.

It is an interesting fact that nowhere, at least in the old world, do the Jews enjoy such a high degree of liberty as in Egypt, the country in which their fathers were once slaves. This is accounted for by the fact that Egypt is subject to British rule. The favorable economic condition of the Jews in Egypt is shown by the flourishing financial position of the Jewish communities. Thus the Cairo congregation is said to possess 1,500,000 francs as well as a score of houses. Besides the five synagogues, there are two hospitals, an eye hospital, two institutions for the blind, and numerous other charities maintained by the community. A great deal is done for the blind, who are to be found in Egypt in large numbers.

The city of Jerusalem is to be portrayed at the World's Fair in St. Louis at a cost of more than one million dollars. Ten acres of land are to be taken at the Fair grounds around which a wall is to be erected. Inside of this there will be native-born residents of Jerusalem, who will give representations of weddings, feast-days, funerals and the religious life of the people of the Holy city. Wealthy Christian men, who are engaged in church work, are to furnish the means for this undertaking.

Probably the greatest peril which threatens civilization to-day is corruption in politics. In every land, whether governed by the people or by an autocrat, thoughtful men are taking counsel together in an earnest endeavor to find an antidote for the poison.—*Mail and Empire.*

SAVE THE BABY.

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