

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. Ios. McLeod, Fredericton.]

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT.—Miss Augusta Slipp, Hampstead, Queens Co.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.—Mrs. C. W. Weyman, Apohaqui, King's County.

HOME SECRETARY.—Mrs. H. Hartt, Jacksontown, Carleton County.

TREASURER.—Mrs. D. McLeod Vince, Woodstock, N. B.

FIFTH DISTRICT SOCIETY.

The annual business meeting of the Fifth District W. M. Society, was held at Narrows, Q. Co., Saturday, July 4th. The President, Miss Slipp, presided. The meeting was opened by devotional exercises. The minutes of last meeting were read and approved. The Secretary-Treasurer's report was read and adopted. Representatives from several of the local societies were present, and each spoke in the interest of their societies. We were pleased to have Mrs. C. T. Phillips and Mrs. J. A. Robertson present. Mrs. C. T. Phillips spoke very encouragingly in connection with the Mission Band work. The officers for the ensuing year were elected: Miss Augusta Slipp, President; Miss Sadie J. Carpenter, Secretary-Treasurer. The President spoke of the growing interest in the societies.

The public missionary meeting was held Saturday evening. The President, Miss Slipp, was in the chair. The music was led by Mrs. J. I. Davis. Scripture lesson, part of the 96th and 67th Psalms, was read by Miss Slipp; prayer by Mrs. Phillips. The President delivered a very able and impressive address. Miss Gaunce was introduced, and sang a solo in Oriya. The Secretary's report was read. Its adoption was moved by the Secretary, seconded by Mrs. Scott. The local societies have paid as follows: Brown's Flat Society, has 13 members, holds monthly meetings, raised \$13, Mission Band 78c.; Belleisle Bay, \$4.40; Narrows, \$5; Wickham, \$3.25; Carpenter, \$7.25; Shannon Society was organized by Rev. J. N. Barnes in '92; they hold monthly meetings; sends \$8.50, Band \$2.20; Central Hampstead, \$14.10. Rev. J. N. Barnes collected \$8, \$3 for native preacher, and \$5 for W. F. M. In writing he says he expects, if possible, to visit the different churches throughout the district before General Conference. We trust nothing will prevent him carrying out his plans, for he is an earnest worker. Upper Hampstead, \$3.20. Westfield, \$2.25; Band, \$1.35. Tennant's Cove, \$1.03. Hibernia, \$5. They have a very successful Band. It has a membership of twenty-seven; raised by dues and entertainment, \$19.60; \$5 has been given to the Home Mission; \$5 to Foreign Missions, \$5 to the British and Foreign Bible Society, and \$4.60 to the Woman's Foreign Mission. Perry's Point \$4.50. Total, \$102.63. Miss Gaunce addressed the meeting, telling the modes and cus-

toms of the heathen in India. Her talk was very interesting and instructive. We pray God will bless her work as she visits churches, telling the story of widowhood and Zenana living and all the sorrow and distress caused by idolatry and heathenism. Rev. C. T. Phillips and Rev. Dr. McLeod spoke words of encouragement to Miss Gaunce and all present. A collection of \$6 was taken. Thus ended an interesting meeting.

SADIE J. CARPENTER,
Sec.-Treas.

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

(Published by request of the Sisters.)

Madam President and Christian Friends:

Another year has passed into the great beyond, and we feel devoutly thankful to our Heavenly Father for his great kindness in permitting us to meet again under such favorable circumstances. We are much pleased to have our returned missionary, Miss Gaunce, with us this evening. Brother Barnes visiting the churches in this District last year did much to increase the interest in the W. F. M. Never since this Society has been organized have the secretaries of the local societies sent reports in so early, and with such good cheer. May the Giver of every good gift abundantly reward them for their labor.

For the purpose of the world's evangelization and subjection to the kingdom of Christ, God has called us into partnership with himself, with his dear Son, Jesus Christ, and with the Holy Spirit; and in so doing he has made us the custodians of his gospel and the executors of his gracious purpose of grace toward the wide, wide world. On the evening of his resurrection day, Jesus appeared to his affrighted and amazed disciples seated behind closed doors, and said, "Peace be unto you." And when he had so said, he showed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, "Peace be unto you; as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said unto them, "Receive ye the Holy Spirit, whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained."

This endowment and commission was ratified and repeated to the apostles in Galilee, and again on the Mount of Olives, from which Christ ascended into heaven. What a commission, what an honor that we, as a church, should be entrusted and charged with its fulfillment. Bear in mind that this charge and trust is not confined to apostles and preachers, but is equally given to and shared with every believer—with the whole church. It is true every one cannot "go" into all the world; but those who cannot go personally may "let go" their sons and daughters, or in some way help those to go whom God hath called. The important point is that in some way all of us must get into that commission and share in the privilege and responsibility of the great partnership and trust. How have we discharged that trust? For eight years after the gift of the Father at Pentecost the Jewish Christians remained at Jerusalem, dividing the inheritance among themselves, and ignoring and neglecting the Gentile world, until God let persecution loose upon them at the stoning of Stephen, and scattered them abroad. Then they went everywhere preaching Jesus and the resurrection. At the end of the nineteenth century what are

we doing to fulfill our trust? Does it not seem as though we had gone back to the condition of the first Jewish Christians—dividing the inheritance among ourselves and satisfying our conscience with the sending to the great heathen world our fellow-heirs—a pitiful allowance, when they rightfully should share, and share alike with us? The nations of the world have their armies by the thousands among the heathen countries looking to the possession of their lands and empires; commerce has its agents by the tens of thousands searching for the gold and silver of other lands. The church of Christ seems content to maintain a thin line of missionary pickets, not enough even to explore the heathen field, much less to evangelize and possess it for Christ. As stewards of the manifold grace of God, what account shall we give to him? Look at the capital God has put into this great enterprise? From the beginning he planned it, and invested in it all his love and grace. He raised up men and nations, to whom he entrusted the custody of his revelation. He sent forth prophets, law-givers, kings, sages, priests and martyrs by the thousands—all of them dear to himself. In the end he spared not his own and well-beloved Son. He sent forth the Holy Spirit to be the ever-present guiding and anointing power in carrying out this great purpose, whose success, after all, still depends upon our active co-operation. Looking these facts in the face, can any Christian in all the world say, "It is not my responsibility?" God loves and gives to the heathen world to-day his grace and sympathy, just as in the earlier centuries those tokens of his love came to us through the agency of the disciples, who sought out and evangelized our fathers; and he expects us to pass along the inheritance to the remaining heathen world. It is a far-off world to us, and those yellow, brown, and black brothers and sisters seem unimportant, except as they may be made to contribute to our national or material wealth. It is only when we can see them from Christ's point of view, look upon them with his eyes of sympathy, that we can hope to reach them. When we were joined to Christ for salvation, we were made one with him in all that he stands for—and he stands for the heathen world. They are his inheritance and his possession; and unless we strive to secure this dower for him we are loveless and disloyal. So long as we are withholding, not our dole, but our wealth of men and means, of prayer and effort, our enthusiasm and enterprise, we are, practically, robbing God, and making a misappropriation of our Christian inheritance by diverting it to our use and benefit. We are withholding more than is meet, which tendeth to poverty; whereas we should be scattering, and in this way gathering, both for Christ and ourselves. Every denomination has sent forth into the dark continent men and women who were not afraid to do something to advance the kingdom of truth, and God has wonderfully blessed to the opening up of that continent the service of the Christian church. Africa, that has cost something, there has been no failure of foreign missions. Military forces have been sent down the west coast; they have crushed nations at the north; they have overwhelmed the people at the south; they have sent traders to encircle that great continent and squeeze out of it its manhood and its gold, and all that it had worth keeping. The slave trader has marked Africa with the great red marks of blood from east to west, and from north to south, and do you wonder that in a few years the missionaries have been able to do so little? There is reason enough to thank God for mighty progress. When the Rev. Mr. Ross and some others went up the Kongo as pioneers, not a soul could be found there who knew anything about Jesus Christ. They knew nothing of the Kongo language, and

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