

The Woman's Missionary Society.

[This Department is in the interests of the W. M. Society. All communications for it should be addressed to Mrs. Jos. McLeod, Fredericton.]

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MRS. JAY'S EXPERIENCE.

BY E. BURLINGAME CHENEY.

Mrs. Jay was tired and dispirited. The cares of family and confinement in doors, incident to the long, cold winter, had sapped her energy. A great longing for something, hard to define, was crying within her.

She went to an eastern window and saw a neighbor's house—the same house with the same windows that she had seen all winter. She walked aimlessly to a western window and close by there was that other house; no change. Along the street, on the north, people were walking. Trunks of trees, slushy and unattractive walks—none of these appealed to her.

At once, with a feeling of suffocation, she pulled up the shade (which was always at regulation height, even with the middle of the sash). Her heart gave a great leap, as if new life had suddenly awakened there. Oh, how blue the sky was! How delicate was the tracery of the tiny twiglets against the blue dome!

She dropped into an easy chair, clasped her hands and looked, and her soul drank peace. Presently a great, fluffy cloud floated by, so soft and restful, and she went with it and began to dream of the wonderful processes of her Father's handiwork that she had shut out from her own view. A pair of early birds alighted in the branches and trilled their joyous thanksgiving, then hastened to find a nesting-place.

Another shade went up, then another. What a new world it was! As she watched the swaying branches and the movements of upper-world life, God seemed working very near her; tears flowed with the new consciousness, and sweet peace came.

Then came the thought: "What will the neighbors say? Who ever saw a well-kept house, with shades other than at half mast?" Then she remembered the words of Mrs. Mary R. Phillips, uttered years ago, as she said, "You American women are almost as much victims of custom as the women of India." "I will be free!" she exclaimed.

Soon it was the buzz of the neighborhood that Mrs. Jay had her shades nearly at the windows' top half of the time, and short sash curtains that shut out the view of the street. But they buzzed on and only a few choice spirits learned that, in this way, this woman, so closely confined at home by life's duties, obtained a broadening of view and thought that made her feel, as never before, that God was at work close by her. Each day the view changed. More and

different birds came, the clouds were ever varying in tint and form, the buds swelled, then expanded, and from that wonderful life within there developed greenness and luxuriance of foliage, shade for man and shelter for birds; and she understood better the Christ-life within, like a well of water springing up into everlasting life.—*Missionary Helper.*

REV. J. N. BARNES' REPORT.

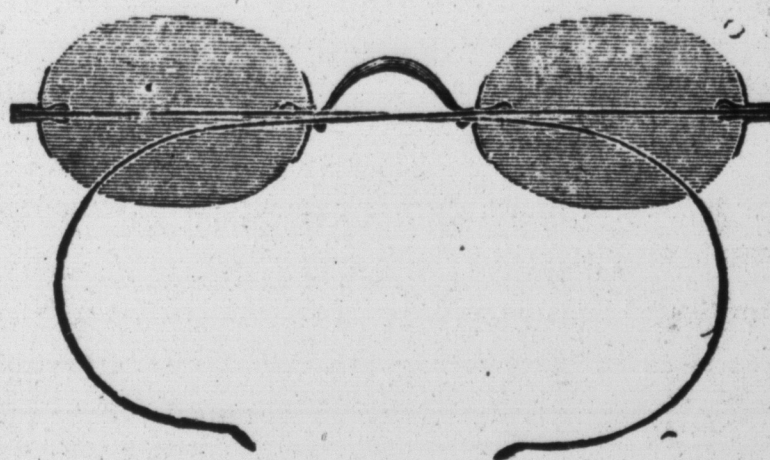
To the Corresponding Secretary of the Woman's Mission Society:

DEAR SISTERS,—I spent the most of this month with the people of Havelock, in the parish of Brighton, C. Co., and am happy to say that a good work of grace has been enjoyed. Bro. Prosser was out a few times and rendered us valuable assistance. I believe he is the right man for the pastorate of Brighton. In the early summer I went to visit the little vine at Havelock, and found things in a very scattered condition—no meetings, no Sabbath school, no Mission Band, and the few that did remain of the branch church that was organized eight years ago, much discouraged; the larger number having moved away from the place, there were only six or seven left. I had at that time one meeting, went back the following week and organized a Mission Band of eleven or twelve members, which is now in good working condition. Shortly afterward they organized a Sabbath school of thirty members. Later in the summer I was there again and had a meeting, and promised, if spared, I would give them a week of meetings after General Conference; and, according to promise, I went out on the 27th of October and began work. To God be all the praise, he came to our help and his power was felt in the meetings. Wanderers began to come home and sinners sought and found the Saviour to the joy of their hearts; four out of one family—father, mother, son and daughter, with others followed their Lord in baptism. The first baptism was on a beautiful day; we listened to a good sermon from the pastor, Brother Prosser, after which we went to the water side and he baptized four converts, and on the following Sabbath two others were baptized; nine were added to the branch church, which has more than doubled its number. Family altars have been erected, and praise and thanksgiving have ascended to God for his great goodness made known to his unworthy creatures. The pastor will go there once a month on the Sabbath, and they will keep up a prayer-meeting. May the Blessed Lord protect and bless them is our prayer.

I, also, attended in this month a meeting at Pembroke, one at Lower Brighton, one at Hartland, and two at South Wakefield, and looked after a number of Mission Bands. I expect to leave home on Friday of this week for the First District, as I have been but little in that district. I am thankful to say that my health is quite good for me with my heart trouble. I very much desire the prayers of all of God's dear children, that he will make me very useful this year in his vineyard. There is so much work to be done, and so few to do it. Our dear Brother Noble keeps busily at work. "They shall bring forth fruit in old age;" surely this is true in the life of this great and good man.

Summary of work done for the month: Visits made, 40; meetings held, 30; conversions, 6; backsliders restored, 5; added to the church, 9; cash collected, \$11.11.

Your Brother in the work,
J. N. BARNES.



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