TO THE FRIENDS OF MUKTI MISSION,

Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God: for it is pleasant; and praise is comely. Ps. 147:

Our report number of the Prayer Bell makes us see that we really have many reasons to praise the Lord. In the pressure and business of the work, sometimes we are inclined to feel that there isn't much accomplished but when the aggregate is summed up, we conclude that something has been done.

We rejoice in such a large measure of good health, financial needs met, necessary repairs and alterations of buildings made, the prosperity of the farm and cattle and orchards, the way the girls and women have worked the past months, each doing her share towards the success of the whole.

We greatly desired to see greater spiritual results but we know there is a hunger in many hearts for a closer walk with God, for victory over sin, temper and all that grieves the Saviour.

Please pray for our dear people and for us that we may be continually all the help and inspiration to them that we should be.

We praise God for all the friends of Mukti who have helped by prayer and gifts the past year to make the burden lighter and to spread the Gospel a little farther into the night and thus hasten the Coming of our Lord.

Mukti Church

The services of the Church have gone on regularly every Sunday morning and evening and on Wednesday evenings, usually taken by the pastor, Mr. Macassare; and we have been very glad to have visitors, Rev. Moyser, Col. Campbell, Rev. and Mrs. Williams and others bring us God's messages occasionally. During the January week of prayer, Mr. Samudre of the C.S.S.U was with us for a series of special meetings. His messages were living and suited to the need and understanding of our congregation; and judging from the written testimonies that were given in at the end of the time, many were helped and blessed. He gave us one lantern lecture which was greatly appreciated. At the close of that week on the Saturday, five of our young girls followed the Lord through the waters of Baptism and on Sunday we had a better attendance at communion than usual. Rev. W. Bruere was with us at that time and has also been here almost every Prayer Day, the First Tuesday in each month. It is not customary to take collections at each service, but from time to time the girls put their little offerings together and those who have no money give some portion out of their daily allowance of grain. This year we have sent to the Bible Society and to the National Missionary Society and we were greatly interested to receive a donation for Mukti from the N.M.S. just as we were sending to them; surely an example of mutual help. In connection with giving one little incident might be related:—An old woman, not so very long out of heathenism, had her wages raised and she brought the first month's increase of eight annas and said, "give it to the work of the Lord."
Morning and Evening Prayers are held in the Church and in several other places, and occasionally we are able to have a meeting with the young communicants or with newcomers who need to be taught the beginnings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sunday School

Sunday School is held in seven divisions and four odd classes. Superintendents and teachers number 63 and there are over 500 scholars, women of all ages, girls, boys, and tiny children. We are extremely glad to have the help of five missionary ladies in this work. We have two blind teachers, who are much appreciated. They each have a helper who can read for them and mark the registers. On Friday morning the teachers meet in preparation classes of which there are two, one in connection with the little Children's school and the other for the general classes where the International Sunday School Lessons are taught.

Compound

On the one hand this work might well be described as 'the daily round, the common task,' for there are many tasks that have to be done much in the same way day after day; on the other hand, there is plenty to relieve the monotony as we mingle with people of different ages, dispositions, and characters, always something fresh to be attended to, some new story to be listened to and new advice to be given; and we realize the compound is an excellent field for winning souls and leading them nearer to the Lord Jesus, even if it is a quarrel that creates the occasion for personal dealing. The Gota-Here we have had a few changes, some admissions, some departures, some marriages, and one has gone to Poona for Nurse's Training.

Bethleheni-Here we have five so-called boarders, that is, children of Indian Christians, who here for education, and twenty-six children of our former Mukti girls. We were sorry to lose one of this company for marriage.

Jerusalem—This is where our own Mukti children begin to take on the responsibilities of life, such as baking their own bread, making their own clothes, and doing their own mending, and washing. Four from the children's compound have come to us this year and two have left us, one to be married and one to be trained for Gospel work at Pandharpur and one is at Ahmednagar taking Teacher's Training.

Char Bhag—Here we have working women of various ages as well as a few school girls and it is from this company that most go for marriage. Fourteen have married and during the past twelve months, one went away to work in another school and has since married, one has left for Gospel work and one is taking Teacher's Training. And so the field widens and those who go away expect us to pray for them, which we gladly do; and they turn their attention toward home when they want anything—medicine for a sick husband, drawn thread work patterns, frames, hymn books, and photographs are among the things they ask for and if they do not get a letter they soon write, saying 'Have you forgotten me?' So we have started sending mimeographed letters once in six months.

M. MACDONALD.

Evangelistic Work

All the year the daily band has gone out to preach the Gospel in village and bazaar and places of yatra except during the feast time in February. Volunteers go out on holidays and Sundays and whenever they can leave their work. We praise God for these. Previous to Christmas, three tours of short duration were made with the tents and many farther villages were then reached. Also in March a few precious days were spent in another part of the district with a fine band. All the villages around the camping ground were reached and not a few folks came to the tent and listened to the story of the Cross. It was a disappointment to all the teachers that they could not get out as usual for the Christmas holidays. But the bands went out daily.
On two or three occasions a car was loaned to me by a friend which took us far in a short time. It served to confirm us regarding the wonderful saving of time and strength a car would be. In these days when the door is open and we have the opportunity of preaching the Gospel, we long to 'redeem the time.' Looking further East to the happenings in China, we feel how urgent it is that we speed the message of Life.

Reinforcements were sent to help the brave company at Pandharpur. These were appreciated by those who labour there and the "bands" came back stirred in spirit by scenes witnessed there. Encouragements have been many and seekers who came openly have rejoiced us. To Him be the glory.

The Bible Women's Training Class

The first five Books of the Bible have been studied and most of the students have had very good results in the examinations. Two of the blind students, who are only supposed to attend as listeners were eager to have the examination verbally and they excelled the others. My time has been much broken, owing to illness and other pressing duties, but the students studied notes given and made good progress. One of the students was particularly helpful, writing out notes on the blackboard and taking charge when I was absent. A report of the Bible Class must recognize her good services. The students have all gone out in the Evangelistic Bands, and with the tents as they have had leave from other duties. "Homiletics" brought some fair results.

The Printing Department

Since our last annual report was written, 8,500 of the New Zealand Memorial New Testament have been completed. Part of these have been sent out and some have yet to be sent out. There have been printed also 15,000 copies of "God is Love" in Marathi, 10,000 of "Man's Greatest Need," 5,000 of "What is the Future?" 10,000 each of "Who is Jesus Christ?" and "The Resurrection of the Dead." The latter was dear Pandita Ramabai's message to her people, given her by God, to send forth when He called her beloved daughter to Himself. She expressed her wish that lakhs of that tract may go forth to her people, so we printed all the paper we had in stock in that—sending it and these other tracts and booklets written by her forth to do their work in "filling the land with the knowledge of God," in the Marathi tongue. The printing of the selected hymn-book and Luke's Gospel is in hand. It is a great privilege to speed these tracts and Gospels forth. Many gifts from Australia have come for the "Memorial Bibles." As the funds come Bibles are put into the Free distribution stock. Thanks and appreciation are expressed for them. More than 1,000 have gone already and we have a good supply to send as requested. The giver of the £100 would have rejoiced to hear the praise and thanksgiving that abounded for this answer to prayer. It was used for Marathi type which was much needed for Gospel printing.

The young women and matrons who work so faithfully in this department need much prayer, managing the engine and presses, composing, printing, proof-reading. Pray that there may be much fruit from this seed-sowing. We thank God for the gifts that continue to come for the New Zealand New Testament Memorial. It has been a great joy to continue this work another year such a staff of Ramabai's dear girls.

The Farm

This when given to me was a "not wanted" duty. One already had more to do than could be done to satisfaction. However, it has not all been difficulty, there have been some compensating pleasure. The greatest of these has been the opportunity of proving the helpers. Babu Master, the foreman of the field, has made his value to be more appreciated with closer acquaintance with his work. He is respected by all who come in contact with him. He is honest and faithful and his word is reliable. His testimony tells for Christ. What he may lack in 'push' he makes up in faithfulness and thoroughness.
During the year carts have been repaired and renewed and water drawing skins replaced, the oxen improved in condition and working value, and the milk supply increased considerably. The fruit gardens have given us a good supply of bananas and oranges for which we thank our Heavenly Father. It took a hard pull to get the oxen into a fit condition and to keep them so, for we have seen famine conditions and prices. Notwithstanding rain failure the wells watered some acres and about 8,000 seers of grain besides seed grain and 2,000 sheaves of fodder were produced. We thank our Heavenly Father for this.

This year we had a severe visitation of Foot and Mouth disease among the cattle. God answered prayer and blessed the labour of the men who, headed by the master, worked hard for them and there were no deaths, though neighbours lost many.

The fields are well worth spending some capital on in order to make them more easily irrigated and several of the wells if deepened will give a better supply of water. We are looking to our Father to enable us to improve.

At the time I was asked to take the oversight of the fields I should have refused but my Father at once gave the promise “Call upon me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things.” He has answered many prayers and will yet do greater things. I praise God for help given and for the staff of workers.

J. McGregor

Another year has rolled around with its joys, sorrows and blessings. It is almost impossible to give a report in detail, but I will give you a little insight into each department of my work.

The Sunshine Hospital

We have had very few patients during the last year. We praise God for the health of the girls and children. For a few weeks we had a run of fever and since that only a few patients, until the month of March when Chicken-pox and Measles began amongst the children. We placed these cases in our Isolation Ward. The children are having it very lightly but we hope that it will soon run its course. About thirty had to leave School just before the examination and a few more cases are still coming in. There have been three deaths this year. Old Radhabai who was brought to us five years ago from a village, blind and deaf. She loved the Lord with all her heart and longed to be with Him. At the age of ninety-five she entered into the presence of Him who opens the eyes of the blind, and unstops the deaf ears. Also two girls who were Epileptic, who suffered intensely from this incurable disease died. We could not grieve for we felt for them it was joy in the presence of the King. The Maternity Ward has had five births in the last year.

The Rescue Home

We are a family of eighty this year. Eight have left us and thirty have been admitted, these have been mostly young girls, perhaps wayward and disobedient and needed closer supervision. Some were placed here by Missionaries and some by parents. Those are given work to do and those who have not had an education are taught to read and write. It is our wish that every girl coming into Mukti should be able to read her Bible. Two from this number have sought and found the Saviour this year, and have been baptized, and we are praying that more will let Him take control of their lives. God can make diamonds out of rough stones, please pray for this department of the work.

Defective Division

This is a company of helpless dependent girls, whom nobody wanted, but the great heart of our dear Pandita Ramabai gave them shelter and loving care. There are fifty in this division. Many kinds of employment is found for them. There is a class that makes sun-dried bricks, and another that carries bricks tiles, or lumber wherever it is needed, and others sweep the Compounds. This year the walls around the Mission
was replastered with mud by these girls. We find them a very useful company in the Mission. It requires those with much grace and patience to deal with those weak minds. All that are able grind their own grain for their bread. One girl was born without arms; she does her share of grinding with her foot, she also sews, eats her food, and writes with her toes. There are five faithful old widows who look after this company.

The Washing Class

This is a very useful class, from the older girls of the Mission mostly widows, who came to us many years ago. They do the washing for the little Babies Children and Missionaries.

The Carpenters and Masons

This department has done good work this year, but we have not been able to accomplish all that the Committee gave us to do, because of the large amount of minor repairs which took up a good deal of time. The Defectives’ Dining Room which they commenced last year was finished this year. The cost of this was two hundred dollars, this amount was kindly donated by Mr. Orvel Dean of West Salem, Illinois. The brick walls have been put up in the long dormitory making three comfortable rooms for the Missionaries. The Rooms outside which were blown down last year have not been rebuilt for lack of funds. These were the married peoples’ quarters, and at present they are very uncomfortably housed. We need extra help. Before the rains come many of the roofs need to be re-tiled. A new room has been built for our little children and the old corrugated shed has been pulled down. We need another carpenter to cope with the extra work.

Sanitation

This is a very important part of our work. Twenty-six girls are employed to keep the institution in a sanitary condition. For the sake of the health of all, it is necessary that the compounds be daily supervised.

The Nursery

I have only had charge of his department the last six months from the time Miss Myerscough left for England last October. There are twenty-five babies ages being from one month to three years. I am glad to say that the health of the little ones has been very good. There have been a few anxious times but God has been very good to us and spared their lives. Two little babies but a few days old were bought to us, they stayed but a little while here and as we tried to hold to precious little lives His precious words came to us “Suffer the little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven. No matter how heavy the burdens of the day or the problems we have to face, an hour in the Nursery lifts us above every care.

An eight months child was brought to us, a posthumous child (a child born a month after the father’s death) A curse is upon this child as through superstition she is supposed to be the cause of the Father’s death. The child is blamed for all misfortunes that happen in that village. The Mother, in her distress, brought her to us as she could no longer withstand the taunts of the villagers.

Dispensary

Since our Doctor left us last October I have had to carry on the Dispensary. There are two assistants. The morning hours are from eight to ten for our Mukti family for common ailments. Afterwards we go to the Outside Dispensary on the Roadside which is for the villagers around Mukti. These are waiting to be helped and their needs are many and varied. But the saddest part is their darkened hearts and superstitious mind. After reading the Bible and explaining it to them they are treated. One child has an ugly wound across the stomach, this was caused by a hot iron being used, believing that it would stop the pain, there are many other similar cases. We are so glad of every opportunity of telling of our Saviour who is their Saviour and loves them.
The Maternity ward for village women has had five patients in the last six months. We are thankful to have these Mothers brought to us to relieve their suffering and prevent lives being lost through the ignorance of the village women who attend them. It also gives us an opportunity to teach the Mothers how to care for their little ones.

Victoria Brazier

The Blind School (Barimeus Sadan)

The work of the year has been a marked success and there has been much to praise the Lord for. The work has been great in quantity and quality, for which I am very thankful.

In the school there are thirty-six pupils. There are two teachers and seven scholars in the Day School. These children study in class throughout the morning and in the afternoon are taught the various industries. The older ones who have passed out of the Day School are in the Industrial School. In the Industrial School they are occupied in the following ways: rope-making, knitting coir mats, knitting bead bags, making stools, caning chairs and repairing cane work, and making baskets of Banana fibre and of raffia. For the heavier ropes we have one man who is partially blind. He does a good quality of work and is faithful. We need all the rope we can make for our wells, carts, cattle and for various departments of Mukti. Then too, the girls do all their own grinding and washing. Some do their own cooking. They are by no means helpless and are in a measure self-supporting. Training has meant a great difference to them, both for their usefulness and happiness.

The present school building is a vast improvement on the old one: being more airy, the conditions are more favourable to health. A better spirit prevails in both school and compound which makes it easier to control them, and besides the girls are much happier.

I do praise God for all His help, it has meant so much to me in my work. The glory is His alone.

Since writing this report, my number has increased by eight girls who have come to us from another state. Their language is Gujarati and ours is Marathi, so it will be a little difficult for them and for us for a while. A few of our girls know Gujarati so we will get through somehow. I would ask your prayers that these new-comers will soon settle down comfortably and be able to learn the various industries that they may be blessed and be made a blessing here.

Annie Jackson

Needle-work School

During the past year we have had much to praise and thank God for. The health of the girls has been good and they have been able to keep steadily at work. The quality of their work has been excellent as the results of a display of their work at the Girls School Exhibition in Poona indicated. We rejoiced with the girls that they gained one first prize of Rs. 15 for drawn-thread work, one second prize of Rs. 7 for open work and embroidery, and one second prize of Rs. 5 for Richelieu, besides five certificates. The money received has been banked for the girls, so they are now the proud possessors of bank books. The Certificates together with the Diplomas received from the South Sea and New Zealand Exhibition are framed and hung in the Mukti Sales Room.

During the year we have executed orders for work which have been sent to America, Canada, England, Australia, and New Zealand, and a great number of orders for India. We have also worked nine thousand badges for the G. I. P. Railway. Not all the girls
are on full time work. A large number of girls are in school part of the day and work in our room the rest of the day. It is most gratifying to know that the girls of this department are self-supporting.

The matron and helpers have shown a willing and helpful spirit. They have done splendidly. Of course occasional mistakes are found but they have done good work and have carried on faithfully and well, even when through sickness I was unable to be present.

E. P. Browne

Sharada Sadan

It was with considerable decrease in the number of pupils that we started school in June. Many had to be kept away until July on account of chicken-pox. But praise God, ever since then God has kept the teachers and pupils from all serious sickness and the school work has gone steadily on.

Out of the eighteen staff members, only four are men teachers. Our ideal is to have entirely a staff of ladies and as far as possible to have our Sharada Sadan girls. Four of our girls are now taking teachers training at Ahmednagar and we hope to have them back as teachers as soon as they finish their course. Krishnabai Gadre, the Head-mistress is now taking training in Bombay and she hopes to be back and take up her work from June.

The School begins every morning at 9.30 and the first half hour is devoted to prayers and Scripture teaching. We have fifty-three boys coming to school from the villages near-by and most of them are Hindus. Since Scripture is taught, and is compulsory, every boy gets a chance to hear and study the Gospel story. A visitor the other day asked whether we have any conversions. Though the answer had to be in the negative, still we are sure that the seed sown is still there and it will bring forth fruit some time or other. There are quite a few Hindu girls also who come from outside, and neither the girls or boys show any dislike to the study of the Bible; on the other hand they freely join in the singing of the hymns and the repeating of the verses.

Among the Hindu girls who come is a bright young Brahmin widow. Four years ago, when she came for the first time, she was a shy little girl. Even as a child she seemed to have realized what her widowhood meant to her, hence she made up her mind to come to school and see if in any way she could elevate her condition. She has no mother, so every morning before school she has to look after the home and do all the cooking for the family. Still her perseverance is such that in every class she stands at the top and is getting along splendidly. She loves studying and the school seems to be the one bright spot in her life.

Our school goes up to Matriculation class which prepares the students for the College course. Last year we had no Matriculation class but this year there are five in that class. With great pleasure it can be said that they have made good use of their opportunity for they are hard working and ambitious.

The strength of our school at present is 235, and we think it a noble privilege to be used by the Great Workman in moulding the characters of these young lives, for after all, education is secondary, and character comes first. If, with God’s help, we have done something toward the shaping of these precious lives, entrusted to our care, and the uplifting of Indian womanhood, we shall know that the existence of Sharada Sadan is not in vain.

Rebeccabai Ipe
Miss Smith Called to Higher Service

While this Prayer Bell is in press, Mukti has suffered the loss of one of her helpers, Miss Rosa Smith, sister of Mr. H. P. Smith who is President of our Auxiliary Council in Melbourne, Australia. Miss Smith came at the end of 1913 to Mukti having lived in Madras and Calcutta for many years previously. In June 1914 she went to our branch school for High Caste girls at Gulbarga, and laboured there unceasingly until the school changed hands, when she came back to Mukti.

For May's heat Miss Smith went to the hills for a much needed rest, returning Wednesday, June first with some fever. She was up on Thursday and Friday and was cheerful and full of praise all the time. On the afternoon of June fifth, she collapsed about 3 p.m. and about 5 p.m. sweetly fell asleep. On her lips so frequently was "Jesus, Jesus." To one she said, "I hear the trumpet call; I am going in." to another, "I am going in to be with the Lord, He has called me," and again, "Will you write home?" The last words were "underneath are the everlasting arms," and a glad radiance came on her face when those near sang a verse of the hymn with those words. It was only a few moments and sleep came, oh so softly and gently. The hearts of all gathered around went out to the sister, Miss Alice Smith, a missionary at Orai, then at Landour—three days journey away—and the loved family at home.

On Monday kind friends came to Mukti. The girls and women filed past the casket wherein lay one of their "Aunties." Then followed a service conducted by Rev. W. Bruere from Poona. The long procession followed the casket borne by young men from Mr. Norton's Boys' Christian Home at Dhond to its resting place, "until He come" in the same line as our Beloved Ramabai and Miss Bacon. "There will be no dark valley when Jesus comes" and other hymns were sung by a great company gathered there part of the "Hundred-fold" God had given to love her as she had left her family for Jesus' sake. Many of the girls said, "one more of those who loved us and lived for us is with Jesus and we are left here."

J. MacGregor

Prayer and Praise Notes

Praise for the supply of type for the presses.
Praise for the supply of Miss Jackson's passage money.
Pray for much needed repairs on roofs and verandahs.
Pray for a trained nurse and Doctor.
Pray for the deepening of several wells (Rainfall is 5 inches.)
Pray for a real revival in our hearts.

Eunice Wills