

Foreign Missions.

W. B. M. U.

"We are laborers together with God."
Contributors to this column will please address MRS. J. W. MANNING, 240 Duke Street, St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR SEPTEMBER.

Thanksgiving for the success of the past year and prayer for greater zeal and earnestness for future service. That God's blessing may accompany every effort to raise the Twentieth Century Fund.

Notice.

Crusade Day has been appointed for October 11th. Will all W. M. A. S. make arrangements to observe it this year and send short reports to the MESSENGER AND VISITOR?

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL:—Would you not like to take a peep with me into our hospital and be introduced to our smiling Lady Apothecary, who seems so happy in the thought that she is able to help others. First is the Consulting Room, in it is a table, chair and clock. On the walls are six of those large Sunday School pictures illustrating the life of Christ. The day I put them up a man who had come for medicine stood and gazed for quite a while, then said: "Will you not give me one to take home and put up in my house." I said, "I need all of these but some day I will come to your house and tell you all about this wonderful Saviour and give you a picture to remember the story." He was satisfied and went away content. This reminds me that we need very much some more picture rolls bearing directly on the Life of Christ, namely, Birth, Early Life and Last days. Pardon me for the digression, we will return to our subject. Opening to the right of the first room is the Operation Room, this is not the most pleasant place to enter, but very necessary. I have held the hand of more than one woman as she lay on the table in dread and fear of the knife. On the left of the Consulting Room is the Compounding Room with its almyra, table, etc. On the wall is a picture of Christ healing Bartimeus, a most appropriate picture. There are so many with sore eyes that the story of the blind man always finds many listeners. Behind Miss D'Silva, who sits in the first room facing the door, are two large doors that open into the wards, these are light and airy and contain besides the four beds that have been given by special donations, three medicine closets. The walls of these rooms too are decorated with pictures. Last but not least is the Gospel Room, one door opens out on the veranda, where the people wait for their medicines. This room is made as attractive as possible and all are invited to enter. I have asked Julia our Christian woman who helps Miss D'Silva to study up the stories so that she can teach the women when I am not present. Miss D'Silva gives up work for half an hour when there are most present and we have a gospel service. I had such a pleasant talk with a poor widow this morning, her only son has gone away and left her entirely alone. When I told of the Father's care and how he would never forsake her if she would put her trust in him she wiped the tears from her eyes and grasped my hand. As tenderly as I could I told her the "Old, old Story," she went away smiling. We want your prayers that this hospital work may be a success in the eyes of the Master. This work has his approval for when on earth he ministered to body and soul. We feel our great responsibility and our own great weakness. Pray for us.

Yours very sincerely,
MARTHA CLARK.

Chicacole, August 7.

Items from India.
AN APPRECIATION.

A Hindu paper remarks in effect:—The critics who drew so largely upon the war in Transvaal for illustrations of inconsistency in the practice and preaching of the professors of Christianity would do well to reflect upon the munificent gifts which Christian America has sent to India to relieve the sufferings of a people with whom they have nothing in common except the bond of humanity. And these critics will serve their country better by trying to cultivate some of the virtues which distinguish the followers of Christ.

FAMINE AND PLAGUE.

In the whole of India last week there were only 198 deaths from plague. Two millions more than the population of Canada are now employed on the Relief Works. The Viceroy is touring in the northern portions of the Bombay Presidency where the distress has been most grievous. The outlook is dark! Thus far in our district (Ganjam) the rains have failed and many say, "A famine is impending."

A MARVELLOUS PEOPLE
are the Hindus!! Last week we read of the formal

marriage of a pair of mooncooses. Illuminations and feasting, music and dancing attended the ceremony. People came from all directions to behold the splendour of the procession—Lo! they found the restless bridegroom tied by chains in the gay palanquin.

"THE RAVI,"
the new Telugu Weekly, edited by Rev. H. F. La Flamme, will receive a welcome. Three thousand copies are being issued weekly. Newsy, well-edited, Christian papers for the general public in the Various Vernaculars are greatly needed in the work of enlightening the masses.

THINK OF IT!

The Indian Witness calls attention to the fact that there is on earth to-day a thousand million unevangelized human beings, the vast majority of whom will assuredly pass from this world uninstructed as to God's provision in Jesus Christ for their salvation. Think of it—ye who sit at ease, ye, who spend the days in one continual "go" for pleasure. Upon you, upon every so called Christian, what a terrible burden of responsibility rests! The heathen are all right you say. Does not Jesus state that he that believeth not on the Son hath not life? Does he not speak with no uncertain sound about the "unquenchable fire," "the everlasting punishment? And the heathen are good people you affirm. My friends, the very air is full of the grossest vice, the deepest immortality. Yes, it is true that some are striving to glorify their Creator but the wisdom that prevails is not from above; it is "earthly, sensual, devilish." One time a friend said to me: "Oh, please don't memorize that poetry all about China's millions—the Christless graves." Is it well that we have lost in some measure the might of motive as was roused by John Warren when in a great missionary mass meeting he said: "Oh, brethren, I cannot sleep at night for listening to the tramp of the hundred millions of heathen that are marching to perdition!" When men believed as John Warren did they were ready if really Christians to give their last dollar to the Treasury and to send their sons and daughters or to go themselves to rescue the perishing. "Hard times," we say. It is not so; the heart is hard; loose ideas have filled the mind—thus the treasury is depleted.

OH THE CRYING NEED!

What about our own special work among the two million Telugus. Do we realize that thousands upon thousands of them have never heard the gospel? Do we realize that the 200,000 Savaras in the mountain fastness are waiting for us to send the light? Do we realize that the prospected Tekkali mission house has remained for the past three years a pile of brick and stone owing to lack of funds? Do we realize that a large reinforcement should be sent at once so that they may be prepared to take the place of those who must soon lay by the weapons of warfare? Do we realize that this work in all its phases demands our warmest love, our heartiest devotion and most consecrated services?

50,000 DOLLARS.

A Twentieth Century Fund—May the money be lovingly, cheerfully, prayerfully given for Jesus' sake and for the sake of those for whom he gave his precious life. "May the new century bring with it such a revolution in regard to missionary responsibility that no village church will feel that it is measuring up to its full Christian duty except it has a commissioned representative from its own number spreading the light of the Gospel in the dark corners of the earth." "Oh Father, touch the East with light, The Light that shone when Hope was born."

MABEL ARCHIBALD.

Chicacole, India, August 6.

A Prophet's Opportunity.

If there is anyone among us with the gift of vision into the coming years, let him turn his face to China and tell us what are the secrets of the coming decades. No one doubts that we are on the eve of a great change. Whether the change is to be effected by strife and bloodshed that will whiten the face of man, is soon to be seen. One thing alone seems to be sure. The day is gone by for China to live within its own walls, and to forewear commerce with other people. Much as those ancient-minded people may wish it; much as they may gesticulate to other nations and say—"Let us alone—all we want of you is to let us alone to our ancient customs and beliefs"—other countries will not heed them. Besides there is a new leaven in the nation itself. The people have visited another civilization, they have opened their minds to other ideas, many of them have travelled to other lands, and consequently the tide cannot be stopped. However much the millions demand it should, China's open door cannot be shut again. Neither can the seed of the Kingdom be destroyed. It may lie dormant for a while, and appear not to grow. The present reaction will be followed by another and still greater action. The heated enmity to Christianity and foreign civilization will by and by abate, and their minds will yield to power of truth and progress. Infinitely slow it

might be, but the change will come. Yet no one is sure that it will be slow. Possibly the changes that may seem to require a hundred years will come to pass in a decade. The awakening may be sudden, even violent. Much will depend on the valor and steadfastness of the Chinese Christians. If they die heroically and in the spirit of their Lord, their death-fires will be ultimately for the enlightening of the whole land. But no one can tell—all we can do is to hope and wait. If there is to be an overturning of mission work, if there is to be wholesale martyrdom, many faithless Christians at home will say "What waste!" and a reaction against foreign missions will sweep over many in our churches. But on the other hand, others will catch the spirit of battle and will rally to the banner of Christ, whose gospel is for the whole world, and whose great commission is still dear to the hearts of his followers.—The Commonwealth.

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