

Foreign Mission Board

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 JULY.

For our Home Mission work in these Provinces, that the students may be greatly blessed in winning souls. For the officers of the W. B. M. U. and the Conventions.

Notice.

The W. M. A. S. meetings will be held at the following Associations.

Southern N. B., at St. John, Brussels St. church, July 5th.

Eastern N. S., at North Sydney, C. B., July 12th.

Eastern, N. B., at Dorchester, July 19th.

Delegates are invited from W. M. A. S. and Mission Bands.

Items From India.

THE PLAGUE

seems to be decreasing everywhere except in the Punjab where 12,000 died last week. The people of Lahore are frantically using every measure to check the disease. Paupers are being fed, the gods are being propitiated, the deodorant *Hom* fires are being continually burned and boisterous hymn-singing to the accompaniment of the clashing and banging of drums and symbols incessantly rend the air.

In Patiala a shocking riot occurred. The cry was raised: "Let's sacrifice the Doctor—then the plague will leave!" As a result 5000 Hindus and Mohammedans made a rush for Mayor Hendley, pelted him with brick-bats, then thrust him into a mass of filth. Finally they set fire to the house in which he had taken refuge. The Doctor and his assistants narrowly escaped suffocation. The antipathy of the masses to vaccination seems to have been one cause of the riot.

SIR HARNAM SINGH

has recently succeeded Bishop Weldon in the Presidency of the "India Sunday School Union." The officers of that body in welcoming the new President said: "It is to us a matter for much satisfaction that an Indian nobleman of high birth, a member of the Imperial Legislative Council, and above all, a Christian of sterling qualities, has undertaken to place himself at the head of our organized forces." The I. S. S. Union (established in 1896) is an excellently organized body, having in addition to the general officers and committees, a Travelling Secretary, Children's Missioner, 17 Auxiliaries, 12,000 volunteer teachers, 321,000 scholars, and S. S. Lesson Leaflets prepared in 32 vernaculars—it is doing a grand work for the young life of one-fifth of the whole world and three-fourths of King Edward's far spread empire."

Lord Amptill, the Governor, was doubtless surprised when one of the farmers of Tanjore, with a seriousness born of deep-rooted superstition, recently made the following request: "Oh, sir, ten years ago the authorities stopped the practice of

HOOK SWINGING.

Since then my village has suffered—no seasonal rainfalls, no good crops and hundreds have died from cholera and small-pox. Now, sir, please restore the old practice and allow the devotees to be swung with the hook in their flesh—then, sir, the evil spirit will be appeased!"

When His Excellency asked the former if he would consent to be swung, he said that it was the duty of the members of the family of the village priest, but if the deity permitted he himself would gladly undergo the operation.

Among the most interesting and valuable figures in the recent census report, are those relating to the Christians of India. Sir Charles Elliot calls attention to the

PHENOMENAL INCREASE

of that body in the "London Times" and the Census Commissioner himself asks for information that may throw light on the remarkable growth of the Christian population during the last ten years.

The total number returned is 2,923,349, showing an increase of 638,969 over the figures of 1891. The Roman Catholics number 1,202,049. Among Protestants, the Anglican Communion leads the list while the Baptists with a total of 216,743 take the second place. As the Christians of Southern India number 1,973,439, the Christian population of the other Provinces is comparatively insignificant.

The "Madras Times" says, "When the statistics relating to the increase, first, of the whole population of India, and, secondly, of the increase of native Christians during the past ten years, are compared with the three previous decades, it is seen that assuming the increase of the general population and the Christian community to continue in the same

proportion, the whole of India will become Christian soon after the middle of the next century. Indeed the progress of Christianity has been, during the past half century, more rapid than it was in the Roman Empire during the first three centuries, and more, of the Christian era."

The editor of the Madras Mail says, "The Christian community is no longer a negligible quantity, and, whatever be the view that is taken of the great missionary enterprises in India, it is a mistake to ignore the fact that native Christians, as a class, signify a rebellion against the old order of things in India and are exerting an influence on present social conditions that is increasing daily, and is already vastly out of proportion to number of native Christians."

Praise God! The Kingdom is advancing. The heaven is working. Numerically, the progress of Christianity in India cannot be measured. Forces are at work which will one day result in a mighty upheaval and signs of that event are not wanting. Caste is being weakened, foolish customs are being abandoned, two-thirds of Hinduism has been discarded and we see in the Vedantism of Vivekananda, in the theism of the Brahmo Somajee, in the popular Hinduism of Mrs. Besant and her followers that an heroic effort is being made to construct a Neo-Hinduism which shall be adapted to the times. A spirit of restlessness and inquiry prevails and many an educated Hindu will say, "Yes, I reverence Christ, I regard him as the holiest of men and I am taking the Sermon on the Mount as my model."

There are without doubt thousands of secret disciples among the educated classes and in the zenanas—men and women who have never yet gained strength to leave all for Jesus.

Yes, the forces are at work—the hospitals and dispensaries, the reading-rooms and libraries, the schools and colleges, the house to house visitation and the proclamation of the Word far and near; but praise God for the power without which all agencies are useless! We know that the transformation of character does not necessarily depend upon natural resources, that the conversion of souls does not inevitably result from heredity, education or environment. The incalculable divine element in Christianity, that power which transformed Paul in an instant, may at any time "over-leap all our forecasts and reversing human expectations" turn the hearts of multitudes in India to God.

"Blessed be Jehovah God, the God of Israel,
Who only doeth wondrous things:
And blessed be his glorious name forever:
And let the whole earth be filled with his glory."

MARCEL E. ARCHIBALD.

May 17th, 1902.

To the W. M. A. S. of Eastern Association.

I wish to thank the societies which promptly responded to circular letter sent out in March. Glad to receive such encouraging reports. Quite a number have not been heard from yet. Will these societies kindly send replies as soon as possible. Let me call your attention to plan recommended by Prov. Secretary in June "Tidings" That each society elect the new officers before sending in the yearly report to Prov. Secretary. This is an important matter. If you have not already elected officers for the coming year, please do so at the July meeting and send the addresses of Pres. and Sec'y to the Prov. Sec'y. In several cases the circular letter did not reach the society, because your director did not have the correct address of the secretary. This makes correspondence with the societies difficult and unsatisfactory. We hope every W. M. A. S. will be represented at Association meeting by one or more delegates. A good programme is being prepared. Pray that the Lord's presence may be manifest and that those who come may receive a blessing. May all be done for his glory.

MRS. W. H. ROBINSON, Asso. Director.

What Have You to Give?

There was a great contrast, says Rev. F. B. Meyer, between the Gate Beautiful and the helpless beggar that lay at its foot. But there was a greater contrast still between the appearance of the two apostles and the resources concealed beneath their humble guise. To the eye of the world they were but two poor peasants; before the gaze of God's angels they stood possessed of a secret that would unlock the unmeasured stores of eternity.

The world has been enriched more through the poverty of its saints than the wealth of its millionaires. Francis of Assisi, Xavier, Thomas a Kempis, and Luther; the men whose hymns and words and achievements are the priceless heritage of the ages; the martyrs, confessors, reformers, prophets, teachers and leaders of men, have all been classed in that noble brotherhood which Peter represented when he became the medium through which the wealth of paradise passed into the common coinage of earth. These men have given blood, tears, spiritual impulses, faith, hope, love. What have you to give?—Sel.

Editorial Notes.

—The Central Association which met at Bridgewater, N. S., on Friday last, was held under favorable conditions. The beautiful place, the fine weather, the kindly hospitality of the people and the earnest and harmonious spirit that pervaded all the sessions of the Association combined to make it most enjoyable and profitable. Rev. Dr. Gates was Moderator and presided with characteristic tact and ability. A report of the proceedings will appear next week.

—The fervent prayers which have been offered in the churches and at family altars during the past week on behalf of King Edward, and the warm personal interest which has been manifested in His Majesty's welfare by the people of Canada, and doubtless throughout the Empire, should comfort his heart and strengthen his purpose to rule nobly and well. It must go far to repay the King for the pain and disappointment attending his illness to be assured that he has so warm a place in the hearts of his people. It is most gratifying to learn that His Majesty's condition continues to improve satisfactorily, and it seems fair to infer from the bulletins issued by the physicians in attendance upon the King that he is now in a fair way to recover his ordinary health.

—Within the past few weeks a number of men who had won the high esteem of their brethren for their personal character and their earnest devotion to the interest of the denomination, have been removed from earth. Reference has already been made in these columns to the death of Hon. A. F. Randolph, J. W. Barss, Esq., of Wolfville, and H. H. Crosby, Esq., of Ohio, Vermont, all of whom have lately been taken from us. The past week has brought news of the death of Mr. C. B. Whidden, of Antigonish, and Dr. D. F. Higgins of Wolfville. Mr. Whidden was well known as a man active in business and in public affairs. He was a faithful and generous supporter of the Baptist cause in his own community. He had the interests of the denomination at heart and was especially interested in the college which he served as a member of its Board of Governors and aided by liberal gifts. Dr. Higgins, as is well known, was for many years head of the Mathematical department at Acadia. He left the impress of his strong character and excellent scholarship upon many classes of students, all of whom respected him for his justice and integrity, and many of them learned to love him for the kindly and noble qualities which a personal acquaintance revealed.

Without self restraint the whole order and beauty and worth of life are destroyed. A well-balanced character implies an all round effective control. One unbridled passion is not only a failure at a single point, but is an indication of failure at the center also. In the best there are evil tendencies, and evil desires, that are ever claimant; so that in the ordinary conduct of life the habit of self-restraint is essential, if a straight course is to be steered, and even if fatal shipwreck is to be avoided. A weak, undisciplined nature, however naturally sweet and gentle and pure, is sure to meet some day a concourse of circumstances, or an overwhelming temptation, which will end in moral disaster. We constantly underestimate the power of a trained and restraining will, not only over outside circumstances, but also over the inner nature, amending constitutional defects, checking impulses, impelling to right courses of action, and thus altering the very character. Like every other faculty, the will needs to be educated and strengthened by the exercise of itself.—Rev. Hugh Black.

Eruptions

Pimples, boils, tetter, eczema or salt rheum, Are signs of diseased blood.

Their radical and permanent cure, therefore consists in curing the blood.

Angus Fisher, Sarnia, Ont., and Paul Keeton, Woodstock, Ala., were greatly troubled with boils; Mrs. Delia Lord, Leominster, Mass., had pimples all over her body; so did R. W. Garretson, New Brunswick, N. J. The brother of Sadie E. Stockmar, 87 Miller St., Fall River, Mass., was afflicted with eczema so severely that his hands became a "mass of sores."

These sufferers, like others, have voluntarily testified to their complete cure by

Hood's Sarsaparilla

This great medicine acts directly and peculiarly on the blood, rids it of all humors, and makes it pure and healthy.