Our Mission Society.

The Woman’s Home and Foreign Mission Society was organized in Friendship, Maine, July 31, 1897, with six charter members, four of whom were active and two honorary. Today it numbers over nine hundred members, and has representatives in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, California, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario. California has organized as a state, and elected a State President, Mrs. Nina McFadgen of Santa Cruz. Maine and California clasp hands across the continent and by faith claim all between.

When we numbered less than a hundred members we decided to take a school in India for our first work, providing it could be given absolutely into our hands. In Velacherie is a village of about one hundred and fifty houses, ten miles from Madras. The houses, including our school house, are built of bamboo, plastered with mud, and thatched with palm leaves. They are low and have no windows. The floor is of mud. In none of these little huts are less than ten people, and there are usually many more. Home life is unknown in India. Each boy as he marries brings his child wife home, and thus the houses are filled with unhappy, usually quarrelsome children.

The people are Pariahs, the lowest caste in India, or rather, below all castes. They are very poor and ignorant. No Pariah child would ever go to school were it not for the mission schools.

Is Mission Work Needed in India?

Miss Drake, who spent seven years in India, said: . . . “You can not teach me anything about home heathen. For four years I worked in the slums of New York, and I tell you that the most degraded miserable creatures in that city are purer and happier than the average heathen.” Child marriage is productive of suffering and evil incomprehensible to the inhabitants of a Christian land. The only alleviation of this suffering, the only remedy for this evil, is Christianity.

Velacherie.

Velacherie is a village of about one hundred and fifty houses, ten miles from Madras. The houses, including our school house, are built of bamboo, plastered with mud, and thatched with palm leaves. They are low and have no windows. The floor is of mud. In none of these little huts are less than ten people, and there are usually many more. Home life is unknown in India. Each boy as he marries brings his child wife home, and thus the houses are filled with unhappy, usually quarrelsome children.

The people are Pariahs, the lowest caste in India, or rather, below all castes. They are very poor and ignorant. No Pariah child would ever go to school were it not for the mission schools.
Our School.

There are about forty pupils in our school, although the attendance is irregular. We have repaired the school building, supplied needed furniture, and placed the school, with all our India work, under the charge of Miss Spence. Some of her methods Miss Spence mentions in her letter. We hope soon to be able to furnish every pupil who attends our school with a calico jacket, thus beginning civilization. Once a year or oftener, we hope to send Miss Spence a box of pieces of calico for this purpose, each piece containing from two to four yards. In the picture of our school you will see upon one side of the blackboard Miss Spence, and on her right the school children. You will observe that most of them are clothed. On the other side of the blackboard is Anna, the Bible woman, and upon her left, seated upon the ground, are some village children entirely unclothed. When you look at these children you can readily believe that they are always hungry.

We hope sometime to be able to take up three more schools in this section which were suspended for lack of funds. Within a short distance of Velacherie are twenty-five villages of idolaters, where there is neither school, church, nor missionary. We hope soon to send Miss Spence (who can preach as well as teach) or some other missionary with the Gospel to these villages.

Our Missionary in Charge.

The missionary in charge of our India work, Minnie Spence, is the daughter of Capt. James Spence, a retired captain of English militia, who resides with his family in India. Miss Spence was born in India, is twenty-five years old, and is familiar with the Tamil language, which is spoken in the district where our mission is established. She is an Adventist, a Conditionalist, and is thoroughly qualified for her position. She began work in August, and her letter on page four, though not intended for publication will interest all. Shall we not send her the organ? Who wants to help pay for it?

There are some churches that give more to others than to themselves. One is the Presbyterian Church, Throop Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y., which is an outgrowth of a Mission Sunday School. Another is the First United Evangelical Church of Reading, Pa. Third is Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, New York.

In The King's Messenger, a mission paper published by the Baptists, there is a Cradle Corner devoted to the very little folks. Shall not we have a Cradle Corner?

Sr. H. A. S., from Maine, sends $2.50 and writes: The Lord has wonderfully blessed me in getting this. . . . One little girl sold safety pins and got ten cents to "get a dress for a little black girl." She is five years old. . . . Another little girl three years old sold pins and got ten cents. She was just delighted to give it to me for the little heathen children.
From All Over the World.

In Japan there are seventy-seven schools for the higher education of girls, of which eleven are supported by public funds, and sixty-six are mission schools.

China. Prayer of a Chinese convert: "Thou knowest, Lord, that Hu-Peh is on one side of the Tung-Ting lake, and Nu-Nan on the other, and Thou knowest that there are more men and women in these two provinces than there are fish in the lake. Yet in many places there exist no Gospel nets to catch them. nor is there any fisherman. But Thou, O Lord, has told us to catch men. Send more nets and send more fishers, we beseech Thee!" — Missionary Link.

Africa. The South African Baptist Union reports 29 churches with 2,995 members.

Sierra Leone, on the west coast of Africa, was the scene of a most terrible massacre in May last. Seven missionaries of the United Brethren Mission, which has its headquarters in Dayton, Ohio, were tortured and murdered, and several missionaries of the English Wesleyan Society. More than a thousand native Christians were killed, and every mission house, church, school, factory, government post and civilized dwelling in the Mendi and Sherbro countries was destroyed.

Spain. In Protestant churches in Spain there are now about 2,500 members, where there was not a single church twenty-five years ago.

Asia. Remarkable prosperity is reported from the Presbyterian mission in Manchuria by Dr. John Ross; 4,685 converts were received during the past year, of whom 3,432 were men.

The Islands. In Kursiâie, South Sea Islands, a small church of only one hundred members gave forty dollars for the famine sufferers of India.

In Fiji, the scene of such remarkable triumphs of the Gospel in the past, a great revival is in progress, and more than one thousand persons have professed faith in Christ.

One of the early converts in Madagascar, a man in feeble health, traveled sixty miles to obtain a copy of the Bible. At this time the concealing of a single leaf of the Bible exposed the Christian to death.

W. C. T. U.—The last attempt to land liquor on Aitutaki Island in the Pacific Ocean was frustrated by the women, who seized and poured the whole into the sea.

The subscription price of the World Wide Mission Quarterly is ten cents. For fifteen cents we will send you the Quarterly for one year, our constitution and our two leaflets, God's Financial Method, and Helpful Hints for Workers; and we will also send you another leaflet published by another Mission Society, India Our Foreign Mission Field by Dr. A. W. Taylor.

Will the Sunday Schools save the Scripture Rolls and give them to our India work? Those near the Pacific coast may send their gifts to Mrs. Nina McFadgen, Santa Cruz, Cal. Those in New England can send them to the editor of this Quarterly, or to the Crisis office.

Malachi III comes before John xiv.

For Sale.

Pictures of our school at Velacherie, 25c
Same mounted on cardboard, 8x10, 35c
Street scene in Velacherie, 25c
Photo of Miss Minnie Spence, taken in India, card size, 25c
Pictures of the four charter members of the W. H. & F. M. S., 2 3-8x1 1-2 inches each, 10c
All four pictures, with a small picture of Miss Spence, copied from a group, 25c
The leaflet, God's Financial Method, for distribution, 5c a dozen, 30c per 100.
Letter from India.

St. Thomas Mount, 23rd August, '98.

My Dear Sister Taylor:—

When you see this I can well imagine how your heart will rejoice to see that the work has begun.

Although Anna, the Bible woman, was very ill and could not accompany me when I left Bangalore, I felt I could not put off any longer but go in the strength of the Lord, he opening and making the way clear for me. Well, last Tuesday morning I came here and on Wednesday I started with my work. You cannot think, dear Mrs. Taylor, how glad and thankful I was to the dear Lord for choosing me for this grand work. Before I go any further I must tell you I have another Bible woman, Leah, who is acting for Anna who is very ill. I like her as she has a way of attracting the children's attention.

I am for the present only working among the children and will do so for some months till the parents and children get used to me and my Bible woman. They are very dear little children, and very bright and quick. Every morning we open the school with prayer, and before we prayed we had to explain to these poor little minds that we were praying or talking to the one God over all, our God and their God, and that they must keep very quiet. It was pretty to see how eager they were to obey.

Every day they have a Scripture lesson, and you will be glad to hear that we are taking them from the beginning, from the creation, steadily on so that they may be well grounded in the Scriptures. I think this is a good plan, don't you?

I had to tell them that if they were good children they would get each a little jacket, and it would have amused you to see how their faces brightened up at the thought of getting a present from me. They have been coming very regularly since Tuesday, and yesterday, Sunday, I had 34 children present, and we had a real good time. We taught them a hymn, "Come to Jesus," and then took them through the week days' Scripture.

These village children are very fond of hearing new stories every day, so I told them that as they went on learning, the stories would become more and more interesting. If you can send me pictures from the creation, illustrating the Old Testament, they will be very useful. Today there were 30 children present, not as many as Sunday. Mornings the parents generally send them away to the fields to look after the cattle, so they are not very regular.

Now I am going to tell you something very amusing. These poor children would never come regularly if we did not promise them something or other for coming to Sunday School. So I told them I would give them something to eat if they came and that would be broiled peas, which natives of India are very fond of. After Sunday School we gave each a handful of peas, which they were very satisfied with. These poor little mites are always hungry, as they hardly ever get a proper meal; so I am going to give the Sunday School children once a week after their lesson, something in the way of food. After they have grown up they will not expect all this, but just now they are all small children. What do you think of this plan? Some of the other missions do this and they find this is the only way of gathering the children on a Sunday. It is not so with the day school, they like coming.

On Sunday morning, about half an hour after we had begun, the parents of the children came in one by one, and I thought after a few months we could hold a little service. I should like very much if you could send me out a baby organ. This would draw many people and the children would like it very much. In fact I think this would make them come. I am afraid I am asking too much and too soon. The school room would hold about 50 people. I hope, dear Mrs. Taylor, I am not asking too much. I think the work will grow very rapidly and we shall have to increase by getting another Bible woman and a native preacher. But for the present things will have to be worked quietly. We must not increase till we see that we have funds enough to meet them, and wait till the Lord opens the way.

Now about the calico you are sending out. Try and send bright colors, as the natives are very fond of anything bright, also thimbles, needles, thread, etc. We have very few girls and need these things. Try and send bright colors, as the natives are very fond of anything bright, also thimbles, needles, thread, etc. We have very few girls and need these things. We do not want to tire them out at the beginning, and wait till the Lord opens the way.

You will be glad to hear that the caste people are wanting and asking us to come and visit and teach them. This is very encouraging and I praise the dear Lord for this new feature of our work.

And now, dear Mrs. Taylor, I must close, with warm love to all the dear sisters and brothers in the Lord, thanking them heartily for all their help and prayers. I remain

Yours affectionately in the Lord,

MINNIE SPENCE.