

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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PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S WORK.

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church in Canada held its twenty-eighth annual session in Toronto last week. There was a large attendance, and the various meetings were marked by great earnestness. The reports for the year tell of expansion on every hand, as the following quotations show:

"The work among the Indians in the West and British Columbia each year calls for more provision to be made for its needs. . . . The reports from China are hopeful; the time for pressing on has come. The Christians are asking that schools be established for their children, and there is a call here as elsewhere for expansion."

In India, the year has been a particularly trying one, owing to the ravages of the plague. Two victims were claimed from among the mission staff—Dr. Menzies and Mrs. Harcourt—the memory of whose death is still fresh. One thing that made the experience of the plague more terrible than that of the famine of previous years was that so little could be done for the sufferers. The contributions for the year from all sources amounted to \$55,507. There are 27 presbyterial societies, in 21 of which the formation of new branches is reported. The total membership connected with the society is 23,698. The reports from the large majority of the auxiliaries is full of hope.

THE MELA.

The Mela is a gathering of our native Christians for a kind of holiday. It comes once a year and usually is held from three days to one week. It is held in February.

As many of the missionaries go as can, and the heathens from the villages round about are invited. It is carried on much as our county fairs in America, only that here religion has a very prominent part. At home it's all worldliness, here, thank God, there is room left for worship of our Maker even at times like this.

We have preaching every morning in the church, and afternoon on the ground wherever a crowd can be gathered. Then in the evening all sports are stopped and all gather under a large covering that has been put up for the occasion and evangelistic services are conducted.

Of course these gatherings are not all we desire them to be but they are far different than some of our county fairs at home, for which we are very thankful. There was a good attendance of our Christian people this year. They had planned to have three outside speakers, two from Calcutta Baptist Mission and one from Cuttack Baptist Mission. They were strong, spiritual men and did much to make the meetings a success.

Along with these good things we had the necessary things to make such gatherings pleasant. Noise! Noise!!

Noise!!! Santal drums, music by the band (that is, native band), shouting football, merry-go-round, etc. All these things are necessary for a good time in an Indian crowd.

We also were to have a double wedding, but the devil showed himself here and we had a family row so only one couple got married and the other couple are still traveling the road of single blessedness.

On Sunday three were baptized. This closed the Mela with the exception of the hunt for Monday. We all felt, I think, that the gathering had done much good for all who came. May the Lord bless the meeting and make them the means of the salvation of many souls.—*J. H. Oxrieder, in Free Baptist.*

What Christ has Done for Darkest Africa.

"Why do not more come to tell us the Gospel?" asked an African woman. "Is it because they do not love us, or because they do not love Jesus very much?"

In Africa there is one missionary to 82,000 souls. In the United States there is one minister to every 500 persons. What is the reason the Gospel messengers in one country so far outnumber those of the other? Is it "because we do not love Jesus very much?"

"The restless millions wait
That light whose dawning maketh all things new;
Christ also waits; but men are slow and late;
Have we done what we could?
Have I? Have you?"

It has been proved beyond question that Christ can do just as much for Darkest Africa as for lightest England or America. One of Africa's converts was being tortured to get him to recant. "I cannot," he said, "Jesus has taken charge of my heart. He has locked it and He has the key. I cannot open it without Him."

Some African Christians on one side of the Congo became interested in the heathen on the other side. "We are saved and they know nothing about Jesus," they said. "What shall we do?" Soon fifty of them were preaching on the other side of the river.

A convert in Uganda was asked if he would undertake a certain work. He replied: "Is it for me to choose my work? Tell me what to do. I am ready to obey."

Mission Band of South Wakefield.

This Band was organized a year ago this month by the Rev. J. N. Barnes, with a membership of eight active members. Since then it has been increasing and now we have enrolled about twenty active members. Our meetings are held the first Monday in the month.

We had a concert on May 3rd, a silver collection was taken, and the sum of \$5.40 was realized. Our dues from the members now amount to \$2.82, making a total of \$8.22 now in the treasury. The members are very much interested in their meetings. Pray for us that the work here may always continue.

LULU BRITTON.

WHAT ONE WOMAN DID.

Where there's a will, there's a way has found illustration in the life of Lizzie L. Johnson, of Casey, Illinois, who has been bedridden for years, and has managed by making bookmarks and selling them to give large sums to the missionary society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The income of her work turned over to the Missionary So-

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MURINE FOR TIRED EYES.

ciety in 1901 was \$1,525; for 1902, was \$1,785; and for 1903, was over \$1,500. Her correspondence now goes into nearly every State in the United States, beside six or seven foreign nations.

CHILDREN'S WORK.

The *Missionary Review of the World* tells what the children have done for missions. The children of the American Board raised \$46,000 for the "Morning Star," a missionary ship. The children of England built the "John Williams," and gave \$29,000 besides to other ships of the London Missionary Society. The children of Scotland built the "David Williams" and the children of Australia gave \$25,000 to the "Dayspring." John G. Paton's missionary ship. In 1901 the Sunday schools of the Methodist Episcopal church, North, raised \$400,000 for missions, about one-third of the sum contributed by the entire denomination.

Mission Notes and News

—A correspondent of an Australian paper writes of the Fijians as the most religious race in the world. Out of about 100,000 inhabitants of Fiji, 91,485 are attendants of the Methodist church. When the Methodist missionaries went to Fiji, the people of the lovely islands were fierce and blood-thirsty cannibals. What God hath wrought! It is said that in every house in Fiji the Bible is read every day, and there is family worship. How these poor islanders put to shame the professedly Christian households of these favored lands in which there is no family prayer.

—The door of the world is wide open to the church. There is not a heathen government on earth, Thibet alone excepted, that forbids entrance to the heralds of the cross. God has remarkably answered the prayer of his people to this end. This means opportunity, and therefore, responsibility. Never since the Master said "go" has the world been as ready to receive as now. Paul found no such condition in the first century. The Judsons and Careys did not find it a hundred years ago. The twentieth century begins as did no other century of Christian history. The nineteenth was far below it in point of opportunity. Will it end as auspiciously as it began? It depends on how we enter the open door.

—A remarkable article appeared lately in a Bengali magazine in India. The writer was a Brahman and a recognized preacher of the Hindu religion. He does not call himself a Christian, though he writes like one in his article on Jesus Christ, who, he says, "has won for him-

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—Joseph H. Manley, of Augusta, Me., a member of the Republican National Committee, declares that in the 440 towns and 79 plantations of the State there is no liquor sold. Only in the cities is the law violated. They have numberless rural communities, he says, where the people have never used liquor and are thankful for it.

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