

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.]

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.

Gathering the Missionary Contributions.

The Lord has his chosen few in every flock, who labor faithfully in the interests of the "home and foreign mission" fields, but the majority of our sisters and brothers in the church have a very faint and vague sort of interest in the work. They know that it is going on, and they, or some member of their families, contribute a sum (small or large) yearly to the support of missionaries who labor somewhere under the sun—just where, they aren't quite certain—but, anyway, among dirty, wicked, disagreeable beings who are not civilized, and who constitute that portion of the world's population known as "the heathen."

When they chance to hear a touching story of some self-sacrificing missionary they admire the Christlike spirit of the toiler, pity his or her sufferings, and then very likely dismiss the matter from their minds. As to the heathen themselves, they are so far away, so far outside our own little circle of life-interests, that too often they are forgotten by Christian people, except when the yearly subscription list is handed round. Even then we who have had the pleasure of soliciting subscriptions are often dismissed with a polite "No, thank you for calling. I can't spare anything for missions this year. I have so many expenses to meet that I really haven't a cent to spare."

Then on our departure, the person who has nothing for missions may sometimes be seen wending her way down town, where she opens her purse and expends many crisp bills on the latest fads in personal adornment, or on all the paraphernalia for a dinner, or tea, to which she invites—the maimed, the halt, the blind? Oh, no! The fashionable ladies of "our set," who are in duty bound to return the compliment; and thus some more money goes. These things may be all right in their place, but when fashion and society climb to a place in a woman's heart where they crowd God out, they are distinctly out of place.

Or perhaps we offer our book to a woman who never handles five cents to do what she pleases with it. She must ask "husband" for every cent she needs, and tell him what it is for before she can even buy a box of stove-polish. She may be a generous, Christian soul, with a heart yearning to do something for the benighted heathen, but "husband does not approve of her giving away money thus," so, with tears of regret and humiliation in her eyes, she must refuse. We leave the house with hearts full of sympathy for the woman who works like any hired servant for a man who takes it all as a matter of course, and forgets the vow he once made at the altar, "with all my worldly goods I thee endow." That was a very pretty promise, but she found it "null and void" as the years passed.

If we are of a vindictive turn of mind we hunt that man up, and never leave him until he has done part of his duty by giving us a liberal subscription, or has heard a gentle reminder of the fact that women have a right to an independent living in this country when they honestly earn it, whether he for whom

they labor be called "husband" or "boss."

Sometimes we offer our list to a generous-minded man, whose wife and family use up all his income on fashionable nothings. He avows his interest in missions generally, but shakes his head as he recalls the load of expense that "home" means to him, and rather than see us go empty away, he puts his hand into his pocket and presents the Lord with a quarter, whereas perhaps he has just that morning handed out a twenty-dollar bill for a new hat for Miss Lulu.

Then we take our book to some well-dressed young man who has no wife and family for whom to provide.

"Missionary collectors? Oh, yes, of course. Some one comes round every year," he says, indifferently. "Hard work for you young ladies, isn't it?"—with manifestly more interest in the young ladies than in their mission. "Subscribe? I don't know. I'm kind of short of cash just now. Let's see. Well, I don't like to refuse a lady. Will a quarter do?"

We write his name, and as he politely closes the door behind us he returns to his lips the ten-cent cigar he laid aside when we entered—probably the fifth he has puffed into the air today. And that evening he had the spare dollars to hire a carriage and escort a fashionable young lady to a high-priced concert or an opera, and to an expensive lunch afterwards.

Thus it is that millions die without a Saviour, without a gleam of light in their heathen darkness of despair and idol-worship. And yet the patient Master leaves the salvation of the world for which he gave his life to be worked out by human hands. And thus are many nominally Christian people fulfilling the desire of his loving soul.

Now and again we come to a home which does a Christian's heart good. Everything looks comfortable and prosperous, for the Lord does not command his people not to have comfortable and pleasant homes. We state our errand. "Oh, yes," says husband or wife, whichever greets us. "We've been ready for you for some little time. This is about the time you collectors usually call, so we put aside what we can to have it ready."

And they go aside to some particular drawer or box, and bring forth a liberal contribution, according to the way the Lord has prospered them. In most cases like this, if we inquire as to their system of giving, we learn that ten cents out of every dollar in that house is the Lord's. Thus they are ready for his collecting agents, their lives are happy, supplied with all their needs, according to his promise, and the blessing of the Lord of Hosts rests upon that home and its inmates. Would that their number might be increased!—*F. Witty, in Onward.*

TRACY MILLS SOCIETY.

Time, though voiceless, has its own language, and "speaks" of passing moments. This thought reminds us that a report from our society is due. In looking over the minutes of the last few months we find our society has gained in numbers, attendance and spirituality.

Our officers, especially, have been faithful in carrying on the work of the society, and have given both time and thought to the making of the meetings pleasant as well as instructive.

A Ladies' Aid for the purpose of assisting the home local interest has been added to the W. F. M., and we find it helpful to the community in social channels. The devotional part of the so-

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MURINE FOR TIRED EYES.

ciety meeting is held in the afternoon, the Aid in the evening.

As a society, we wish through this letter to send our deepest sympathies to Sister Hartt and family, and regret the great sorrow she has been called upon to bear. Many of us remember the bright young sister who offered her life for the foreign work at the Conference at Waterville. "She being dead yet speaketh."

We are making it a point to use the INTELLIGENCER selections at every meeting, and find something suitable every time.

It may be early in the year to mention District Meetings, but we are looking forward to a pleasant gathering of the faithful, when we trust we shall all receive new inspiration for future work.

MRS. J. S. PALMER,

Secretary.

March 26th, 1904.

MISSION NEWS AND NOTES.

—A few years ago a New York business man, learning that Korea was open to the Gospel, drew his check for six thousand dollars to enable the Presbyterian Board to start its work in the "Hermit Nation." No wonder that he pronounces it the best paying investment he ever made, for there are already over 20,000 Christian converts there, over 300 Presbyterian churches organized, 21 chapels built in a single year by the native Christians themselves.

—The only Protestant Missionary Society in Russia, the Finnish, has been greatly revived within the last three years. From 200 to 300 young men and many women have offered their services. For this reason, and on account of the growing influence of Russia in China, the society has resolved on establishing a mission there. As is known, it already has a mission in Southwest Africa. In September, 1901, there was held at Reval what is probably the first course of lectures on missions that has ever been held in Russia.

—After all has been said, it is still true that the church keeps wonderfully well to the great missionary idea. We were reading the other day of the mission on Blacklead Island, Cumberland Sound, perhaps the most inaccessible mission station in the world. Here, on a scene of unspeakable desolation, three men of the Church Missionary Society minister to some bands of scattered Eskimos, communication with the outside world being only by post about twice a

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year. There are still, however, some eight thousand Eskimos unevangelized.

—The effort to unite foreign mission forces is one of many hopeful signs in the mission work of the church at large. The General Committee on Presbyterian Union in China has issued its report on the subject referred to it, recommending to all Presbyterian Mission Boards, committees, and Supreme Courts having missions in the country, and to all the Chinese Presbyterian churches, to take immediate steps to bring about a union, which is declared to be desirable, and suggesting the principles of a *modus vivendi* while the matter is under way. It further advises that organic union rather than federal is desired; that one general assembly be formed for China, to meet once every three years, and that five Synods be formed, to meet annually, if convenient.

INDIGESTION
CONQUERED BY **K. D. C.**
IT RESTORES THE STOMACH
TO HEALTHY ACTION AND TON