

Foreign Missions.

W. B. M. U.

"We are laborers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please address MRS. J. W. MANNING, 178 Wentworth Street, St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR APRIL.

For the Grande Ligne Mission, also the work among the French in these Provinces that many may be won to Christ.

Reduced Rates on Railroads to New York and Return.

Place of Registry—In Carnegie Hall, 57th Street and Seventh Avenue, accessible from all points on Manhattan Island in half an hour.

A reduction of fare and one-third, on the certificate plan, has been secured for those attending the meeting of Ecumenical Conference on Foreign Missions, New York City, April 21-May 1. The following directions are submitted for your guidance:

1. Tickets at full fare for the going journey may be secured within three days (exclusive of Sunday) prior to and during the continuance of the meeting. The advertised dates of the meeting are from April 21 to May 1, consequently you can obtain your ticket not earlier than April 18 nor later than May 1. Persons coming from points beyond three days' limit of travel can purchase tickets before the meeting in accordance with the limits shown in the regular tariffs. Be sure that when purchasing your going ticket you request a certificate. Do not make the mistake of asking for a receipt.

2. It has been arranged that the special agent of the Trunk Line Association will be in attendance to validate certificates during continuance of meeting, except Sundays, April 22 and 29. You are advised of this, because if you arrive at the meeting and leave for home prior to the special agent's arrival, you cannot have the benefit of the reduction on the home journey. Similarly, if you arrive at the meeting later than May 1, after the special agent has left, you cannot have your certificate validated for the reduction returning.

3. When your certificate is duly validated, you will be entitled, up to May 4, to a continuous passage ticket to your destination by the route over which you make the going journey, at one-third the limited fare.

Work Among the French of Digby County, N. S.

I am glad to say our labors here have not proved fruitless during the past year. Several souls have been brought to the light of the pure gospel; some have been bold enough to step right out and show that they had accepted Christ by confessing him before the world. We have very good meetings which are well attended. Catholics come in and join with us in singing our hymns, (we sing both French and English, according to the congregation) and we always have perfect order and respect, not much like the old rock city, Quebec. We have visited as regularly as the weather permitted, for we had many very stormy days which made it impossible for us to go very far. January and February were hard months to work in, but "we did what we could." I always accompany my husband and we see some sad sights sometimes—poverty, ignorance—many cannot even read. The priest visits these people but once a year and then it is to ask money. When anyone is dying the priest is sent for, but he does not like to go when he thinks he can get no money, and yet he calls himself "the representative of Jesus Christ." It is money and money, all the time and everywhere while living and even after death, it is still "money" to get the souls out of "purgatory." Oh! it is very sad when one stops to think of it! such a system. Just one instance lately came under our notice will prove what I have said.

Not far from our church lives a poor old man who has been very ill for a year. A few days ago his daughter sent for the priest to come and read and pray with him. The priest's answer was "I need not go and pray with that man, he is as good a Christian as I am, and it's no use for me to go, he'll go to heaven all right." I felt like saying, "yes, he may go to heaven, but it won't be because you pointed him to Christ." The daughter wants us to go and read and pray with her father and if God permits, we shall be only too happy to carry the glad tidings to the poor man and his family. Oh! may the Lord use us in the salvation of these precious souls.

We visited a sick woman, nearly 90, lives alone and is very poor, who had fallen down her cellar stairs and received such a shock that it was feared she would never get up again. We read and prayed with her, all the neighbors were there (Catholics) and they all stood in the room and listened respectfully and then knelt down with us. We spoke to them before leaving the house and it was really touching to see their faces, how beautiful they thought it was! All these things are marked in God's great book. He was an eye witness there. My husband was called to officiate at the funeral of a man who dropped dead on the street, a few acres from where we live, another grand occasion to preach the gospel. Large numbers of Catholics were present who heard the glad tidings. We have very encouraging cottage meetings also. One converts are holding firm, they confess Christ at all the meetings and I may say they are exemplary. We have the case of one of our members who is much persecuted because she is the only convert and one in her family. All are very bitter against her, but we encourage her all we can, we tell her to "live like a child of God, to be kind, forbearing, to keep silence when she is abused,

etc., and that God will overrule it all." The poor woman weeps in the meetings and asks the church to pray for her family, etc. Please remember your missionaries in your prayers. MRS. C. W. GRENIER. Weymouth, N. S., March 6th.

This, That and Some Other Things.

This, is a visit to River Hebert, that hitherto unknown land, read and wondered about, but now tried and proved, and not found wanting. It is just the place for a wandering sort of homeless missionary to snuggle up to the warm hearts of a friendly people. Such abundant hospitality, such genuine friendliness, and such an interest in missions evinced by all classes! The eyes of the children sparkled by the genial faces of those who looked at life from a different standpoint. The night of our meeting was very unfavorable, but the audience was surprisingly large, and the collection for the Ladies' Aid almost startlingly so. One little woman drove fifteen miles the next morning, to get a glimpse of one of her Indian representatives. Evidently she is a partner in this blessed work. I tried to discover the secret of some of the things I saw, and decided that a wise pastor and his energetic wife, had found good material to work upon, and all had improved their opportunities. Happy they! May the Lord bless them still more richly.

That, is our Century Fund. You see I put capitals there, where is it? We hear of it now and again, but just look yonder, don't you see the rapid advance of the end of this wonderful hundred years? And for this century, the opportunities of our Baptist people will be gone, and the execution of our formulating plans must pass over into a new era.

Not long since, I found among the Presbyterians a Ladies' Aid, which was endeavouring as a century effort, to get every lady in the church to become a member of the Society, otherwise to raise a dollar for every one, and they were succeeding well. I know a family of Methodist children, whose enthusiasm over their century fund, has stirred more than one quiet heart. Each is trying to raise a dollar, and one little fellow nine or ten years old, who does many chores at home, went over to the house of a neighbour one day, and said to the lady, "don't you want me to bring up your coal and split your kindling?" The lady thought him too small, but he assured her that he did it at home and, he continued "you know I am trying to raise a dollar for the century fund," so he got the position, and does his work before and after school. The same young man was calling at his Auntie's one day, and said, "Aunt Annie, I see some bones out in the yard, and may I have them? Well said Aunt Annie, 'I put them there for Barrie,' (the huge dog of the enquiring boy) "but why do you want them?" "Oh you know, I can sell them, and I want money for the Century Fund." He got the bones. And our Century Fund, where is it? Where is it, pastors, churches, ladies, children?

One of the other things—The Indian Famine. It is sweeping over many parts of that great country, bringing with it devastation, destruction of animal life, and suffering and death to tens of thousands of human beings.

We all deplore the cruel war in South Africa, and the personal loss of dear ones, has broken many hearts. The British Empire has been stirred to its centre, and nobly has our part of it responded to the call to arms. All over the land are outstretched hands offering financial assistance to the bereaved ones at home. This manifestation of unity and brotherhood thrills and rejoices our hearts. But look over there, and see gaunt famine laying its hand on little children, men and women, and see the English government wrestling with all its power with this monstrous calamity. See the young Englishmen go to their stubborn duty, without any of the pomp and circumstance of war, and strive with all their vigor, to master the situation. They are as far away from home and mother as the soldier in the African camp, and many of them lay down their lives quietly, but just as surely, for their country's good, as the brave men, who walked up to the hidden guns of the enemy and never returned. Probably the present famine is being grappled with better than any of its predecessors, but as the war appears to be approaching a successful issue, can public attention be turned from the patriotic to the famine fund? Our own fields require more assistance, and we often wonder how our people live. Water supply already scarce, no rains before June, if then, and no real harvest till the latter part of November and December. In '96 and '97 in our own country alone, government reported 10,000 deaths from starvation, almost as many people as live in this county of New Brunswick, and nearly approaching the number of English, killed, wounded, and missing in Africa. These are dearer to us than those, but over all is one Heavenly Father. Shall we do what we can and do it quickly.

The last thing—the Chicacole hospital. Probably it is doing its beneficent work now. Do you know we want \$10,000 for that hospital? And we want it over and above Famine Century and all ordinary gifts. Were there a consciousness of inability, we would not want it, but there is a strong assurance that "we are able." There are ten women in our provinces who could do it and so enrich their own hearts that the owners thereof would scarcely recognize them. There are twenty who could do it, there are fifteen who could, and the reacting influences be that much broader. Friends, I fear we are limiting the power of God, leaving undone many of the things we should do, and contracting our own spiritual life, which will exert its weakening influence, for all time and all eternity. If God calls in the spiritual realm for the same renunciation of person, money, time, all, as our Queen has asked in the physical, shall his children not respond with a similar, nay, greater enthusiasm and more loving devotion? God calling yet, shall I not hear? C. H. ARCHIBALD.

December 23.

Amounts Received by the Treasurer of the W. B. M. U.

From March 7th to March 26th—Point deBute, F. M., \$8.50; Donkhobors, \$1.10; Mrs. Cos, Tidings, 25c.; Summerside, F. M., \$2.80; H. M., \$2.87; Mr. Burgdoffe's salary, \$2.25; Mahone Bay, F. M., \$6.75; Fairville, F. M., \$5.10; Mr. Burgdoffe's salary, \$5.46; Sackville, F. M., \$13; H. M., \$6; 1st Sable River, F. M., \$5.75; H. M., \$2; Yarmouth 1st church, F. M., \$8; H. M., \$2; Reports, 35c.; Clyde River, F. M., \$2.50; H. M., \$2.50; Bedeque, F. M., \$10; Reports, 35c.; Liverpool, F. M., \$4; H. M., 50c.; Reports, 20c.; Liverpool, to constitute Mrs. E. Starratt a life member, F. M., \$25; Surrey, F. M., \$3; H. M., \$1; Mr. Burgdoffe's salary, 80c.; toward Miss Blackadar's salary, \$5; Indian Harbor, F. M., \$2; Wolfville, F. M., \$22.50; H. M., \$11.25; Port Maitland, F. M., \$5; Chester, F. M., \$6.28; Forest Glen, H. M., \$3.50; Nictaux, F. M., \$1.75; H. M., \$1; Milton, Yarmouth Co., F. M., \$10.50; H. M., \$2.50; Liverpool, Mr. Burgdoffe's salary, \$3; North River, F. M., \$4; H. M., \$4; Alexandra, F. M., \$5.35; H. M., \$4.27; Tidings, 50c.; Reports, 20c.; Great Village, F. M., \$4.75; H. M., \$1.25; Reports, 25c.; Boundary Creek, Tidings, 25c.; Coll. Conference, Alexandra, H. M., \$1.10; Wellington, F. M., \$5; Marysville, F. M., \$4; Aylesford, 10c. fund, Mr. Burgdoffe's salary, \$2; Friends at Homeworth, Mr. Burgdoffe's salary, \$2.60; Osborne, F. M., \$3.25; Cambridge Narrows, F. M., \$14.94; Reports, 10c.; Douglas Harbor, "two sisters," F. M., \$2; Stewiacke, F. M., \$3; Billtown, F. M., \$6; H. M., \$1; Lakeville, F. M., \$4.50; H. M., \$2.15; Rev. Mr. Vining's work, \$6.75; Hatfield Point, F. M., \$12; N. B. Convention, \$2; Onslow, West, F. M., \$4.55.

MRS. MARY SMITH, Treas. W. B. M. U. Amherst, P. O. B. 513.

Foreign Mission Board.

NOTES BY THE SECRETARY.

Any friends who desire to contribute to the relief of India's sufferers from famine, and who wish their benefactions distributed by the missionaries of the Foreign Mission Board of the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces, can do so by sending their contributions to the treasurer, J. W. Manning, St. John, N. B. In case the offerings are more than can be handled by the missionaries in the field, they will be instructed to pay some other missionaries on whose field the need is greater than on our mission field.

J. W. MANNING, Sec'y.-Treas. F. M. B.

Literary Notes.

Littell's Living Age completes another quarterly volume with its issue of March 31. The leading article of the current issue is "Recollections of James Martineau," by Frances Power Cobbe, from *The Contemporary*, which is followed by an entertaining article on "School Children's Ideals," by Catherine I. Dodd, from *The National Review*. Fiction is represented by an instalment of "Rabe" by H. Heimbürg, and "The Chaperon: an Adventure," by R. Ramsay. There are also short articles on Sydney Laurier and Goethe.

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Albert Cour This Quarter Harvey church have a large del not so many a been present. away to the be who was sick w Many prayers w and perhaps th such a sad mis a little nearer o the services we enjoyed. Rev. the quarterly ac Rev. C. W. To be present on ac B. Colwell was p services. His r see him looking the people was u Harvey a good