

# Religious Intelligencer.

"THAT GOD IN ALL THINGS MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST."—Peter.

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WHOLE No. 1709

## WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY.

### REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

Mrs. President and Sisters:—Another year has passed away, and it becomes my duty to present to you an Annual Report of what is being done by your Society in this branch of Christian work for the Master. To-day we should lift our hearts in thanksgiving, adoration and praise to our Father, who has so graciously answered our prayers. We have our dear Sister Hooper present with us, with health and strength sufficiently restored, ready to return to her loved work in India, together with Brother and Sister Boyer, in whose care, companionship and love we can so much more cheerfully resign her. While others are looking towards this work, and saying to us, "Here am I, send me," should we not then humble ourselves before the Lord, and thank him with devout hearts for all His gracious loving kindnesses to us; and ask for wisdom and direction from Him; and girding on our armour, go forward with redoubled diligence and faithfulness in this work He has so plainly assigned to us. As we are sending out missionaries, before speaking of your work we might state a few facts concerning the Free Baptist Mission Field, where our missionaries will be located, as gleaned from papers prepared by Dr. Phillips since his return. The field occupied by the Free Baptist Mission in India is situated in the Presidency of Bengal, and is composed of the two districts of Balasore and Midnapore, and portions of the adjacent country. The area of this field is about seven thousand square miles, with a population of three and a-half millions, and contains three different people for whom to work, the Hindus, the Mohammedans and the Santals. The Hindus form the large majority of the population, and are idolaters, and very superstitious. The Hindus in Balasore speak the original language, and those in Midnapore the Bengali. The Mohammedans are not idolaters; their religion is a corruption of Judaism and Christianity, but the missionaries say, as far as morality is concerned, it is not any better than Hinduism. The Mohammedans speak the Hindoostani. The Santals are one of the aboriginal tribes of India, and live in the jungle country. They are devil worshippers, and have a language of their own, which is not understood either by the Hindu or Mohammedan. In this field the Free Baptist Mission have fifteen missionaries from America, five men and ten women. There are nine churches, with a membership of from five to six hundred Christian converts. There are also seven native preachers, and quite a number of native teachers. The work done by missionaries among these people, is first by preaching the Gospel. At all the stations are chapels, where regular services are held on Sabbath and on week-days. The pastors of the churches are natives; the missionaries spending most of their time preaching to the heathen on the street corners, under a shady tree, in the bazaars of the cities, in the large markets, and on tours in the hundreds of villages of the district. Three months of the year, during the cold season, they spend in going from place to place, living in tents, preaching to multitudes who otherwise would never hear the gospel; distributing books, tracts and leaflets, and spreading the glad tidings in whatever way they can best reach the masses. They also have schools. At every station they have some kind of a school, if only a primary school for the little ones. They have also orphan schools, and schools of a higher grade. They are many common schools among the poor Santals. For twenty-five years they have had a printing press located at Midnapore, and school-books, tracts and scriptures are being continually printed in four different languages, and distributed among the people. The medical department too, is an important factor in this work. Since 1840 one or more medical missionaries have been in this field. Their work is to heal the sick, conduct dispensaries, and while on tours distribute medicine among the people, and so pave the way for healing their souls. Doctor Nellie Phillips is the female medical missionary at the present time. Speaking of the medical work, last year we referred to the National Association for supplying female medical aid for the women of India, established by Lady Dufferin. We are pleased to state that that Society has wonderfully prospered. The Queen has graciously accepted the position of Royal Patron, and at a meeting of the Society, recently held in London, the Duke of Connaught presided, and made a very effective address. Large sums have been contributed for this work. A wealthy Parsee gave \$50,000 to build an hospital, and several foundations for dispensaries have been laid by native gentlemen. The income of the Society for the first year was \$23,000. Lady Dufferin is paying the expenses of several persons studying in America for mission work in India, and is also studying Hindoostani herself, that she may be better able to understand how to relieve the suffering with which she is surrounded. May we unitedly ask God's blessing on this noble work.

The Annual Indian Report, speaking of the work of the ladies of the Mission, says:

"The report of the women's work becomes more interesting year by year. Work for the women of India is a growing part of mission work. Hindus are awakening to the advantage of having educated wives, and are glad to admit our lady missionaries to their zenanas, and even permit some religious teaching in order to have more cultured wives. A religious education of the women and children of India is a necessary forerunner of their becoming Christians."

The Free Baptist Mission owes much to the earnest devoted work of its ten lady missionaries, and did time permit, I would gladly tell you something of the work being done by each of these devoted women in the day-schools, the Sunday-schools, the ragged schools, the orphan schools and the Zenanas; but the limits of this report will only permit me to speak of work done by Mrs. Smith, who has had charge of your work since Miss Hooper's return. As you know Mrs. Smith had charge of the orphanage and schools at Jellalore, but owing to the "very unhealthy condition of their home as well as the moral unhealthiness of the place," the orphanage has, during the year, been removed to Balasore. Speaking of this change, and of work done in the orphanage, Mrs. Smith says: "The fever common in this district, that affected us so seriously in 1883-84, reappeared with great severity during the rainy season of the past year, especially near its close. I was obliged, on account of repeated attacks of it, to leave home near the end of September, hoping rest and change would enable me to shake it off. This hope has been but partially realized. In October nearly every girl was suffering from fever in one form or another. Before my return it was deemed best to transfer the children to Balasore as a temporary measure, and at our yearly meeting in January it was voted to ask the Home Board to permanently locate the orphanage there. There are strong reasons for this removal besides the present unhealthiness of Jellalore; and there are also reasons that make us greatly regret the change, for it leaves Jellalore without a resident missionary, and one is greatly needed there. The constant interruptions on account of illness greatly interfered with the regular progress of the school, both in studies and work, but we have most reason to regret the seriously impaired health of many of the children, and we have also to mourn over the death of two of their number. There are twenty-eight children now under our care in the orphanage. Of this number several are sufferers from fever, or other chronic diseases caused by it, and two of them are so seriously ill as to leave little hope of their recovery, but there has been great improvement in the health of the children as a whole since coming to Balasore. Their kindness and helpfulness to one another during seasons of severe illness has given us the greatest satisfaction. We see evidences of real spiritual growth in the lives of numbers of these children. The mission day school, too, has suffered from fever; both teachers and pupils have been attacked by it, consequently it has not been so successful as last year; yet there has been much to encourage. Seven of the students competed in the Government examinations. There are four other day schools in villages not far off for heathen children. In three of these there are two departments and two teachers. They also have suffered somewhat from fever; yet there has been a fair average, and very commendable progress made. An industrial department is kept up in all the day schools; plain sewing and knitting claim the most attention, and the progress made is good. In all of these schools Christian instruction is given regularly, and no opposition made. Poor women living in villages, where these schools are taught, often attend during working-hours, and listen while religious instruction is given. Two Sunday-schools have also been carried on during the year, in which good work has been done. The Bible Women, of whom Mrs. Smith has six under her care, are doing an excellent work. One Bible woman and an assistant are at Baripanda, about thirty miles from Jellalore; one is located at Bhadiak; two at Balasore; and two in Jellalore. Rutina, our Bible woman, has been matron in the orphanage since the death of Rathia Ma. She often goes out with the Bible women, and works among the village people. Mrs. Smith says: "She goes out somewhere almost every day, and is faithful beyond most of our native women, in improving opportunities to do good. Mrs. Smith took Rutina and her son Armiti and one adopted boy, Basedab, with her to Balasore. She says Rutina lives with the girls in the orphanage, and is a very great help to her. Armiti and Basedab are both in school, and are doing well. Mrs. Smith says: "Basedab is in the first class, and promises to be a fine scholar, and is a good boy. I keep him in my own compound and hire his board in a family who live near, so that I may know he does not spend his time in bad company when out of school. Armita is not so quick to learn, but is younger, and may improve in this respect;" both the boys are very well. Rutina had fever. Mrs. Smith says: "She is getting over the fever tendency, I hope, but every now and then she has a sharp attack." Mrs. Smith has given us the care of another

poor boy, named Zebe, who lives with his mother at Jellalore. She says he is doing well. We have also had the care of our two little girls, Katie and Gracie. Besides supporting Basedab, Zebe, and the two little girls, Mrs. Smith has paid from our funds, 330 rupees on her assistant's salary, Mrs. Martyn, who is proving very helpful and devoted. Rutina and her son have received seventy-two rupees. She has expended one hundred and forty-four rupees in teachers' salaries, with a small expenditure for carriage hire, books, prizes, etc.

Speaking of the appropriation you made her, she says: "The funds you have again sent me for another year are most acceptable, and I am trying to use them wisely." Again in closing her report, she says: "Please do not forget to express my earnest thanks to the ladies for the help so generously supplied me. With it I have been able to keep an assistant, and thus much more has been done. My assistant has been more than ever a necessity the last six months; for I am obliged to make very frequent trips to Jellalore, and need some one with the girls. I have also been able to do other things Mrs. Boyer going out, she says: "I am more glad than I can tell you to hear that you are to have your own representatives in the field. God bless them, and hasten their coming. Then she asks: "Do you return Miss Hooper? I sincerely hope her health has improved so as to justify you in sending her back. There are a great many of our people that would hail her coming with joy."

The detailed financial statement of expenditure from Mrs. Smith will be laid before your Board of Managers.

Besides the foreign work carried on through Mrs. Smith, an appropriation was made to Miss Hooper, and she was to visit the churches, and do what she could for the cause of missions during the year. The report of that work is before us, and we will give you a full abstract therefrom. Sister Hooper says: "After waiting till January for the plan by which to work, which the Executive Committee were to form, I accepted the invitation from Brother and Sister Glass to visit Sunbury Co. The first meeting was held at Waasis; a society was formed there. We then visited Rusagornish, Waterville, Geary, and Victoria. In April, visited part of Bro. Downey's circuit, Mapleton, Millville, and Caverhill. An interesting society was begun at Caverhill. In May, held meetings at Fredericton Junction and Tracey Station. July and August, went to Carleton County, Bro. and Sister S. H. Shaw, and the Pastors, kindly arranging for meetings, which were held at the following places: Upper Brighton, Victoria Corner, Woodstock, Hartland, Lower Brighton, Coldstream, Rockland, Windsor, Knowlesville, Gordonsville, Bath, Tracey's Mills, Knoxford, Mouth of Presque Isle, Third Tier, Seventh Tier and Jacksonville. At these places Bro. Boyer, and part of the time Sister Boyer, were present, and helped—yes, more than helped; not only in putting Indians' needs before the people, but also in organizing societies at Coldstream, Windsor, Knowlesville, Gordonsville and other places. I must not forget to tell you of the hopeful society organized at Royalton one Sabbath after Sabbath-school, men, women and children uniting as one to work for the Master. While up river, I ran across the line to see my relatives, and say good-bye. Received a hearty greeting, and the privilege of talking awhile in two places—at Marysville and Presque Isle. Although the evening at Presque Isle was dark and rainy, I got sunshine from warm loving hearts that shall cheer and help, it may be, when surrounded by the darkness of heathenism. On our return from Carleton County, appointments were made for Brother and Sister Boyer and myself to visit Fourth District Meeting, at Blissville, and Third District Meeting, at Millville; also meetings, at Peniac, Marysville, Fredericton, Douglas, and Prince William. Missing the train at Blissville, was too late for the meeting at Peniac, which Bro. and Sister Boyer held. This, and other meetings at which I was not able to be present, I trust Bro. Boyer will report. Almost forgot to say I visited the Fifth and Sixth District Meetings.

In Fifth District a District Society was organized, which we hope will be a help in systematizing the work there. Many invitations from places in that section have come to us to go and "help," which we have not had the time to accept.

At Fourth District Meeting a District Society was being formed, when we were obliged to leave for the train.

September 25, expected to hold a meeting at Stanley; had to return disappointed, as the friends who were to meet us at Cross Creek Station failed to do so. At all of the places visited where no Society existed, and the circumstances prevented organization then, the people promised to do so, and seemed encouraged in the work. In places where the Societies were previously, and where the meetings were held regularly, the testimony from the people was, "Our missionary meetings are such a help to us." Personally our experience has been that many of our most helpful meetings were the outcome of dark and unpromising beginnings, and rainy days, with perhaps only one woman to greet us as we entered the room. Other days were so full of sunshine that the hearers we expected were busy in the hay field. Yet in taking a retrospect we find so much to be grateful for; not the least of which is the increasing interest in the glorious work of giving the Gospel to the heathen; and seemingly growing out of this, is a purpose to do more and better work for "Home Missions." Only in the words of the Psalmist can we express the feelings of our hearts: "Bless the Lord O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."

Thus we have told you, as best we could, of your work in India, and what your Missionary has been doing among the home Churches and Societies. We will now turn to the work done by the different Aid Societies in the Seven Districts during the year.

### HOME WORK.

FIRST DISTRICT.—We have received from the Secretary of this District, Miss Nina O. Bloodworth, an interesting and somewhat encouraging report. As you are aware, they have difficulties to contend with there that some of the Districts do not have, nevertheless the interest is increasing. This year at their Annual District Meeting, held at Wicklow, they organized a District Society which, we trust, will be a great help to them. The Secretary says, "There were present at that meeting very few representatives from the Churches, yet considerable interest was manifested. We hope to have Societies in many, if not all of the Churches next year. There is a lack of interest in many of the Churches, yet there are some who have the cause at heart, and are striving to do what they can for the Master." Four Societies, or Churches, have reported, viz.: Wicklow, Bath, River De Chute and Perth. Wicklow Society does not hold meetings, but sends \$4, collected by Miss Milberry. At River De Chute the interest is reported low, yet Mrs. Wolverson has collected \$4. At Perth, Mrs. F. C. Bloodworth collected \$21.10; reports interest increasing. Bath Society reorganized in August. Amount raised not reported. Seven copies of the *Helper* are taken in the District. Sisters, during the coming year remember in your prayers the earnest and faithful workers in this District.

SECOND DISTRICT.—Of the fourteen Societies in this District, thirteen reported at the District Meeting. Hartland Society reported interesting and profitable prayer meetings held at the homes of its members; raised \$11.25. Jacksonville sends \$8.25. Woodstock Society holds public monthly prayer-meetings, at which collections are taken. They raised this year \$46.10, of which \$11.48 are for Home Mission work. Victoria Corner sends \$14.25. Rockland holds monthly meetings; sends \$8.70. Upper Brighton sends \$1. Mouth of Presque Isle, \$2; Waterville, \$2; Brookville, 50c.; Third Tier, \$4.05; Upper Woodstock, \$7.25; Lower Brighton, \$10.68; Knoxford, \$4; making a total of \$120.03 raised by this District for the present year. Tracey's Mills did not report, probably owing to the death of Sister White, one of the active, earnest workers, and for some years Assistant Secretary of the District; but she has gone to her reward, left the Church militant to join the Church triumphant. Four new Societies have been organized, during the year, in the District by Miss Hooper, viz.: Windsor, Coldstream, Knowlesville and Gordonsville. The Annual Meeting is reported as a deeply interesting one. The Secretary writes: "We were disappointed in not having Sister Hooper present with us, but she came in July and visited our Churches, and did a great deal of good. In all the Churches that she visited the people were encouraged to reorganize or renew their collections. According to our Constitution, Vice-Presidents were appointed in all of the Churches in the District where we have no Societies. Some action was taken in the interest of Home Missions. The \$5 pledged to the Conference Home Mission Society last autumn was paid, which leaves a balance of \$6.40 as a small beginning for further work." The Secretary also adds: "We have to record the death of our esteemed Sister, Mrs. W. G. Boyer. During her illness her words repeatedly were, 'Do all you can for Jesus.'" The Secretary, in closing his report, says: "We certainly have great reason to praise the Lord and take courage when we review the past year. It has been one of blessing, one in which we are seeing our prayers answered. For we have asked that God would lay His hand on some one in New Brunswick whom we might send to India, and it seems He has impressed more people with the desire to go than we are now able to send. It seems the call to us to work is more and more urgent. The interest in our Societies increased very much when it was known there was some one to go. We also feel very grateful that Sister Hooper is so well, and able to return to her loved work. Our prayer is that God may abundantly bless and preserve her and all who go in His name."

THIRD DISTRICT.—The Secretary of this District has not reported, consequently we cannot give you a full report of the work done in the District, but we have received an interesting and instructive report from the Assistant Secretary, Miss Freeze, who reports work done in four Societies and one church. Fredericton Society also reported directly to me. In this District we have some ten or twelve Societies, or Churches that annually contribute, and we regret that we cannot have them reported annually. Fredericton Society reports having held monthly meetings during the year, and the interest has been well sustained. The Secretary writes: "Having Miss Hooper in our midst, who has so clearly known and seen the great need of prayer and work, we feel anxious to put forth greater efforts than ever before in this branch of work for our Master." Amount raised not reported. Caverhill Society, organized by Miss Hooper in April, has twenty-five members, holds meetings monthly, sends \$11. The Sisters say: "The interest is good and they are anxious to do more for Jesus." Millville, organized a year ago by Miss Freeze, numbered then eight members, now eighteen holds monthly meetings. They have allowed the children to join the Society. They are alive to the work, and report interest steadily increasing. They send \$10. Maplewood Society is increasing in numbers and interest in Mission work. The Secretary writes: "Our Society has been a blessing to us. Many times do we feel it blessed to pray with each other, and for those who know not our precious Saviour as we do. Our last meeting was a praise meeting to God for answering our prayers and calling Brother and Sister Boyer to the work. We pray God to bless them with His presence, and give them the comforting and enlightening influence of His Spirit." They send \$5.02 from the Society, collected \$4.25—total \$9.27. Central Southampton do not hold meetings, raised \$4. Miss Freeze writes: "Bro. A. Trafton handed me \$1.65, collected in Prince William by Susie Slipp, a little girl eight years old. This dear child began this work for Jesus, but he wanted her to join the angel band, and so has taken her to himself." Will not some of the Sisters in Prince William see that this good work, so well begun, is carried on? We hope the sisters in this District will soon see their way clear to organize a District Society, as we believe it would be a great benefit to them.

FOURTH DISTRICT.—In this District we have three Societies reported, viz.: Blissville, Upper Gagetown and Waasis. Blissville Society numbers fifteen, holds monthly meetings, and raised \$32.05. Upper Gagetown numbers sixteen; holds monthly meetings; raised \$10.80. Waasis has eighteen members; meets monthly; raised \$9. Blissville Society, as reported last year, consists of five Churches, but, as far as we can learn from reports received, only two Churches have contributed this year, viz.: Fredericton Junction and Blissville. In connection with Upper Gagetown Society there is an interesting little Society, composed of children, called a Mite Society. I wish I could have received a report from it. Several copies of the *Helper* are taken in the District. At the Annual District Meeting a District Society Alexander is Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary writes: "Mr. and Mrs. Boyer and Miss Hooper being present at our Annual Meeting made it very interesting, and we trust much good will result from the seed sown." Our work in this District seems to be rather up-hill, yet the interest is slowly and steadily increasing, and if we had a few more earnest, devoted workers, much good might be done. Surely in the seventeen Churches in this District, with a membership of 1,177 we should have more than three Societies with a membership of forty-nine. As far as we can ascertain, from reports received, amount raised in District for this year is \$50.85. Sisters of the Fourth District, now that there is so much need of it, will you not come to our aid with your influence, your prayers and your substance.

FIFTH DISTRICT.—From this District we have this year received the fullest and most encouraging reports ever received from the Fifth District. This year we have reports from seven Societies, or Churches. Greenwich Society, organized last year with twelve members, now numbers fourteen; they hold monthly meetings, which are regularly attended and blessed with the presence of the Master; send \$23.55. Wickham Society, organized this year, the first Church Johnson send \$4. No organized Society. We hope they will soon become a Society. First Church Hampstead holds no meetings, they raise their money by subscription; have raised this year \$14.65. Upper Hampstead Society has collected, but have not reported amount. Third Church Hampstead do not hold meetings; have raised \$4.80. Fourth Church Hampstead Society reports quite an interest in their Society ever since Sister Hooper's visit last year; have raised \$6.06. The sum total reported from this District amounts to \$62.06. We are very glad the Fifth District has taken such an advance step in this good work, yet much more might be done if each of the sisters in the eighteen Churches would earnestly and prayerfully go to work.

SIXTH DISTRICT.—In this District we have twenty-two Societies. Taylor Village Society holds monthly meetings, sends \$10.10. Dover meets monthly, sends \$7.82. Moncton has taken an advance step, sends \$20; meets monthly. Salisbury sends \$7, but no report. Petitcodiac does not hold meetings, sends \$1.25. Cornhill holds monthly meetings, sends \$12. Portage does not hold monthly meetings, sends \$1. Penobscot does not hold meetings, sends \$15.75. Sussex holds no meetings, sends \$23. New Town sends \$2. Apohaqui, no meetings, sends \$6.05. Lower Millstream holds monthly meetings, has raised for Foreign Mission work \$14, and for Home Mission work \$4. In connection with this Society is a Sunday-school Mission Band, which raised this year \$5.05, making a total of \$23.80. Millstream Mountain meets monthly, sends \$8. Snider Mountain does not hold meetings, sends \$4. Midland Society meets once a year, sends \$10.05. Norton sends \$1. The Church at Lower Ridge sends \$4.25. Lutes Mountain, Lewis Mountain, Eagles' Settlement, Wheaton Settlement, Dutch Valley and Upper Millstream have not reported. Of the \$4 raised by Lower Millstream, for Home Mission work, \$1.50 was added to the \$3.50 raised last year by same Society and paid to Rev. G. A. Hartley, Treasurer of Conference Home Mission Society, for the benefit of First District, leaving a balance of \$2.50 as a beginning for further work. Although this is a small sum, yet we hope, ere another year closes, much more will be done. At the Annual District Session held at Penobscot, in July, the question of Home Mission work was fully discussed, and it was decided, if the Parent Society did not take some definite steps in regard to the work at its October session, that the Executive of the District Society should adopt some plan by which the work could be carried on in this District. The District Meeting was interesting, and we trust profitable. Vice-Presidents were appointed in all the Churches in Districts where there were no Societies. A Vice-President was also appointed at Norton Station which had not kept up its list of officers. The Secretary says: "A public meeting was held in which we hope good seed was sown which will bring forth fruit. In the opening address the President made some excellent remarks. Mrs. G. A. Hartley, President of Parent Society, and Sister Hooper were present, and by their helpful words added much to the interest of the meeting. Total amount raised by District this year \$160."

SEVENTH DISTRICT.—From the Secretary of this District we have received a full, interesting and cheering report, and we cannot do better than give an abstract, slightly condensed. The Secretary writes: "The condition of the Society in this District is good, though the number of societies for the last year was small, as compared with the number of churches in the District, yet the amount of money raised was quite large, and each society send their reports and money directly to me, which is quite an advance step. The Carleton Society has progressed during the year, eight new names have been added, and there is a more general interest in the work. The money was raised by subscriptions and collections taken at the meetings. Total amount \$37.51. St. John Society also reports a decided improvement; their meetings are better attended and more interesting; amount of money raised \$29.78. North Beach Society is in good condition; amount of money raised \$37.75. Wilson's Haven Society did poorly this year, but it was owing to local causes; they sent \$4.44, and no report. The attendance at the Annual Meeting was very good, and there seemed to be a great deal of interest among the sisters. Two societies were organized, one at Beaver Harbor, and the other at Castalia, Grand Manan. Vice-presidents were appointed for the churches where no society existed. The public meeting was largely attended, and very enthusiastic. As far as one can judge the prospect for intelligent work in Foreign Missions in our District was never so good as at present. The sum of \$5 was paid to the Treasurer of Conference Home Mission Society to redeem the pledge made by Mrs. G. A. Hartley, last autumn, to that Society. Total amount raised during the year, in District, was \$129.09. Collection at public meeting, \$8.86, included."

Two years ago, at the annual session, it was decided that in connection with the Foreign work we do all we can for Home Mission work. Last year three Societies responded to that call, viz.: Woodstock, Carleton and Millstream, and the sum of \$12.16 was raised, and the amount, I think, paid over to the Treasurer of the Conference Home Mission Society for the benefit of that Society. This year, as far as we can gather from reports received, there has been collected for this work \$20.40, of which Woodstock Society contributes \$11.40, Millstream Society \$4, and Seventh District \$5; of this amount \$11.50 has been paid to the Treasurer of Conference Home Mission Society

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