

## 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.—I know your hearts must have been saddened when you read of the death of two of our workers in India. You are not ignorant regarding the late Dr. Burkholder's work, especially among the Santals, and know that a faithful, earnest missionary has been called to higher service. How he will be missed by his own, by the missionaries on the field and by the natives! His genial manner and helpfulness always made him a welcome guest. At our Conference, when it was decided to employ Mrs. Rae as a New Brunswick worker, I tried to tell you something of her worth. I can truly say that one of the best examples of unselfish love was seen in my dear friend. I remember saying to her once, "You appear to act from love and not duty." She replied, "How else could a Christian act?"

A few days before her illness she wrote me regarding the work at Ujurda, and in reply to the decision of our Board, said: "I am ever thankful to the Board for their kindness."

Regarding Ujurda she wrote: "I was at Ujurda all last week (1st week of Nov.); 'the people are well physically, and there are pleasing improvements spiritually; school is doing well, too, under Natobar (native pastor); two girls are preparing for the lower primary examination, which will take place 21st Dec. Now about their Christmas presents. You gave them something every year, I suppose. They need clothes badly, and that is what you mostly gave them, I think. I am thinking of doing the same. I would like to have had your suggestion in the matter, but perhaps it will be too late by the time I hear from you. Will do my best. The land, referred to in a previous letter, I have secured in a way. I have to get a Patta, or document, from the magistrate of Balasore which will be when I go in to yearly meeting, they convene on 10th inst."

During the week the meetings were in session Mrs. Rae was at home, down with fever, and before the Conference closed a messenger was sent for Dr. Shirley H. Smith and Dr. Rennan to go to her help.

I have not heard yet who has charge of Ujurda, but I feel confident it will be looked after.

I wonder how many of our sisters know that a bright, newsy publication is *The Missionary Helper*? Do you wish to know what is going on in the field? and do you desire something interesting for your monthly missionary meetings? You will find them in the *Helper*. I wish every one of our societies took it. I know it is our president's

wish that we each take more interest in "our column." May we do more for it this year than we did last, and thus help to interest others as well as stimulate ourselves in the work. And as we do the good we may be led to see the better, and see it only to achieve it.

Build the more stately mansions, O my soul,

As the swift seasons roll!  
 Leave thy low-vaulted past!

Let each new temple, nobler than the last,

Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,

Till thou at length art free,  
 Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea.

Yours sincerely,

L. E. GAUNCE.

Victoria Hospital, Fredericton,  
 Feb. 13th, 1904.

**PERSONAL.**—Miss Gaunce, whose interesting letter appears on this page, is now taking a course in nursing at the Victoria Hospital, Fredericton. She has not given up the thought of returning to India. She hopes to do so, and believes the training in nursing will be a help to her in the India work.

### LESSONS FROM CHINA CONVERTS.

The Christian Endeavor Societies' topic for Feb. 28th is "Heroism and Other Lessons from China," notes on which are in the Young People's department on page six. The following incidents are furnished by Robert E. Speer in the *Sunday School Times*, and will add interest to the topic notes, and be a stimulus to Christian faithfulness among home Christians:

During the Boxer troubles in China 159 Protestant missionaries and fifty-three children and 5,000 Protestant native Christians lost their lives. Many of these could scarcely be called martyrs for their faith, but there were multitudes who were martyrs, and who deliberately laid down their lives in the service and faith of Christ.

The Rev. Ting Li Mai, a graduate of the Tungchow College, pastor of a Presbyterian church in Shantung, was seized, with some other Christian Chinese, and thrown into a filthy prison. When Ting Li Mai was brought before the magistrate, and asked, "Are you a Christian?" he replied, "Yes." Two hundred blows with a stout bamboo club failed to weaken his faith. Again he was asked the same question, again the same reply, and two hundred more blows were inflicted on his poor body, and he was thrust into prison. With him was a Christian physician, also a graduate of Tungchow College, who likewise refused to deny his Lord. For weeks both of these devoted men were kept in a filthy prison, while their tormentors, miserable opium-eating harpies of the magistrates, sought in every way, but in vain, to turn them from their faith.

A poor cook, uneducated but devout, the breadwinner of the family, having a wife and three helpless children, was seized and cruelly beaten. He was offered his freedom, and life for himself and his dear ones, if he would deny his Master; but though his ears were cut off, his mouth and cheeks cut with a sword, yet he remained faithful. This man, with his brother, was the means of leading fifty-three persons to Christ. All these Christians were driven from their village homes, and lost all earthly possessions, but the fires of persecution did not burn out their faith in Christ.

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Mrs. Chang, a graduate of the London Missionary Society's school, was driven out into the streets of Peking with her little babe and her blind mother. They were separated, the old blind mother was lost, a Boxer seized Mrs. Chang and her babe, and brought them before a Boxer judge. The place where she stood was slippery with the blood of Christians already slain. The mother clasped her babe to her breast, and prayed, "O Lord, give me courage to witness bravely for Thee until the end." The Boxer magistrate said, "Are you a Christian?" "Yes," she said. He gave her a stick of incense, saying, "Burn this and your life will be spared." "Never!" she replied. "Kill her," cried the magistrate. But she calmly said, "My body you can kill, and it will be scattered on the ground like these," pointing to portions of dead bodies about her, "but my soul will go to be with Jesus."

"Are you afraid?" asked a girl of seventeen of a girl of twelve, who lay by her side on that fateful night (June 13) in the Methodist Mission Compound when it seemed as though destruction was lurking in the air. "No," the little Christian replied, "I don't think Jesus will let them get in to kill us." Through the long and terrible hours of that night these two lay on the hard brick floor, their hands tightly clasped, while they repeated precious promises from the Word of God, and kept their faith.

An evangelist, Yung Yao, was attacked by Boxers, and beaten until he was unconscious. When he regained consciousness, he attempted to rise, and was kneeling in prayer when they cried out, "See, he is praying even now; drag him to the fire." The Boxers had meanwhile set on fire the chapel where he had preached. They caught him, but he calmly said, "You need not drag me; I will go myself." He quietly walked to the chapel, and entered the burning building. Almost immediately the roof fell in.

One of the finest examples of all was a faithful Chinese servant in Shansi. Little Kenneth McConnell had seen his parents cut down before his eyes. When he saw in the crowd round about his faithful Chinese servant, he piteously called to him. The devoted man walked calmly into the midst of the circle of cruel murderers, clasped the child in his arms, and died with him.

It is not necessary to know everything in order to love and be true to the uttermost. Some of these Christian martyrs were only little children, but they were faithful unto death. We may not know very much, and we may be but weak and small, but we, too, can be firm and faithful.

If we confess Christ before men, he will confess us before his Father.

If we deny him before men, he also will deny us.

If we live, and, need be, die for him here, we shall live with him forever.

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