

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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Rev. J. N. Barnes' Report for November.

To the Corresponding Secretary of the Woman's Missionary Society:

DEAR SISTERS, — God, in his great mercy, has permitted us to live to see the close of another year, and I would say, with one of old, "Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness and for his wonderful works to the children of men."

I began this month at South Wakefield. Had four meetings there, but did not think it best at that time to stop longer. Some little time before, I saw Rev. L. A. Fenwick, of Bath, and he advised me, if possible, to make the people of Beaconsfield a visit—a settlement on the boundary line some six miles from Andover. So Mrs. Barnes and I started. I had for some time had a desire to visit this people again, as I had met them before. We found them in great need. No meetings, and only Sabbath school once a month. The first week we had meeting every evening, and two meetings on the Sabbath. Saturday I was taken sick and could not go out for two days. The cold was so intense that the people could not attend; but good was done, thank the Lord. The following Sabbath we had meeting, and the cause was much helped. We spent eighteen days with them, and had thirteen meetings. Their position is somewhat as follows: About fourteen years ago Bro. John Bartely and wife moved there from Knoxford. Then much of this place was wilderness. There was not one godly family in the land; sin reigned. Some little time after, Rev. John Henderson went to their assistance; a Sabbath school was started, and one man was baptized. Then it was a long time before any minister passed that way. In the summer of 1895 I was with them every other Sabbath in the afternoon. Ministers of other denominations visited also, as it is quite a mixed community, religiously, as almost every other place. But the largest number of families are Free Baptists, as quite a few have moved here in late years. We have but two live Free Baptist men, but there is a number of good, faithful women, some Free Baptists, and some of other denominations; they love the Lord, and have helped us much. About three years ago the women, nine or ten of them, started a meeting house, and now they have it finished outside. It is a fine little building, about 24 x 36, with a good stone wall, and a tower and steeple. They hope to have it finished before long. Bro. Bartely gave them the ground for the house, horse-shed and graveyard, and they have the deed now on record at Andover. We spent Christmas and the following Sabbath at Bath. Bro. Fenwick went up to Beaconsfield yesterday (New Year), and assisted me in organizing a church of eleven members. We appointed the officers of the church, and their conference for the

first Saturday in each month, and prayer-meeting on Sabbath afternoon. We collected about \$16.00 for their church outside of the place. We are now on our way home; shall spend to-morrow with the church at Knoxford and the following Sabbath with Bro. Bonnell on his pastorate, and then go down river. My health has not been so good this winter as for some time past. I was ten days sick while at Beaconsfield, but am quite improved now, and hope to be able to go on with my work. I many times wish I had the strength of other days, as I see so much to do, but I must be contented and do what I can. Brothers Noble and Perry, and a few others, with myself, must soon leave the field. God's workmen die, but His work goes on. May the Lord indeed bless our young men and make them a power for good, is my prayer.

Summary of work done for the month: Meetings held, 16; families visited, 44; prayed with 25; one church organized; miles travelled, 261; cash collected, \$17.25.

J. N. BARNES.

Knoxford, C. Co.
 January 2nd, 1904.

GENERAL RELIGIOUS NEWS.

—The British and Foreign Bible Society is vigorously pushing the work of organization for the centenary campaign. Canada has undertaken to raise \$50,000 as her share of the thanksgiving fund.

—Twenty years ago there were 22 ministers and missionaries with 1,153 communicants in connection with the Presbyterian Church in the Northwest. Today there are 400 ministers and missionaries with a membership of 23,000, while from 40 to 50 new fields requiring workers were organized last year.

—The general circulation of the Bible among the Roman Catholics in Italy is now largely encouraged by the authorities of the church. An authorized edition of the gospels and the Acts having been published, to be sold for four cents, the Pope has offered indulgences to persons who read it fifteen minutes daily, meditating in their reading, with prayer.

—The Metropolitan College, founded by Mr. Spurgeon, had its annual meeting last month. The statistics presented are of interest. The total number of men educated in the college since its founding is 1,055. About 150 have died, but there are 796 who are now engaged in Christian service. It is declared that 122 churches have been originated by students of the college. There are not more than half as many untrained men in the Baptist ministry in England, as there were when Mr. Spurgeon started his institution. The college course occupies three years.

—The Protestant Church in Belgium, the Belgian Missionary Church, is largely the fruit of the work of colporteurs of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The reports presented at the recent meeting of its Synod show that it has 35 churches, with 37 pastors, 12 colporteurs and evangelists, and 6,351 members, and supplies besides the churches mentioned 100 places of regular worship and 80 evangelistic stations. It has 48

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EYES TESTED FREE.

Sunday schools, 28 mission schools, with 2,950 pupils, a Christian Endeavor Society at Brussels, a weekly newspaper, and a monthly periodical.

—Dr. Torrey and Mr. Alexander have been holding meetings this month in Scotland. The audiences have crowded the largest halls, and many times it has been necessary to provide for overflow meetings, so great was the interest. At every place the converts have been numerous, and in the larger cities they have numbered thousands. A large proportion of those who have professed Christ, were men. All the churches have benefitted by the labors of these evangelists. Church members have been revived, and the unsaved awakened, and the attendance upon the regular services of the churches has greatly increased. A spiritual atmosphere seems to prevail everywhere. It is stated that the results are quite as large and gratifying as were reaped from the Moody and Sankey meetings in Scotland.

WHY HE COBBLED.

It is told of William Carey, the pioneer of missions in India, that after cobbling shoes in his little room all day, he would go from village to village at night preaching the Gospel. One day, in the midst of these itinerant preachings, a friend came into his room, where he was stitching away, and with a very serious face began to remonstrate with him: "Mr. Carey, I want to speak with you very seriously." "Well," said Carey, "what is it?" The friend replied: "It is this—by your going about so much, preaching as you are doing, you are neglecting your business. If you only attend to your business now, you would be all right, and would soon get on, and prosper; but, as it is, you are simply ruining yourself by neglecting your business." "Neglecting my business?" said Carey, looking at him steadily. "My business, don't you know, is to extend the kingdom of God! I am only cobbling shoes to pay expenses." A little more of the spirit of William Carey in our day might make things move.

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