

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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What Women are doing for Missions.

Since the consecrated women of the different denominations have organized for the work, a new impetus has been imparted to missionary enterprises. The enthusiasm of the women in the cause of missions has been a great blessing to our own church. Our mission fields at home and abroad have a status today which they could not have attained, and have done a work which, without the aid of the women's boards, could not have been accomplished. And what is true of our own church is true of all churches where the women have banded together for the work. The following is from *The Interior*:

"At the recent meeting of the Women's Auxiliary Missionary Society of the Episcopal Church, which sat in Boston, seventeen hundred women were present. The crowning event was the triennial offering. Ten ushers in vestments passed the plates. By request checks were brought, instead of gold, as formerly. The ushers emptied the gifts into black bags and piled the bags into the great gold alms basin, two feet in diameter, the gift of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the American Church in 1852. The basin bore a fine bas-relief of the Adoration of the Magi. Bishop Lawrence and eight clergymen assisted in the services, which were followed by the sacrament. The basin was filled to overflowing. Ushers at once stood on guard. It took the treasurer and three experts four hours to count the offering, and when later at a great meeting of twenty-three hundred women in Tremont Temple it was announced that the collection was \$143,000, formalism gave way and the women rose and sang "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" with the ardor of a Methodist Conference. The telegraph caught up the story and sent it across the continent, heralding it as a unique exhibition of the consecrated giving of women. Have the papers not heard what our Presbyterian women did last year? Do you know about the magnificent aggregate of their gifts to missions? Unaccompanied by impressive ceremonies or incited by the words and presence of great ecclesiastical dignitaries, these quiet women in the societies all over the land gave to advance the kingdom at home and abroad, \$725,511.77! Let us rise and sing to the glory of God and the help of the women, "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow!"

LIBERALITY OF CONGO CONVERTS.

Writing from the American Baptist Mission Station at Ikoko, Congo Free State, Mr. C. L. Whitman says: We believe that those who have come into the light here have had a real experience of God's grace. One evidence of this is the spirit, liberal to the point of sacrifice, which they manifest in giving to the Lord's work.

Our most experienced native helper, Vinda, has a salary of \$70 a year and a small allowance for rations. Of this he regularly gives \$7 to the church, and during the past six months his special gifts amount to \$2.90, besides the offerings which he and his wife make at each Sunday morning service. Frank, another of our helpers, with the same salary, also gives a tenth, besides his special gifts. Mwanza, another helper, is a forceful preacher, though he spends most of his time at the carpenter's bench. His wages are \$19 a year, with an allowance of 30 cents weekly for rations. On this he supports a family of four; yet he cheerfully has set aside \$1.90 of it for the church, besides giving regularly on Sundays, and making recent special gifts amounting to \$1.55. Other cases might be cited, but these exemplify the self-sacrificing spirit of the Ikoko Christians.

The fifty-seven girls in the school give fifty-seven rods (one rod equals one cent) a Sunday, or one rod each, but as they are allowed only two rods a week for books, pencils, slates, soap, etc., it means that one-half their pocket money is given for the Lord's work. How many girls or boys at home would be willing to give in the same proportion?

The station boys give one and two rods a week each out of an average allowance of twenty-four rods a week. But out of this allowance they must provide themselves with food, clothing, soap, books, pencils, etc. so that it is only by sacrifice that they are able to give at all.

Until very recently the church has numbered only forty-five members, it has now fifty-four, yet the Sunday collections and other offerings have supported seven poor people. A short time since it was found that there was a surplus of \$35.00, and this the church without objection, voted for the work at Ituta, our out-station. In so doing they were practically contributing to foreign mission work, giving gladly of what was their own to send the Word into the regions beyond.

We praise God for this spirit of beneficence, the more remarkable when contrasted with the absolute selfishness of the heathenism out of which these people recently came. That their purses are opened so freely shows the effectual working of God's Spirit in their hearts, and is a large element in the development of strong, well-rounded Christian characters.

The church is attractive when men feel that God is with its members — meets with them in their worship, goes with them to their business, is invited to be a sharer of their pleasures.

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OFFICIAL AGENT

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Mission Notes and News Increasing by Millions!

—The warden of the prison at Siao-shi in Szechwan, China, is a Christian. So he holds morning and evening worship for such of the prisoners as wish to attend. Eighteen of the prisoners, some of them under sentence of death, attend these services regularly, and have and use Bibles and hymn books. Whenever a native convert begins aggressive evangelistic work in this fashion the deep and permanent quality of the change produced by the Gospel is thrown into relief.

—The recent decease of the veteran African missionary, Pastor Coillard, has recalled an interesting incident. Seven years ago, when funds were very much needed to extend M. Coillard's mission on the Zambesi, the treasurer received an anonymous gift of one thousand pounds, with a note stating that "as a pledge of entire consecration the writer sends his all to the Zambesi fund." It now turns out that the donor was the devoted missionary himself.

—A farmer in northern India lost his crops through drought; he was starving, and moreover, he was attacked by leprosy. He lost his heart, left his little bit of land, and became a beggar. Wandering into Allahabad he was taken to a leper asylum. There he heard for the first time of Jesus Christ, began to read the Bible, and found in it supply for a long list of needs. The British and Foreign Bible Society has now received from this broken down, leprous farmer a thank offering of four rupees (\$1.20), which the man saved for the purpose, steadfastly followed through months, by eating a part only of each day's ration.

—The missionaries seem to be gradually advancing into Tibet, the last remaining country from which foreign influences are rigorously excluded. They have returned to Ta-Chien-lu, the entrance station from China, from which they had been kept away for three years after the Boxer outbreak, having been called back by a formal request from the leading merchants, and are preaching in

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rooms overfilled with people eager to hear them. The chief of the province has offered them his summer palace for a vacation residence. At Litung, twelve days farther in, where Richardson was murdered in 1898, missionaries have been permitted to come in without molestation.

—Asia and Africa fields being so well covered by Christian Missions, South America is now attracting attention from Christian people of Europe and the United States. The new cry is raised in behalf of the native Indian tribes, who are declared to number at least eighteen millions of people. In Peru and Bolivia, there are three and a half millions of Quechua Indians, and in the rubber region of Brazil there are said to be eight millions more. There are a work in South America a large number of missionary organizations, but some are so small that their expenses well-nigh exhaust their total receipts. It is now proposed to amalgamate as many of these societies as possible, reduce expenses of administration and renew appeals to supporters.