A HAPPY GROUP

Most, if not all of our readers will recognize the central figure as our missionary, Miss Ella L. Jones. The children are Vathamoni at Miss Jones’ right, Dorcas in her lap, and Sunthoeshum and Seromoni at her left. Seromoni’s eyes have been straightened since this picture was taken in 1913.
HINDU SUPERSTITION
J. M. Saunders

RUNGASWAMI was up bright and early
because he had important business to
attend to that day and needed to get an early
start.

It chanced that quite recently he and one of
his neighbors had a quarrel and were not on
friendly terms, therefore on the morning in
question the following incident occurred:

Rungaswami having petitioned his favorite
god for his blessing upon his business tran­
saction that it might be successful, started out
with high hopes, but alas! as he passed his
neighbor's house some one sneezed. This was
an evil omen, and poor Rungaswami must needs
turn back home, take a bath, and do his puja
again.

The second time he starts and again from the
same house a sneeze is heard, again he must re­
turn and go through the same performance as
before. This same thing happened four times,
then Rungaswami decided it was not an aus­
picious day for the business he intended to do,
so he stayed at home.

The truth of the matter was, his neighbor
knowing Rungaswami's desire to make a good
business deal, and also knowing his superstition,
had purposely sneezed these four times in order
to get even with his enemy, as he termed him.

This incident shows how great a part super­
stitions play in the life of the Hindu.

REMOVING THE CURSE
Ella L. Jones

"I AM bringing it," cried a merry voice and
around the corner of the house appeared an
old man dragging a turtle, whose back was
adorned with a huge Vishnu mark (a white V
with a scarlet line drawn through the middle of
it), the turtle's head boasted a scarlet dot.

The old man was in a friendly mood, so
showed off the turtle and informed the crowd
that the god had come to the house during the
night and that unless he was properly decorated
and pulled around the house some one within
would die.

Like a boy with a new wagon he gleefully
dragged the glorious god around and around the
house, telling the women, standing with scared
faces, to have no fear as he was doing the need­
ful.

The ceremony ended by depositing the god
in a mud hole where he could wallow to his
heart's content.

God help us to point these people to "the
lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the
world."

FROM BROTHER PETERSON
Guindy, Madras, India,
April 13, 1917.

Dear Mrs. Chadsey:—

I want to slip in a line with Miss Saunders' letter, mostly to let you know that I have pur­
chased my Motor Cycle. I shall try and send
you a snapshot of myself and the machine
together with a little write-up next week. I
paid $252 for it, a new machine of English
manufacture and it runs like a top. It had been
used only three weeks by an English officer in
Madras who was then transferred to Mesopo­
tamia. Original price of machine with lamp,
etc., was $345. A war order forbids any motor
cars or cycles from coming into India and they
were going so rapidly, the few left in Madras,
that I purchased a bit earlier than I expected.
I tried to get a machine large enough to carry a
side car but could find nothing suitable (except
old worn out ones) for less than $434 and I knew
we could not afford that. This one will do
splendid work at lower cost of gasoline and up­
keep; I can run at least seventy miles on a gal­
lon against forty miles for a big machine, and
that means quite a saving when we pay about
sixty cents a gallon out here.

R. L. Peterson.

A VISIT TO WUHU
C. H. Hudson

As one draws near to Wuhu, on the up river
steamer, a group of red brick buildings can
be seen which you will learn on inquiry is the
plant of the A. A. Mission in that place. While
the maintaining of the Wuhu Academy is not
the whole of the work being done in Wuhu, it is
the most prominent feature of it. Standing
away up on the hillsides it is an ever calling invi­
tation to the young men of the place to come and
receive the knowledge it is ever ready to impart.
A walk of about fifteen minutes from the wharves
through vegetable gardens, passing multitudes
of China's dead resting on the hillsides in large
wooden coffins, some covered with earth and
others not, brought us to the school. While a
comparatively new plant it seems to have found
its place in the community, which it is endeavor­
ing to serve by giving its young men of the place to come and
receive the knowledge it is ever ready to impart.

At present there are about one hundred young
men in attendance, Christian and non-Christian.
The fees that the majority pay almost cover Hie
cost of up-keep. Others have an opportunity of
helping themselves through school by working
for a few hours daily in the Industrial school,
making rattan furniture, for which there is a good demand. I was glad to find a live Y. M. C. A. carried on by the students and also a prayer-meeting which they themselves started and maintain. Many of the lads after graduation have obtained for themselves positions in Government offices and are bringing credit to themselves and the school. This effort of the mission in Wuhu is a worthy one deserving our best support, and while it cannot be said that each boy who passes through its doors counts one more for Christ, yet those who do not make a decision while there receive sound Christian instruction, which will in a measure control his actions and implant something, which must surely respond sooner or later to the Master's invitation, "Come follow me."

The evangelistic work in Wuhu and surrounding country is being actively pushed. During the week of our visit, meetings were being held preparatory to a series of revival services. At that time signs of an awakening were apparent. Men and women were cleaning up their past, confessing their sins, and getting right with God and each other. The prospects for the coming days were very bright, and our greatest regret was the fact that time and tide which waiteth for no man, least of all us, made our departure necessary. The opportunity of visiting Wuhu and the other stations in China, the kindness received from the missionaries, will long remain with us as one of the pleasant experiences in our lives. While the trip with young children was a strenuous one, we shall never regret the effort made, and trust that it will tend to make stronger the bonds that bind us together in Christ. We did hope to visit Ho Chow, the station recently opened by Mr. Beals but were not able to do this, still we had the pleasure of meeting him in Wuhu from which station he is not very far removed.

THE WOMAN WHO DOES NOT READ

SHE was a nice, plump little body, pleasant of face and sweet of soul. Her house was like wax. The only cobwebs about her were in her brain. This Mrs. Meanwell belonged to the Women's Missionary Society. She did not go to the meetings of the Society at house-cleaning time, nor preserve time, nor pickle time, nor jelly time. Neither did she go when cleaning time, nor preserve time, nor pickle making time or canned time. She did not know the names of her state officers. She did not even know what branch of foreign work her own society was supporting.

When a missionary asked her if she would entertain the speaker she said she would and she did. Her table groaned with plenty. Her guest chamber was spick and span. She was most cordial to the speaker.

"Do you have the last All Nations?" asked her guest. "I would like to read it."

"No, I have no time to read. But I'm real interested in Missions," she hastened to add, "and I wish every heathen in the world was converted, and I hope that people who can afford it will give lots of money so that more missionaries can go, for, as you say, "the field is white for the harvest." I don't doubt it a bit."

Mrs. Meanwell knew nothing of the fields in which the missionaries sent by her denomination were at work.

She did not know the names of her state officers. She did not even know what branch of foreign work her own society was supporting.

Have we not altogether too many Mrs. Meanwells? Could we do better Home Mission work than to get them to take their own mission paper? Get our women to read. Get them stirred up, and set their brains to thinking. It can be done. Who will help to make her Society an educating center by putting the All Nations into the hands of every member?

Selected and adapted by Mrs. A. A. Richardson.

CHRISTIAN MUNTHARAM'S "ENCHANTMENTS"

Ella L. Jones

"AMMA, do your religious muntharams over my boy, he is sick and he is a school boy." The little chap smiled but his knees and ankles were cruelly swollen and we knew he suffered the day long, as he sat on the small mud porch and watched the narrow village street scene. The boy knew the power of Christ and said he believed, so without passes we prayed to the God who answers prayer. As we arose from our knees the father sitting by murmured a demon's name.

How one's blood chills at those moments and a cry, "God forgive for they know not what they do," reaches our loving Father, and perhaps repentance and forgiveness of sins will follow.

WHY HE LIKED HIS WORK

WHEN some one asked a missionary if he liked his work in Africa, he replied: "Do I like this work? No; my wife and I do not like dirt. We have reasonably refined sensibilities. We do not like crawling into vile huts, through goat refuse. We do not like association with ignorant, filthy, brutish people. But is a man to do nothing for Christ he does not like? God pity him, if not. Liking or disliking has nothing to do with it. We have orders to 'go' and we go. Love constrains us." Such a love begets the strength to do the "all things."—Missionary Review.

Youth is a terrible force—it has all to learn, but it is youth, the most beautiful and hopeful thing in life. And it is the thing upon which the full development of life for a woman depends. She must have it always by her side if she is to know her own full meaning in the scheme of things.—Ida M. Tarbell.
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THE WARREN PRESS, 160 WARREN ST., BOSTON

BOSTON, MASS., JUNE, 1917

UNDER date of May 17, just eighteen days after reaching America, Brother Hudson writes: "I have held off from making engagements up till now, but could not do so longer. It gets on my nerve to remain idle long. I speak at Oakland S. S. Sunday morning (May 20), and to the church in the evening; the following Sunday at San Francisco, and June 3 at the Y. M. C. A. in Oakland." Every missionary is supposed to have one month to themselves after reaching home on furlough, before they are called upon to represent the work, and Brother Hudson was so informed, but eighteen days of idleness got on his nerve and he has commenced his work. In fact all of our missionaries, who have been home on furloughs have grown restless if idle long. Their interest in the work is so keen they are anxious to seize every opportunity to bring it before others. This is written, in part, as a matter of explanation as to why our missionaries do so much speaking when on furlough, as some have criticized the Business Manager for allowing them to do so; and this shows that they are not urged but are anxious to get to work.

NOTHING pleased the Business Manager more, last month, than the reception of letters containing orders for the Manual or donations to that fund; many of these letters bidding her not to give up, but keep the matter before the readers until the full amount was received. Only nine dollars more is needed which means thirty-six Manuals to be sold at 25 cts. each; who will order one?

LET all our members and friends in Northern Vermont and Quebec bear in mind that Thursday, June 28, is to be Mission Day at Beebe Campmeeting, when the sisters in that District will hold their annual meeting; and all the mission work of the denomination will be represented at the regular services.

ALL will be glad to learn that the full amount asked, and a few dollars more, has been received for Brother Peterson's Motor Cycle. True, fifty dollars of this is a pledge from a brother who felt that God would have him give that amount, which will be paid soon. Brother Peterson has already purchased his machine, as will be seen by his letter in this issue, and was fortunate enough to get one for $252; the extra amount raised will help out on the gasoline, etc. This fund was started in May, 1916, so we have been just one year in raising it; a long time it would seem; but we must remember that this was an "extra" and none of the regular funds went into it. We wish to thank every one who helped, and hope to give them a glimpse of Brother Peterson and his machine in the July issue.

BROTHER AND SISTER HUDSON brought with them a quantity of needle work, printing, and other things made in the orphanages, which they will have for sale at the different campmeetings on the Pacific Coast, and we have asked that some be sent East for the mission tables on the Eastern campgrounds.

OUR special effort for June and July must be to pay the balance due on our pledge for the Advent Christian Home and Orphanage work at Dowling Park, Fla. We pledged $500 for the year and have paid $328.39; leaving $171.61 to be raised by July 31.

THE twentieth annual convention of the general W. H. and F. M. Society will be held in the tabernacle on Alton Bay Campground, Aug. 14, 1917. Sessions are planned for morning, afternoon, and evening, further particulars of which will be given next month.

THE W. H. and F. M. Society having purchased the part of the Mission cottage at Lakeside, Maine, formerly owned and occupied by Mrs. Mary Watson, desire to rent it. Anyone who would like to occupy the same should write to Miss Mary E. Rowe, 35 Frederic St., Portland, Me., as she is the chairman of the committee in charge.

BOSTON BIBLE SCHOOL HOME

THE School closed May 31, and the last pupil left the Home June 4. The matron, Mrs. Boyd, will remain a few days longer before going on her well-earned vacation for the summer, returning again a few days before School opens to get the Home ready for occupancy.

The following gifts have been received since last report: A comforter, Mrs. Celia Langworthy; four quarts baked beans, four loaves bread, Mrs. George Hobill. Mrs. Boyd informs us that there is a good supply of bed and table linen, and towels, so it will not be necessary to make a call for any this summer.
THANKSGIVING AND PETITIONING LIST

Let us give thanks:
- That the Motor Cycle fund is raised.
- That our receipts for May were so good.
- That fresh interest is being shown in the Manual fund.
- That the funds are coming in so well for the Advent Christian Home and Orphanage pledge.
- That Brother Hudson is having so many opportunities to present the work.

Let us pray:
- That the missionaries may be given health and strength for their duties. Miss Keeney is much improved; but the last report from Miss Jones was not very encouraging, she had been having an ill-turn.
- That the workers at the camp meetings may be led by God, as they seek to interest others in the work we are doing.
- That Dr. and Mrs. Smith may have strength and wisdom for their duties at the Home and Orphanage.
- That much good may be done at the annual meetings which are to be held this month.
- That sufficient funds to meet all the needs for June may be received. The treasurer found that nearly $1500 would be needed to meet the expenses of May, and made it a special subject of prayer; and feels that the receipts, $1501.54 testify to the fact that God heard and answered.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual district meeting of the Northern Vermont and Quebec W. H. and F. M. Society will be held on Thursday, June 28th, 1917 at Dr. G. H. Smith's cottage on Beebe Campground. Societies and friends are invited to contribute articles for the sale counter.

Eva I. McKenna, Pres.
L. Grace Prior, Sec.-Treas.

REPORT OF MASSACHUSETTS EASTERN DISTRICT MEETING

The regular semi-annual meeting of the Eastern District W. H. and F. M. Societies was held with the church at Lowell, on the afternoon and evening of Wednesday, May 2.

The meeting was opened promptly at 2.30 by the President, Mrs. Churchill, and after a short song service and the Scripture reading by Sr. Chadsey, we were led in prayer by Bro. Shurtliff. A welcome was extended to the visiting delegates by the president of the Lowell local, to which Mrs. Churchill responded. After another song, the secretary's report was read and declared approved.

At the roll call Boston responded with three, Somerville four, Lowell eight, Melrose Highlands four and Boston Y. W. A. three.

In speaking of the Boston Bible School, Mrs. Chadsey spoke of the struggle to pay bills the past year and the necessity of raising the board of the students on account of the increased cost of everything. She also spoke of the willingness of the friends of the school to help at any time when a need was made known and thanked them for it.

In speaking of the Southern Orphanage, Mrs. Chadsey who had just returned from a visit there, told us how beautifully it was located on a bend of the Suwanee River, with beautiful scenery surrounding it, but with very little grass as the soil is so sandy. She told us of the members of the home, their occupations and needs, and also told some interesting things in regard to the children.

After singing another hymn the program was changed, and after Mrs. Chadsey had spoken of the two great missionaries, The Bible and Gospel hymns, Miss Rose Tenney sang, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," after which Mrs. Corbett read a paper on "How the Bible transformed an island."

She showed how God worked in a wonderful way among the natives and completely changed them from cannibals to true Christians. Mrs. Mayberry next read a paper on the hymn "Nearer, My God to Thee," which was then sung by the congregation.

Mrs. Woollridge then told a story of the conversion of a Buddhist priest, and Mrs. Chadsey told of an incident where a New Testament converted a Roman Catholic. Miss Ethel White then repeated a hymn after giving a history of the same.

A rising vote of thanks was extended the Lowell Society for their hospitality and co-operation and the meeting adjourned until evening.

The evening meeting opened at 7.30 with a short praise service. Mrs. Hudson of Lowell read as the Scripture lesson the second chapter of Ephesians, and Mrs. Chadsey offered prayer.

There was special music during the evening, two duets by Miss Esther Barnard and Mr. Chester Hare, and a solo by Miss Barnard.

The speaker of the evening was Miss Flossie Quimby, and she gave some reasons why she was glad she had been born in the United States. She gave from her knowledge and experience of Chinese customs, pictures of the conditions of the heathen women of that vast land—their hopeless sorrow when death comes, the haunting fear of the demons of their religion, their lack of education, and the evils of the marriage customs and of polygamy—pictures which should make every woman in this country thankful she was born in a Christian land. In closing she gave a picture of the contrast between the Christian Chinese and their heathen sisters.

Mrs. Chadsey spoke a few words more concerning the Southern home and orphanage for the benefit of those who had not been present in the afternoon.

The convention was dismissed by the benediction offered by Bro. Shurtliff, pastor of the Lowell church.

Alice M. Smith, Sec.
REPORT OF MASSACHUSETTS SOUTHERN DISTRICT MEETING

At the annual meeting of Southern District W. H. and F. M. societies, held at Taunton A. C. Church May 10, the following officers were elected: President, Miss May White, Acushnet; vice-president, Mrs. Helen W. Keene, W. Wareham; Secretary, Mrs. Florence Richardson, Attleboro; and Treasurer, Mrs. Addie Sweet, Attleboro; filling the place of Mrs. Lucy J. Frances of Taunton, who has filled this office for a number of years, but who was obliged to decline re-election on account of advancing years and failing health.

Reports showing an encouraging condition of the locals and considerable forward work being taken were read.

The treasurer's report showed a good balance in the treasury. This is chiefly owing to the good management of the cottage at Marion, which under the care of Mrs. E. A. Bennett each year is made to add a considerable sum to finances. It was voted to help the Bible School running expenses to the extent of $20.00; and $10.00 was also voted to be given to the School Home to help pay the coal bill.

A committee was appointed to confer with the Marion camp committee regarding a new preacher's stand to be erected before the coming campmeeting. Five dollars was voted to be used towards this purpose if it is decided to build this year.

The afternoon's program was in charge of six local presidents, or substitutes provided by them, who presented an imaginary trip to different countries. Sr. Chadsey then gave a very interesting talk on her recent visit south, particularly Dowling Park Orphanage. This was made doubly interesting by a fine set of photographs showing the Home and Orphanage surroundings and family.

The meeting throughout the day was very inspiring and helpful, and the visitors went to their homes feeling that it had been good to be there.

Florence Richardson, Dist. Sec.

GREETINGS FROM FAR COUNTRIES

A Program for Welcoming New Members to Young Women's Societies

Prepared by Winifred Spaulding

(Have girls representing the different countries recite the following. If costumes can be secured, or simulated, so much the better.)

Hindu Girl.—We welcome you to this society because you are going to teach our women in India, so that they shall be free to go about as you do, and not be married when they are babies, and shut up in zenanas and made slaves of. Then if their husbands die, and they are left little widows—while you are still going to school and having grand times playing—they are despised by their people, and must live a life of misery and shame, for our religion teaches us. You will teach us of your Jesus, who honors women and whose truth makes them free.

Mohammedan Girl.—We are glad you have joined this society which helps to send us missionaries. Our god is Allah, and we are despised because we are only women. Our parents mourned forty days when we were born. We expect to reach heaven only by being obedient to our husbands, who ignore us in public and abuse us at home.

Chinese Girl.—Do you see our little crippled feet? We welcome you because it is your religion that delivers Chinese women from this awful pain and curse. And then we hope you will send the dear missionary doctors to our land. There is only one lady doctor for four million of us women in China, and we must not see a man, so we suffer and die without help. We are not taught to read, and are classed with monkeys and parrots. How glad we are when the missionary comes to teach us!

Japanese Girl.—We, too, are glad to welcome you to this society. Perhaps you thought we were so progressive in Japan that we would not need the help of the missionaries. We are always made servants to some one. There are three duties woman is taught: obedience to parents, obedience to the husband, and obedience to the eldest son when a widow. If our religion is Shinto, we worship our ancestors. If it is Buddhism, we visit the great Buddhist temples and make offerings to their many gods. If we are sick, we rub the ugly heathen idols, hoping that they will make us well. But somehow we never find peace, and only you can teach us.

Korean Girl.—The sisters of Korea welcome you because the greatest joy and gladness have come to our land through the teachings of the missionaries. We are weary of the hard toil which is given to the women, and the confinement, for we are taught that we must never go out in public. And we are tired of our ignorance, for we are only taught to read, of our heathen religion that does us no good. But now the Jesus doctrine is being taught us, and everything is changed. Ah, how happy we are, though we are so poor, to give money or cloth or labor, to build the chapels where this blessed doctrine is preached.

African Girl.—The poor black woman of Africa welcomes you. Surely you will not forget her, for she is the lowest of all. Her father sells her in marriage, and she is but one of many wives, who do all the hard labor of the huts and fields, while the man drinks and loafs, and becomes more and more brutal every day, and thinks nothing of killing a wife if she offends...
him. She believes in and fears the “witch doctor,” who prepares his vile potions for a fetch or charm. Cruelly, villeness and fear fill her days.

Filipina Girl.—The little brown sisters in the Philippines are so glad that their American sisters ever came to bring them the blessed Book. The Catholics told us the Bible was a Book we must never see, and so we tried to find peace for our souls by confessing to the priest, and paying money and vows at the shrines of virgins and saints. We paid much money to the priests to say masses for the souls of our dear dead, who they told us were in purgatory. You are giving us the Bible, and we believe that Jesus died for us. We are free from the false teachings of the priests and now we are running swiftly to tell our friends and neighbors.

(All join hands and recite together)

Weep for us, feel for us, sisters dear.
Give for us, pray for us, far and near.
Living in darkness, doubt and fear.
Only a little, here and there,
Given to God with faith and prayer,
Sent to relieve our dark despair.
Surely the sisters of this fair land,
Joining with us an unbroken band,
Before the great white throne shall stand:
And the Master of all to you shall say,
’Twas unto me you gave that day,
For I was with you all the way.

—Sel.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Receipts for May, 1917

California—Pasadena local, $3; L. A. Turrell, $5; Mrs. I. H. Bennett, $2.25; Mary A. Davis, $3; Oakland local, $3.50; Napa local, $3.50; Santa Clara local, $10; collection San Francisco, $6.50; Santa Clara Church, $7; Santa Clara collection, $5.

Connecticut and Western Massachusetts—Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Greene, $10; Mr. and Mrs. Abel Calkins, $15; Palmer local, $1; Mrs. A. M. Warner, $4; Mrs. D. G. Byars, $5.

Florida—V. P. Simmons, $2.17; Mrs. E. J. Baird, $15.
Illinois—Martha Downs, $1.
Idaho—Mrs. H. T. West, $2.50.
Iowa—Hazel Grove S. S., $6.
Kansas—J. S. Powell, $1.75.
Massachusetts—Whitman local, $4; Grace A. Doane, $1; Melrose Highlands S. S., $4.92; Grace L. Russell, $2; Treasurer Middle District, $30.65; Mrs. Peters, $1; Besse Smith, $1; Somerville church, $12.93; L. E. Alley, $1; Boston local, $10; In memory of Mrs. Mary Johnson, $5; Brockton local, $44; Somerville local, $9; New Bedford local, $7.50; Middleboro local, 50 cts.; Home Department, Middleboro S. S., $1; Mrs. Dunham, $1; Attleboro local, $5.50; Attleboro J. M. Society, $1.85; Melrose Highlands local, $3.50; Mrs. Hattie Young, $2; Conditional Gift, $500; Middleboro S. S., $3; L. A. Waters, $1; Lynn local, $18.50; M. E. Wadley, $2; Melrose Highlands Y. W. A., $12.37; Treasurer Southern District, $10; Boston S. S., $1; Lowell local, $15; Acushnet S. S., $3.18; Worcester local, $25.50; Marblehead local, $3.50; Acushnet local, $1; Anna Adams, $2; Maude M. Chadsey, $5; O. T. Brooks, $10; Lynn S. S., $3.50; Mary Muir, $1; Haverhill local, $15; Mrs. B. A. Lloyd, $1; Almeda Lloyd, $1; Alma Lloyd, $2; mite box collection, North Adams, $7; Boston Y. W. A., $21.50; Treasurer Eastern District, $10; Brockton Y. W. A., $4.75; Worcester Y. W. A., $10; Minnesota—F. Q. Johnson, $5; Amanda Johnson, $3; Missouri—Geo. Koons, $3.

Montana—C. F. Newman, $2.

New Brunswick—St. Mary’s local, $15.
New Hampshire—Manchester S. S., $5; Hampton local, $6.50; Manchester local, $22.75; Portsmouth local, $5.50; New Bedford Highlands S. S., $3; St. Johnsbury, $1.
New Jersey—Hoosick local, $7; E. M. Van Dyke, $2; Olive Greene, 20 cts.; Milton Greene’s mite-box, 50 cts.

New York—Brooklyn local, $2; C. and P. G., $2; Putnam Ladies’ Aid, $5; Putnam church, 89 cts.

Newark—Mrs. P. M. Lord, $9.75; Julia Ennis, $2.

Ruth Ennis, $1.
Washington—Sadie M. LaDue, $1.
Wisconsin—Anna Simonton, $2; LaValle S. S., $15.50.
Rent, $54; sales, $69.95; subscriptions to All Nations, $30.15; total receipts, $1501.54.

Brother Peterson’s Motor Cycle Fund

Amount needed $275.00
Previously reported $211.55
Received this month including a pledge of $5070.25
Total received $281.80
This is the full amount asked for and $6.80 extra.

Advent Christian Home and Orphanage Fund

Amount pledged $500.00
Received and reported $239.19
Received this month 89.20
Balance needed $171.61

Advent Christian Manual Fund

Our share Manuals 150 cost $37.50
Gifts for “Manuals Fund” and sales 28.50
Amount still needed $9.00

Our 35 cts. a Year, or 3 Years for $100 Club

As stated previously we have opened this list for those who are willing to pay the above mentioned price for All Nations, and thus help us out on the increased cost of the paper. The following joined in May:
Mrs. Carrie Hansom, Mrs. W. W. Norcott, Mrs. H. B. Norcott, L. A. Turrell, Mrs. F. C. Webster, Mrs. Sarah Ellinwood, Mrs. B. A. Davis, S. S. Atkins, Mrs. D. G. Byars, Fannie Degg.

CONDITIONAL GIFTS

Our society is ready and glad to receive any such gifts. That is, if anyone has $100 or more, which they wish the mission society to have after their decease, instead of leaving it to the society in their will, they give the society the money now, receive a good rate of interest on it during their lifetime, and upon their decease the money becomes the property of the mission society without any delay or expense for administration. Several have already made such gifts; and we shall be glad to correspond with anyone who may desire to do so, or who desires more information regarding the plan. All letters should be addressed to Mrs. Maude M. Chadsey, Treas., 5 Whiting St., Boston, Mass.

NEW LOCAL

McAlpine, Fla. Officers names not received.
WHY LOTUS FLOWERS ARE OFFERED TO THE GODDESS DURGA

The Rajah's chief god is Durga. Among the Hindus lotus flowers are offered to the goddess Durga, and in Indian mythology the origin of the custom is as follows: A certain prince, Ram Chandro, voluntarily fulfilled a vow to go into exile, made by his father to a jealous step-mother. His wife Sita and his brother Lakshmun joined him. While sheltering in the forests Sita was carried off by Ravan, King of Rakhasas, who was ravished with her beauty. Her husband, despairing of finding her, invoked the aid of Hanuman, the king of the monkeys. This was readily granted, and the monkeys fought Ravan, who, though beaten, managed to escape, leaving his slain sons, grandsons and kinsman. The goddess Durga helped Ravan to make good his escape, but until he was killed Sita could not be rescued.

Repeated applications on the part of Hanuman to have Sita restored having failed, he resorted to a lake at Mansorabar, and, bringing home from thence one hundred and eight lotuses, laid them with much reverence in front of the shrine of Durga. Still the goddess remained obdurate, refusing to release Sita. Rama then discovered that another flower was wanting, so Hanuman set forth once more to the lake, but failed to obtain a single lotus blossom.

Durga then, to test the strength of Rama’s devotion, caused one flower to remain invisible, and the husband, in despair, offered the goddess one of his eyes, as they were said to resemble lotuses. When he was in the act of sacrificing his eye, Durga, touched by his devotion, appeared before him, stopped the sacrifice, and gave Rama a bow and arrow to slay Ravan with. In this task Rama was successful, and so recovered his wife.

This legend has given rise to the Hindu festival called Bijoya, which is celebrated on the day on which Ravan was slain. Doubtless it was the means of evoking the frequent expression used by Hindus when describing female beauty as "lotus-eyed" or "eyes as tender as a lotus." Frequent allusions to this are found in India poetry.—*From The Gods of the People.*

THE Mission Study books for 1917–18 are to be on Africa. The book issued by the women’s societies is entitled *An African Trail.*