

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.

DEAR SISTERS.—Here I am in India once more, face to face with heathenism in all its darkness and degradation. How different the coming time, to that of fifteen years ago! Then all was new and strange, the future all unknown; but now, the future may in some measure, be mapped out by the experiences of the past. Heathenism is the same in all ages, and the wrath of God is upon all those who worship graven images. His glory will be not given to another, and he is going before us. He is the same yesterday, to-day and forever. He shall not fail, or be discouraged. The future is all in his hands, and trusting in him alone, we go forth to battle for the right. My heart goes out in thanksgiving to a kind and loving Father, for his protecting care and safe arrival in this, the land of our adoption. It is only six weeks since we arrived in Madras, but it seems as though six months have passed, so many changes have taken place, and the days have been so full. First, we went to Cocanada to attend our general Conference, and on our return, the Telugu Association, and M. P. Conference met at this station. We had ten days of blessed fellowship together. The Master was with us, and gave us a blessing, which I trust, will be ours throughout the year upon which we have entered. During the Association, a letter was received from Miss D'Prazer enclosing notes for Rs 1000, equal to \$333 00, a second gift to the Savara Mission. Her own words are these: I send this as a special thank offering to God, for the manifold rich blessing I received through my travel abroad, and for my safe return. All hearts were touched by this generous gift, and we praised the God of all grace, for his great goodness to us, and to the one who had made us glad through his love. Such tokens of joy and gratitude cheer and encourage our hearts as nothing else can do. We have also among our Telugu brothers and sisters, some rare gems for his kingdom; and if God is able to bring these precious jewels to light, will we not go down with him into this dark mine of heathenism, and bring up those who shall shine forever as the stars of the firmament? They are worth saving, so thought the eternal God, Lord of earth and heaven. He came to seek that which was lost. Many of you may not know, that my field of labor will be at Parla Kimedi, and not at Bimlipatam, my old station. It was the wish of the F. M. Board, that this change should be made, and at our recent Conference, the missionaries gave their hearty approval. It was quite a surprise, when I learned the mind of the Board in this respect, for until within twenty-four hours of sailing from Halifax, I fully expected to return to Bimlipatam; but when I laid the matter before the Lord, he not only made me willing, but gave me joy and happiness in the thought, that this was his plan for me; and in a few days, I hope to be settled at Kimedi. My address will be Parla Kimedi, Ganjam District, India. This is a large field, and heretofore very little work has been done among the women. This was owing to circumstances over which the missionaries had no control. In taking up work on this field, I feel my own insufficiency, and never before have I desired an interest in your prayers more than at the present time. I do sincerely ask you to pray most earnestly for the women on the Kimedi field and pray for me that I may be so fully consecrated to his service, that through me he can save souls. You have been praying for Kimedi during the month of January, and I rejoice in this, and trust that hearts may be opened by the Holy Spirit, to receive the message of love. I have a long list of those who have promised, as far as possible, to pray once every day, for the blessing of the Lord to rest upon our labors. This has been a source of great blessing to me, and I believe, will be to the women of India.

Before you read this letter, you will have heard that Mr. Morse is obliged to go home this year, instead of next. We are very sorry to lose them even for a year, or two; but all the missionaries are of one mind, and believe this to be the best course for him and for the cause. The work at this station is most encouraging and hopeful, and it must have cost the missionary a great struggle to lay it down, and return home. His whole heart has gone out to this people, and his strength has been spent on their behalf, and the Lord has owned and blessed his labor. The women and children will miss Mrs. Morse. She has been a true friend to them in their times of sorrow and trial, and they will not soon forget her kind and

loving sympathy. Dear little Marion too has had a mission in this dark land. She has been a real joy and delight to all who have known her.

The Lord lays aside one and raises up another. We are happy in the thought that Mr. and Mrs. Gullison are on the field and ready to fill the vacancy. Miss Newcomb will be here also, and has a deep interest in the people. I may say here that Miss Newcomb offered to go to Kimedi and let me stay at this station, but I feel sure that Kimedi is the field that the Lord has chosen for my future work.

Yours sincerely,

Bimlipatam, February, 1900.

A. C. GRAY.

W. M. A. S., Greenville, N. S.

A public missionary meeting was held in the Baptist church on Sunday evening, March 25th, which was a success in every way. The programme consisted of a Scripture exercise by eighteen girls, and boys on the words, "The field is the world," a number of recitations by the children and sisters of the Aid Society, and several pieces of music by the choir. There was a large attendance and good collection, \$3 30 for Home Missions.

S. A. CLARK, Co.-Sec'y.

We have been privileged with a short visit from our returned missionary, Mrs. Archibald, who under the auspices of our Aid Society addressed a meeting on March 16th. The evening was wild and tempestuous, yet quite a large number gathered in the church to hear what one of our representatives from India had to tell us of the work done there. (When we invest money in a bank we want to meet the stockholders as often as possible.) While listening to the burning, thrilling words of Mrs. Archibald we felt that India with her teeming millions was very near, and the collection taken proved that the speaker's words had aroused all present. We had a little informal reception for her the following morning, and were more than pleased with the manner in which she answered our questions, for we turned her into a regular question box. It was with feelings of genuine sadness that we were forced to say, "good-by," but she has promised to come to us again, if all be well, before returning to India. After singing "We'll never say good-by in heaven" Mrs. Archibald left carrying with her the best wishes of River Herbert church. We hope to be all more alive in the future to the needs of the Telugus. Our Society meets regularly and we feel encouraged and strengthened in our work. Our Mission Band is growing and we expect great things from this daughter of our Aid Society in the future. Mrs. John Porter our loved and faithful secretary is still very ill, we are praying that the dear Father will speedily permit her to meet with us again.

S. E. PARKER.

River Herbert, March 22 d.

Foreign Mission Board.

NOTES BY THE SECRETARY.

As our people are having their minds directed and rightly so, to the spiritual needs of those immediately about them, the tendency will be to forget the needs of the millions beyond our sight who have never heard of our Saviour. This is one reason why so much stress is laid upon the great work of a world's evangelization—Unless we take that in, and work along that line, we shall think only of ourselves and narrow our horizon until we shall think there is nothing beyond the range of our ordinary vision—We must never forget that the great work of the smallest Baptist church in these provinces—is to give the precious gospel of Jesus Christ to those who have no knowledge whatever of its saving power. The plea is often urged "that it is impossible to do for others when we are unable to support ourselves." But the best way to keep life in ourselves is to try to get it into or keep it in others. To grow at home and prosper there, will best be done, in proportion to efforts put forth to save men whom we have never seen, and perhaps never will see, until they are met before the throne. It is all right to care for our friends and neighbors and do them all the good we can.—That is our duty and privilege. That is to be neighborly. We want to bless the land in which we live. And the greatest blessing that can come to any people is to give them the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in its freshness and purity—But surely in this land of ours there are enough at work in this direction—The agencies employed are manifold—and are something enormous.

God's work abroad cannot well be overlooked, if we want to be true to the Master. There are some of our churches and Sunday schools and Young People's societies taking to their hearts and contributing to its support—regularly, constantly and prayerfully—This they are doing in season and out of season, they believe in it, and allow nothing to divert them from their part in this great enterprise—This is right, and anything

short of this is wrong. These are times of great activity in many churches.—We need now as perhaps never before, much prayer on the part of our people. A church that cannot and does not sustain a good missionary meeting, can not well be in a healthy spiritual condition. People who will not meet together to pray for those in the greatest need, "how dwellest the love of God in them." Brethren pray for this work and the workers at home and abroad.

The Young People's Societies should make their Conquest Meeting, the meeting of the month. In many of our churches this meeting could readily take the place of the regular prayer meeting of the church for that week. It would be the most stimulating meeting of them all if rightly handled and prepared for. Our people need informing. They should be instructed in all the work that is carried on by the body to which they adhere. They should be able to feel that to do the best work in the world, in spiritual matters as well as in all others, it is necessary to have all at work and always at work. In things spiritual as well as in things mental and moral, it is the best informed that take first rank, "many be called," but few become first class—i. e. take first place. We want men to do so. To this aid pastors and leaders in our Baptist Zion should direct their best energies and endeavors.

Eyes should be kept open—and ears as well, to learn all that can be learned of the progress of the work as it has been committed to our hands.

A Great Movement in South Africa.

On a recent visit of the Rev. Charles S. Morris to South Africa, in pursuance of his purpose to investigate the conditions of industrial mission work in various parts of that continent, he met with Rev. Jonas Goduka and various pastors of "the Native African Church," so-called. It appears that Mr. Goduka was formerly a minister of the Wesleyan Conference in Durban, Natal, but in 1892, he began to preach independently in different parts of the country. The religious societies which he organized were known as "The African Native Church." By a careful study of the Word of God his views on the subject of baptism underwent a change, which led to his separation from the Wesleyan connection. He was, however, ignorant at that time that there were other churches holding substantially the same views as his own in the world.

"The African Native Church" is composed of 13 ordained ministers, and 5 on trial, 17 churches having 817 communicants and 444 members on trial, with a large number of adherents.

Mr. Morris held a Conference with representative members of this church at New Location, Queenstown, in September 6, 1899, and delivered an address in regard to the views of Baptist churches in America, and answered many questions, and all apparently to the satisfaction of these brethren. The result of the Conference was that 28 pastors and representatives of these 17 churches were baptized by Mr. Morris. It is proposed to change the name of this group of churches from "The African Native Church" to "The African Baptist Church."

To those who have followed the course of the history of Baptist missions and the extension of Baptist principles throughout the various countries of the world, this will recall the conversion of Judson and his wife and their baptism in the Lal Bazaar at Calcutta, and the baptism of Johan G. Oncken and his associates at midnight in the river Elbe, near Hamburg, and other events of a similar character which will occur to any well read Baptist. Here is another open door for Baptist mission enterprise. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

This change on the part of these South African brethren illustrates this great truth as spoken by our Lord. Why is it that Christian men everywhere will not accept the Word of God as the sole rule of faith and practice?

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