

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 Century of Noble Endeavor for India's Redemption.

India, possessing nearly one-fifth of the world's people and filled with fabulous wealth, has for centuries been ruthlessly besieged by nations that sought only temporal glory. Mohammedan, Portuguese, Dutch, French and English have fought for the prize. For two centuries, side by side with these, entering every open door, has moved the church of Christ seeking only India's redemption from sin and shame. In devoted sacrifices, heroic achievements, and inspiring successes, the nineteenth century is comparable to any one century of Christian progress.

From Carey to Clough, and from the Baptist conquest in Burmah to the Methodist victories in North India, one hesitates to make a distinction between men and events, for all are worthy. Carey on the English and Judson on the American side began an epoch rivalling apostolic times.

William Carey at his cobbler's bench, with a map of the world before him marked with shoe pegs, and books on his bench, prepared himself for his work, and out of his enthusiasm grew the English Baptist Missionary Society in 1792. As its first missionary, Carey sailed to India in 1793. Prohibited from working as a missionary by the East India Company, he lived as an indigo planter, "the one representative in India of the missionary zeal of Christian England, and in that obscure—one may say ignominious—way England began missions in her great dependency." Marshman and Ward came to India in 1799, and were ordered to leave the country at once, but they found refuge in the Dutch colony at Serampore, sixteen miles above Calcutta. Here Carey joined them and they entered at once into missionary work. The translation of the Bible into Bengali was their great movement, as it gave God's word to forty million of people. The miracle of tongues was more than repeated in William Carey, who completed a Bengali dictionary in three volumes and translated the Bible, or portions of it, into thirty-six dialects. He also prepared grammars and dictionaries in the Sanskrit, Marathi, Punjabi and Telugu dialects. His forty-one years in India proved him a man of extraordinary intellectual power, accompanied with the rarest humility of most unflinching devotion to his Master Jesus Christ, and with a consuming love for his fellow-men. Thus was laid the foundation for almost every method of subsequent mission endeavor in India undertaken by English and American missionaries.

The American movement began with the famous hay-stack conference. In the class of 1809, Williams College, were three students, Mills, Hall and Richards, whose names have become renowned in missionary annals. When Mills was but a child, he heard his mother say to a friend, "I have consecrated this child to the service of God as a missionary." From his conversion he purposed to go to heathen lands to preach the gospel. In college he, with a few students, often met in a grove for prayer and conference. One memorable afternoon, a thunder-storm drove them to a haystack for shelter, and there Mills first suggested the idea of America's sending the gospel to the heathen, and they took for their simple but manly motto, "We can do it, if we will."

When these young men entered Andover Seminary they found kindred spirits in Judson, Newell and Mott. Together they united in a memorial to the Congregational churches of Massachusetts, which resulted in the organization of the American Board. Mills engaged for several years in Bible Society work and the colonization of negroes from America in Africa. Going there for investigation, he died near the west coast, just after embarking for home, in 1818. Though not permitted to engage personally in foreign mission work, on which his heart was set, he accomplished much for the conversion of this world, as the many societies growing out of that haystack conference show.

Gordon Hall, another of that number, was permitted but few years of service. After studying medicine, he sailed with Mott for India in 1812. Driven from Calcutta, he obtained permission from the governor of Bombay to remain. There he labored for thirteen years, preaching, teaching and healing the sick. After completing the translation of the New Testament in Marathi, he went for a preaching tour in the interior. At Nasick, one hundred miles distant, he found multitudes dying with the cholera. After ministering to them and using up all his medicines he started to return to Bombay, lying down to sleep one night on the verandah of a heathen temple. At four in the morning he arose only to become a victim to cholera himself. Giving directions concerning his burial, exhorting the heathen, praying for his family and the mission, after eight hours of great suffering he died, thrice repeating the words, "Glory to Thee, O God!" He was highly respected by the Brahmans, and his tract, "The Conversion of the World, or the Claims of Six Hundred Millions," which he prepared in connection with Mr. Newell, was widely circulated in America and England, and produced a deep impression.

To Adoniram Judson was given the opportunity for hardest trials, greatest sacrifices, and richest results among the heathen. When he reached Calcutta in 1812, he severed his connection with the American Board, having on his journey changed his ideas on baptism. Mr. Rice, coming on another ship, had met with the same change, and together they were immersed at Serampore. But England

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was at war at this time with the United States, and they were compelled to leave Calcutta. So Judson, with his wife and Mr. Rice sailed to the French island of Mauritius, whence Mr. Rice returned to America to arouse the Baptists to form a missionary society. After four months Judson and his wife went to Madras, but not being permitted to remain there, they were compelled to take passage on a vessel bound for Rangoon. Thus providentially was the gospel sent to Burmah. But it is hard to imagine the condition of these devoted Christians alone in Burmah, with support provided for only one year by friends in Massachusetts, and not knowing what the Baptists in America would do. However, the latter hailed the opportunity with gladness, and Mr. Rice's return stimulated them to earnest endeavor to form a new mission society and to undertake the work before them.

A careful reading of the lives of Judson and his companions would thrill and inspire any one. The first convert was baptized after six years. During the war between England and Burmah, 1824-1826, Mr. and Mrs. Judson suffered untold hardships. Suspected by the natives of being a spy, he was seized, bound and thrown into the death prison, and confined for seventeen months in the loathsome jails of Ava and Oungpen-la, bound with three, and, for two months, with five pairs of fetters. His devoted wife followed him and his captors from place to place, ministering to his needs through much suffering, and finally gained his release through help of the English. Thus was the work begun in Burmah.

At a great festival in Rangoon in 1832, Mr. Judson was applied to by thousands for tracts. "Some," he said, "came two or three months' journey from the borders of Siam and China; others came from the frontier of Khatay, saying, 'Sir, we have seen a writing that tells about the true eternal God. Pray give us one, for we want to know the truth before we die.' Others came from the interior of the country where the name of Jesus is but little known, saying, 'Are you the Jesus Christ's

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man? Give us a writing that tells about Jesus Christ."

In toils and labors manifold, worked this hero of the cross, until in 1850 he died at sea, at the age of sixty-two. The English authorities profoundly respected him, and the native converts greatly revered and loved him. Thousands of converts and the translation of the Bible and other books into Burmese, are testimonies to the permanent value of his work. Supplemented by other toilers, as well as by the work among the Karens of Boardman, Vinton; and others with its 35,000 members, we see "what God hath wrought" from such a strange beginning.

Space forbids the mention of the many other grand endeavors to bring India to Christ, except one. The story of the Nellore mission among the Telugus is a wonderful miracle of God's grace.

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INDIGESTION
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 TO HEALTHY ACTION AND TONES WHOLE SYSTEM.