THE
Missionary Helper.

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY
BY THE
Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society.

"Freely ye have received, freely give."—Matt. 10, 8.

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My Dear Sisters:

I send you the first number of the Missionary Helper. It comes to you asking to be received into your hearts and used as though all your own. It has been born of a positive conviction that the dear Master whom we serve wants just this work undertaken. Voices from the East and West have said, "We need you," while from over the seas there comes constantly the cry, "Tell the women of the churches that we sit in darkness." The way before me is all untrodden. I stagger beneath the load I have here taken up, but He who gives the burden will also give the strength, and my faith grasps the promise "I am with you always," while it gets a clearer meaning of the command, "Go, teach." Will you not so give aid and comfort to this little one that it may become, nurtured by your prayers, and sympathies, and material aid, a real power in the work to which God has called the women of this denomination? If you shall help it, and God help it, it will succeed. God has especially blessed the world in the gift of the gospel of His Son, one of the grandest missions of which is the elevation of woman.

"Freely ye have received, freely give."

Marilla Marks Brewster.

Providence, R. I., January 1, 1878.
OUR OPPORTUNITIES.

[An event never to be forgotten, and its lesson.]

By Mrs. J. L. Phillips.

It was a fresh, brisk morning. "Dame nature" wore a tender face between a smile and a tear, April's own gift. We were whizzing through Kent County, England. Farms beautiful as fairy lawns enclosed with living green hedges, lay both sides of the track. Bright blue violets were peeping above the soft green grass everywhere. Ten years before we left them by the brook near the dear old home, and here they were on the other side of the Atlantic to welcome us back to civilization, Christianity and home. Oh! what volumes their dear familiar faces spoke! Side by side and entwined with them, their fair little cousins, English primroses were blessing the fields—beautiful symbols of England and America's lives united in blessing the world. Violets and primroses faded in the distance, and Chislehurst with enchanting views and grand palace, home of the Empress Eugenie, flashed upon us. We thought its wonderful beauty might charm even an exile, but little did we know of the penalty royalty was paying in the heart of that lone woman.

A few moments more and we were ushered into one of those perfect old homes of which England is so justly proud. All its inmates "were to the manor born." But one, the aged mother, was fast nearing the home of eternal bliss, only now and then could she stay her mind upon the things of time. As we neared her couch her eye brightened and reason came for a moment, and she said, "You have been gone a long time trying to do good, and are now going home, but there'll be no lack of opportunity."

Her mind wandered again. Our delightful day passed away, but how many times those dying words have come to us, come like a voice from the perfect shore, "No lack of opportunity."

To-day our opportunities as a denomination come to spur us on to a better life. How often men sit idly by the wayside of life waiting for an opportunity. Ours are rushing upon us every-
where. All through the “Black Seas” and Five Points” of our cities reeking humanity, that has gone down “below the lowest round of the ladder,” is stretching out its “leprous hands” to us. Stern necessity is driving some of our purest and loveliest youth to the cities. It’s ours to welcome them to a saving home in the church.

Far out in the west a stream of human life is rolling through the great meadows of the nation, nor will it stay its course till it reaches the eternal shore. What an opportunity to guide it to the haven of eternal peace!

Ever and anon the cry comes for “help to the destitute churches,” and the churchless people. Have we divined its thrilling purport to us? An opportunity is passing by.

Long years we searched for some open door through which we might reach the slave. John Brown’s soul went “marching on” and left the pearly gates wide “ajar.” The Emancipator of our country passed through, and the great bosom upon which the nation rested its weary head was cold in death. The warm life-blood of three hundred thousand of her bravest sons flowed down our streets. We found the open door; slavery passed away.

To-day from the highest banner that flutters over Harper’s Ferry to the windows, door-panels and very bricks of the new college, there is engraved in golden letters, “Our opportunity,”—opportunities forever for the little ones in our Sabbath schools to send living lights from that new college into the darkness of Africa.

These opportunities are all at our own door. Why speak of what every child knows, when far away India glistening and bristling with a hundred fold more is welcoming us to its shores? Indeed, in our greed we have environed no mean portion of it with our denominational lines; hence no other workers can embrace them. But still what faint glimpses at best we get of that distant field. We think of India as a dark, benighted land. It is one of the brightest the sun ever shone upon.

Far up in the eternal snows she is crowned with Mount Everest, the very pinnacle of the world. Lofty mountains mirrored in placid lakes, dotted with loveliest vales, of which Cashmere
stands queen, slide into plains which stretch far away, and the mountains again rise and fall until the Indian Ocean laves her feet at Cape Comorin.

Torrid heat and frigid cold mockingly defy each other in their own barriers, and then hastening down the mountains and over the plains, are lost in one another and form a climate healthful and delightful. Prophetic phenomenon of the glad day when the wild dogmas of men shall be lost in the common creed, "One in Christ."

Himalayan oaks, evergreens, and ferns, born to equatorial vegetation in all its splendor, and the rose and the geranium send back their sweet perfume all the year. Mighty streams cut the shore line affording unlimited means for commerce. Gold and precious stones sleep in her mines. Her exports are in every land. Her diamonds, shawls and fabrics grace the most elegant courts in the world.

Mighty cities are still extant whose ancient kings tossed their own weight in gold to the thoughtless crowd once every year. Oh! for time to glance at some of the magnificent structures in these cities, especially the Yajmohal sleeping in its dreamy beauty, most wonderful shrine in the world.

One glimpse more from Everest to Comorin and the heart cries out, "If on earth there is Paradise, it is this, it is this." But alas, it is Paradise lost! For the one, true, triune God is forgotten there.

But it is ours to reinstate man in all his original majesty; to lift down-trodden woman into her primeval purity and loveliness. In short to build a spiritual kingdom that shall be in perfect keeping with the natural one God has so lavishly adorned and so wonderfully varied.

The saddest loss man ever knew is a "lost opportunity."

The last summer breezes have died away, and with them many a golden opportunity. Oh! let not the cold winds of winter, pierce our hearts with the dismal wail, "It might have been."
Swiftly, almost like a dream, have the months flown by, and before we are aware another anniversary is upon us. Much during those months should have been accomplished, something has been done. Although we cannot speak of great results achieved, or of large accessions to our numbers, yet the cause is surely gaining ground. It is beginning to be understood that the Woman's Missionary Society is not a mere ephemeral thing, holding a precarious existence of a few years, then suddenly disappearing, but a fixed fact, a power that shall be more and more felt.

Christian women are learning that there is something for them to do outside of the home circle; they are learning somewhat of the deep significance of their baptismal vows; that it is not enough to keep themselves unspotted from the world, but equally their duty to lend a helping hand to those perishing for lack of the bread of life.

The marriage and consequent severance from the mission of Miss Libby, though a great disappointment and sensibly felt by the Society, has by no means paralyzed its work. Though no longer laboring under the auspices of the Woman's Society, yet we doubt not in her present sphere she will accomplish much for the needy ones by whom she is surrounded. All who have any acquaintance with her can corroborate the remark of one of the missionaries, "She is not one to hide her light under a bushel."

Thus we desire to recognize the hand of God in leading us hitherto, and gratefully acknowledge amid some perplexities and
sources of discouragement, the many cheering things over which to rejoice. And one of these which seems particularly worthy to be mentioned, is the signal answer to prayer.

One year ago the Society was anxiously looking for some suitable person to send to the foreign field. Correspondence was entered into with different individuals, earnest appeals were made, but all efforts seemed fruitless. At a session of the Society held in connection with the New Hampshire Yearly Meeting, the burden of prayer was that God would supply this urgent need.

Miss Ida O. Phillips, daughter of the veteran missionary, and a recent graduate of Hillsdale College, has been accepted by the Society, and purposes to sail for India the present season. It is a matter for congratulation and deep thankfulness, that one coming to us with such strong testimonials for scholarship and devoted piety, coupled with earnest missionary zeal, is to bear our banner to the needy ones of her own olden home. Understanding as she does, the language of those she goes to teach, she stands on high vantage ground, as she can enter at once upon her work. Three other ladies are in correspondence with the Corresponding Secretary, who are earnestly desiring to give themselves to the work of Foreign Missions; and it has been strongly hoped that one, at least, of these, might be sent in company with Miss Phillips. But to accomplish this purpose more means must be procured.

At a meeting of the Managers held a few months since, the matter was seriously considered, and a plan devised to interest the children of our Sabbath schools in the raising of funds for the support of a lady, to be called the Children's Missionary. This plan seems to be a feasible one. Could the children be made to feel that the responsibility of the support of a missionary devolved upon them, doubtless their interest would be increased. But to inaugurate a plan like this, and carry it out, requires work, sturdy work. Some one in each Sabbath school must go ahead in the matter, and persevere till the object is accomplished.

God bless the children! how easily are their hearts moved.
Corresponding Secretary's Report.

Only educate them aright and the Christians of the future like those of Christ's early church, will be benevolent Christians; and money will flow into the Lord's treasury, not in stinted supplies grudgingly bestowed, but in full, copious streams, enriching the heart of the receiver not only, but of the giver as well.

Perhaps there never was a time when the wants of our mission called so imperatively for help as the present. Mrs. Smith, who, rising from the depths of her great sorrow, has, though with feeble health, so long and bravely sought to continue the work death obliged her husband to relinquish, is now in this country seeking to recruit her exhausted energies.

Thus, there is at the present time among us, five missionaries, leaving but eight to carry on a work so immense. And the most of these eight are already weary and worn, wearing-themselves out by overwork and anxiety. Is it a marvel that these toilers, looking at the vast work before them, seeing so many open doors into which they would gladly enter, constantly hearing the cry for help from perishing ones around them, do we wonder that these, struggling day after day with ever decreasing strength, sometimes feel that they are left alone, with none to care, none to help! It must seem passing strange to them that the American churches are so dilatory, that the means for carrying out so noble a work come so slowly. Truly, it is passing strange! Were the Saviour we profess to love now upon the earth, were He to visit our homes, to sit at our tables, witness the comforts, even luxuries by which we are surrounded, and then see the mites doled out for His cause, would He not turn away with a saddened heart and doubt the genuineness of a love marked by so little of sacrifice?

One, whose ten years' sojourn among India's benighted children, has taught her the untold importance of the Woman's work, writes: "We must do a great deal more as a Society this year; these home women must be aroused. They can send four as well as one missionary this fall." Truly they could send four; ay! many more than four might be sent, did each Christian woman do what she could. Forty thousand Christian women!

What a vast power for good might they not be! Did they only
realize what Christianity has done for them as women; did they only feel that the proud eminence on which they stand is due to the self-denying labors of others, how eagerly would they hasten to pay the debt of gratitude resting upon them, by seeking to elevate their less favored sisters; by striving to break the chains by which for centuries those sisters have been bound.

It is possible there may be some in our churches who cannot consistently give for this cause even the trifling pittance of two cents a week; but their number must be very small. But what shall be said of whole churches refusing to co-operate in this work? Can they be Christian churches? Surely they are not like Christ. His purposes are not their purposes, his spirit, their spirit, or his kingdom their kingdom. A religion that seeks to save only one's self, and those in its immediate vicinity; a religion that does not expand the heart so that it embraces the whole world is not the religion of Christ. Says one: "A church that neglects missions is death-struck. The piety that has no sympathy with missions is paralyzed. One fails to give the least evidence of love to Christ, who turns away from the cause with cold indifference."

The appropriations made at our last anniversary for the support of some twenty Zenana teachers, and also for the salary of Miss Brackett, and the aid of a large number of girls in the Harper's Ferry School, were very gratefully received. Instead of decreasing the amount bestowed for these causes, it is very desirable that it should be increased. The school at Harper's Ferry should enlist the active sympathies of every woman. It is doing a work the importance of which eternity alone can reveal. And the encouragements to labor for those of our own sex on India's sultry strand were never so great as now. The doors into those secluded Zenanas, formerly so closely barred, are being thrown wide open, and the appeal comes over the waters, "Christian women, come and help us." Shall that appeal be answered? Remember, this is woman's work; and what more glorious mission could she desire. Hers are the capabilities for the execution of this work; on her shall rest the responsibility. Is there one who can afford to have nothing
Home Secretary's Report.

to do with an enterprise of such magnitude and moral grandeur? Let us buckle on anew our armor; let us with increased zeal press forward in this cause for which a Saviour shed his blood, and the good and great through all the centuries have joyfully laid down their lives.

The day is waning! The sands of life are dropping fast. What is done must be quickly done. Christian women, will you not arise to the possession of your glorious inheritance?

Mrs. J. A. Lowell.

PARTIAL REPORT *

OF THE

HOME SECRETARY,

Read at Fairport, N. Y., Oct. 6, 1877.

This Society is in the spring-time of its existence. Laborers are needed who will scatter the truth by all waters, not knowing what will prosper, only assured that the One who assigns the work will give an abundant harvest. For this reason, the following reports of the District Secretaries, who have the oversight of the work in their respective yearly meetings, are a record of work done more than of a harvest gathered in.

Glimpses of Home Work.

Mrs. E. N. Fernald, District Secretary of the Maine Central Yearly Meeting, writes: "The work of the Woman's Mission Society among us the past year, though not so successful as we could wish, has still been such as greatly to encourage us. The Christian spirit that first caught the meaning of that all inclusive

*The remainder of this report embraces a discussion of the Necessity of Women's Societies, and will be presented in a future number.
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command of our Saviour, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," is spreading, and wherever the cause is presented by an earnest, loving spirit, quick responses of sympathy and help appear.

We have not yet succeeded in communicating with all the churches of this district, and our report must necessarily be a partial one. In the Bowdoin Q. M. we have nine auxiliaries, located in Auburn, Augusta, Gardiner, Hallowell, Lisbon Second church, the Main Street, and Pine Street churches, in Lewiston; Parker's Head and West Waterville, and have encouraging prospects of the formation of, at least, two others. There are also two Mission Bands for young people and children respectively, both connected with the Main Street church, Lewiston. These societies have already formed a bond of Christian love and sympathy, which our occasional reunions have served to strengthen and increase.

Mrs. E. D. Wade, District Secretary of the Penobscot Y. M., who, on account of sickness, was not able to make a full report, writes: "I think the interest in the cause is increasing among us. We have raised more money this year than I feared we might these hard times. That the interest may still increase is my prayer."

Miss A. Hasty, District Secretary of the Maine Western Y. M., says: "I can report eight auxiliary societies. They are located at Portland, North Berwick, West Buxton, Biddeford, Lim- erick, North Parsonsfield, South Parsonsfield and East Otisfield. I know of no children's Bands in this Y. M. We use the weekly offering cards in Limerick, and the children have contributed very generously. At the last session of the Parsonsfield Q. M., a few ladies requested and obtained half an hour to devote to the Woman's Mission cause, and in that short time they awakened an interest that is still felt. The prospect in this Y. M. is very encouraging. I pray that it may acquit itself so well in the future that it may fully merit the hearty "well done."

Mrs. F. S. Mosher, Dis. Sec. of the N. H. Y. M., writes: "During these hard times when there is retrenchment in almost every branch of expenditure, we are glad to say that the women
Home Secretary's Report.

of New Hampshire have done nearly as much for missions the past year as previously.

There has been a correspondence to secure assistant secretaries in the different Quarterly Meetings in the State. A few women have accepted the place, others have felt obliged to decline, and from some we have never heard.

In connection with the Yearly Meeting at Whitefield, we had a mission meeting. Miss Phillips made remarks. The meeting was well attended and considerable money was raised. At several Quarterly Meetings, there have been women's mission prayer meetings, which were very interesting and profitable. Miss French, the returned missionary, held a few meetings in the northern part of the State and formed two new societies.

The children of the Try Class have done more this year than they did last year. We think this one of the most hopeful facts, for if the children become interested the cause is certainly safe. It has seemed, as we have looked the matter over, that our greatest need is trust in God. If, to our most faithful efforts, we add our earnest prayers for wisdom and assistance, we believe that our Society will yet accomplish much in mission labors.”

Mrs. F. P. Eaton, District Secretary of the Vt. Y. M., says: “Considerable progress has been made in the Woman's Mission cause the past year. At our Y. M., one year ago, a mission meeting was held, which has done much in advancing our interests. I there appointed assistant secretaries for each Q. M. Mrs. C. W. Griffin, as assistant in Strafford Q. M., entered upon her work with energy, and reports an old auxiliary at Tunbridge and one new one at East Randolph, and another at South Strafford.

In the Corinth Q. M., there is an increasing interest. An auxiliary society at East Orange, is small but earnest; one at East Williamstown is well sustained, and another at West Topsham was organized one year since. Corinth Second church has an earnest working society. We pay quarterly and have a mission meeting as often. Mrs. Prescott, assistant secretary for Wheelock Q. M., has laid the cause before the churches, and is
hopeful that much may yet be done when the subject is well understood. Some of the churches are already at work. The assistants in the Huntington and Enosburg Q. M's. will do what they can. The women can do much, and the more we do for the mission cause the sooner will the gospel be preached to all the world.”

Mrs. M. M. Brewster, District Secretary for Rhode Island Association, writes: “There is ground for encouragement in the condition of the interest in this department of Christian effort in our various churches. It is not possible to measure this interest by the amount contributed to the treasury. There is seed lying in mellow soil which is yet to come to fruitage.

There are existing in our little state, seven auxiliaries, located in Pascoag, Pawtucket, Olneyville, Greenville and in the Roger Williams, Greenwich Street and Park Street churches, Providence, and seven mission bands located in the same places, with a membership of some four hundred. In three or four other churches there are contributors. We would not fail to make noble mention of the ladies in the Georgiaville and Pascoag churches, who have pledged themselves to the raising of one hundred dollars each toward the outfit of a new missionary, through the influence of Miss Phillips. All the bands are worthy of commendation. Some of the members have been brought to the Saviour. This department has in it many beams of promise, and commends itself to our most earnest and careful support. A few boxes of clothing have been sent to Harper’s Ferry, and a little money direct as a special offering.

Our annual meeting was held in May, with that of the Rhode Island Association, and in some respects was encouraging.

Grateful for the blessings of the past, we pledge ourselves to greater fidelity the coming year, trusting all things to the wisdom and guidance of Him who was our sacrifice and example.”

Mrs. I. Z. Haning, District Secretary of the Ohio River Y. M., though not able to advance this cause as she has wished, says: “Let me assure you we shall keep at work, and hope that soon results will be worth sending you.”

Mrs. J. B. Lash, District Secretary of the Ohio Central Y. M.,
writes: "The sisters in this Y. M. are being aroused to do more than ever before in the cause of missions.

An auxiliary society was organized in the Harmony Q. M. several weeks since. It has about twenty-five members. The Marion Q. M. has collected some money and will organize a society soon. In the Richland & Licking Q. M., also in the Seneca & Huron Q. M., societies are at work with energy, and the last named has fifty-nine members."

Miss A. Record, District Secretary of the Illinois Yearly Meeting, writes: "All that has been done has been confined to the Prairie City Quarterly Meeting. We have a small auxiliary at Prairie City, with seventeen reliable members, which is doing well considering the low state of the church, which is without a pastor.

At the one session of the Quarterly Meeting, which it was my privilege to attend, twenty dollars were raised for the support of a native Zenana teacher, and nine dollars have been raised by the auxiliary. This effort has done us good, but it seems as though we ought to have done more."

Mrs. Ada Kennan, District Secretary of the Wisconsin Yearly Meeting, says: "At our Yearly Meeting held in June, some of us, who have thought of and prayed over this work, called a meeting of the sisters present and organized ourselves into a society auxiliary to the Woman's Mission Society. We pledged ourselves to work in our several churches to awaken an interest and collect funds. We appointed Quarterly Meeting treasurers throughout the State. How the most are doing I am not informed, but can give you one or two items of interest.

At the Rock & Dane Quarterly Meeting, held with the Oakland church, we had a very enthusiastic mission meeting Sabbath afternoon. The ladies of that church resolved to organize a society at once. Mrs. Mitchell, of Winnebago, is the Treasurer for this Quarterly Meeting. She is at present circulating cards, and has pressed into the work some very active young ladies in the churches. At the Wrightstown church, in this Quarterly Meeting, I had the privilege of addressing the ladies upon this subject, and organized a society which promises something for the future. There has been for the past three
years a Woman's Society in the Johnston church of the Rock & Dane Quarterly Meeting.

You will perceive from the above that we are still in our infancy in this State, but we hope to grow and do more and better another year."

In addition to the societies reported by the District Secretaries, are the following: Washington Street and Charles Street churches, in Dover, Sandwich, Danville, Farmington, Candia Village, Manchester, Bristol, New Market, Madison and Belmont, all in the State of New Hampshire; in West New Portland, Maine; in Haverhill and Lowell, Massachusetts; in Henrietta, Ohio; in Iowa Northern Yearly Meeting, and in Minneapolis, Minnesota; also, bands of children and youth in Dover and New Hampton, New Hampshire; in Potter, New York, and in Winneconne, Wisconsin.

HOPEFUL ASPECTS.

At the last General Conference of this denomination the second anniversary of the Free Baptist Woman’s Missionary Society was held. Then we had no reports from District Secretaries; the work of forming auxiliary societies had just commenced, and the children scarcely knew that they could have a part in this work. Now, through the reports of the ten District Secretaries, and through other sources, we learn that fifty-four auxiliary societies are in active operation, and thirteen children’s bands are forwarding their loving offerings to the treasury. Then, the Treasurer’s report showed receipts to be six hundred and sixty-two dollars and ninety-two cents, now they are seventeen hundred and ninety-three dollars and eighty-one cents.

These results are especially hopeful, because each year has shown a steady increase in receipts and a continually deepening interest in the work.

Grateful acknowledgements should be made to the One who has guided us, for the rich blessings that have rested on the work of our hands.

LAURA A. DEMERITTE.
DR. DUFF, the veteran Scotch missionary of Calcutta, truly said, that the very goal and acme of misery to women in India is widowhood. Whatever may be her age, there is no pity, no compassion, no sympathy for a Hindoowidow. She is regarded and treated as accursed by the gods, who are punishing her for some guilt contracted in a former birth, and he who helps to increase her sufferings is doing a meritorious work. As soon as the husband dies, the widow, though she be but a child of seven years, is divested of all her ornaments,—a dreadful thing to a Hindoowoman,—her hair is shorn, and she is forbidden to wear anything but the coarsest cloth. She must not marry again. She must not lie on a bed, must never have more than one meal a day, and henceforth must be the menial servant of the family. The number of widows is very large. Dr Duff estimates it among the millions, many becoming such while children.

The following extract from a letter of Mrs. J. Phillips of the Orissa Free Baptist Mission, gives a faint illustration of their sad condition:

"When encamped at Baliapal, I went out one morning to find some one who was anxious or even willing to hear of Christ. I was soon called to a house where a number of women were gathered. All seemed delighted to see me, and all ears were opened. But before Christ could be introduced, the list of questions that we meet everywhere had to be disposed of. Just then a very bright, active and pretty little girl of about eight years, entered and seated herself close to one of the women who caressingly put her arms around her. I made some inquiries about the child, when at once, the mother's face became very sad as she said: 'My child's fate is very hard, for she has already been a widow several years.' I replied that young Hindoowidows of some castes are again married, and as such are chosen by those who are to become their husbands, and not by his friends, they are often much happier than in their first marriage. 'Yes, I know that this is permitted among the people of some castes, but no such thing is allowed among us. The rules in our caste are so very strict that we cannot in any honorable way become connected with any man, but must remain widows for life. We are allowed to become concubines or turn to a life of shame, but we cannot marry. Indeed we should be treated with more respect as public women,
than we should be if married.' Then looking at her child, she said mournfully: 'It is her fate and she must bear it as best she can—what else can be done?'

"As I listened, I thought of the infinite difference between the glorious religion of the blessed Saviour and this cruel system of Hindoism, which for untold ages, has kept its iron heel upon these poor, defenceless women, till almost the last spark of womanhood is crushed out of them. But, thank the Lord, the day of their deliverance is surely coming. I then told them of our own happy land, where mothers and daughters are loved, respected and honored, and that it is just as proper, in Christian countries, for widows to marry as it is for widowers. They thought this was a very nice custom and wished it could be so among them. I then sang to them, read a little from the Testament, and told them of Christ, the Son of God, who had come in to the world and given his life to save sinners; and that obeying him had made all the difference between them and the people of my own country. How I wish that the women of America could realize that the Bible, and only that, has made the vast difference between them and their down-trodden sisters of this heathen land. Surely they would then do more to spread a knowledge of this blessed book among these deeply wronged women, despoiled of their dearest rights."

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**The Girls' Boarding Hall,**

At Harper's Ferry, West Virginia.

By Miss L. E. Brackett.

There are so many demands upon the generosity of the benevolent that the wonder is that so many wants are supplied, and so much actual good accomplished yearly. For does not each year measure progress? What twelve months goes by that does not witness the erection of numberless costly structures, whose walls stand as a proof of the reality of religion, whose aim is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and preach the gospel to the poor. Another thing not always considered in estimating the progress of mission work is that the larger part of the burden is borne by the few. Think over the list of your Christian acquaintances even, and count and see how many there are to whom you would go for aid in a benevolent enterprise, with a reasonable hope of eliciting either a cheerful response or an
honest sympathy. And, if next month you chance to want help in another matter, would you not find yourself again turning to the same few? In this work there is little rotation of either office or responsibility. Again, the work is not done by the rich alone. There are many instances of wealthy men and women who have dispensed their charities in a manner proportionate to their means; yet quite as often the needy ones of earth are cared for by the self-denial of the poor. Go through the rooms of the Orphan Asylums in our land. You will find there costly gifts from the man of wealth; but look at the common things that make the place comfortable and home-like. Look at the quilts that were pieced by the tired hands of the willing but over-worked mothers.

When a few years ago it was found that Storer College had outgrown its early accommodations and ought to have a Girls' Hall, we thought the funds would speedily be raised. The need was so apparent, the world so large, that surely some one must be waiting to do just that work for the Master. Some one must be longing for the thrill of joy that ever accompanies a generous deed. A few liberal donations in the beginning confirmed us in this belief, and with promises of still more, we confidently laid the foundation. But the stilling of the throbs of a great heart one Christmas morning, brought death to many a philanthropic scheme.

Then there were months of waiting, with a growing demand to face, a fainting hope to cherish, and the foundation ever before our eyes. How forlorn is the aspect of an unfinished deserted building!—A ruin robbed of all sentiment, all picturesqueness! Last spring a friend suggested the idea of presenting our cause to the Sunday school scholars, and if possible to enlist their services in selling bricks, doors, windows, etc.

The plan has been, as yet, neither a failure nor a success? With a horror of debt, it is decided not to go on with the work until enough has been contributed to enclose the building.

Wherever the matter has been presented the response has been encouraging. About six hundred dollars have been contributed, which sum the Centennial Jubilee Singers have increased to twelve hundred. This money is to be invested till enough is raised to complete the building.

"Despise not the day of small things." Ten cents will buy a brick, three dollars a door or a window.
Other items are:
Plastering one room ......................................................... $5.00.
Slating one square ............................................................. 10.00.
Flooring one room ............................................................ 12.00.
Finishing one room ........................................................... 25.00.

Each donor receives a card certifying that he is the possessor of an amount of stock in the Girls' Boarding Hall, proportionate to the size of the contribution. The completion of the building is in the hands of the friends of the school.

Ever since the shackles fell from the limbs of the bondman, his course has been steadily onward and upward, along a way beset by snares and pitfalls at every step. A fearful legacy was the four millions of dependent, helpless slaves left us by our fathers.

From these it is possible to make four millions of self-supporting intelligent citizens. Is it not economy and safety to do it at any price? For “There is that scattereth and yet increaseth; there is that withholdeth more than is meet which tendeth to poverty.”

---

HOME TOUR OF A MISSIONARY WORKER.

BY MISS S. L. CILLEY.

One bright afternoon toward the end of August last, I left my home in Western Michigan, to attend the meeting of the Central Association held at Pike, New York. I remained within the limits of the Association working for missions till November 1st, when receiving word that my sick mother was worse, I hastened home to remain with her so long as it should be a sad yet precious duty.

'Twould be impossible in a short letter to tell of the thirty-seven meetings held, or to speak of individual persons or places. From all we present these thoughts. Our good Free Baptist people are interested in missions. I know it by the money they gave, by the crowded houses, the falling tears, and the “God bless you’s,” showered upon me everywhere. They beg for more and more about India. May your magazine give them more and more,
Many of our churches lack system in giving. A few had a system of pledges weekly, monthly or quarterly, though but one church was using the cards so admirably adapted to their needs. I helped the pastors to introduce these in most churches visited.

The pastors were so kind they took the "hard" out of my work. But one fact puzzled me. They were sometimes more generous than their churches. Could I know whether or not the pastor is the only man in the church who takes our denominational papers; could I know how often he tells his people of our denominational needs and successes; could I know what and how he teaches them, the mystery might perhaps be solved.

One can never tell where to go in the work of raising money. I well remember my bitter disappointment in visiting one influential church where I received twenty-five cents and that privately given, and, also, my glad joy after talking in a country place one week day evening where there was given and pledged one hundred and thirty-one dollars. More depends upon the circumstances, the people themselves, and the training they have received than upon the amount of money in their pockets. Mission Societies are not of necessity short-lived. I found some alive and well that had survived for years. Long may they live.

There are many warm friends of our Harper's Ferry College in the churches visited, and many are working well for Home Missions. In my work of introducing the cards, many pledges were secured for the Home Mission and Education Societies, as well as for the Foreign Mission and Bible School in India. I was, as never before, impressed with the fact that the three interests are one.

A missionary is needed almost as much within the Association as elsewhere in the denomination. Let his work be to move the Free Baptist Churches that are "just out of town," just into the towns and villages, and future generations shall cherish his memory. Our New York churches many of them, have pastors who are young, earnest, strong men. What can they not do for God and the world, especially if they believe that the world extends beyond their own parish, and act accordingly. The Pennsylvania churches visited are in sad need of young ministers. The good fathers are passing away. Who shall take their places?

On the whole those ten weeks shall remain among the most satisfactory weeks I have spent. Earnest, generous men and women we met.
God bless them! Bright, wide-awake children, whose pennies were cheerfully given,—God keep them lovingly near to Him. Dear old fathers and mothers in the churches, now almost and soon to be with God! Rich is their future inheritance, richer if they leave their earthly gains to His work.

Notes and Gleanings.

Among the names suggested for this magazine have been Missionary Echo, and Missionary Helper. The former is perhaps the more poetical, the latter stronger and more suggestive of the design of the work. The latter was therefore chosen.

The Helper will aim to diffuse missionary intelligence both home and foreign, and hopes occasionally to give some knowledge of the work of the parent-societies. Considering the number of subjects and the importance of the work, it may be that our pages are all too few.

It has been our hope to make this a specimen number. The object, however, has been only partially realized. The length of some of the articles which must appear in this issue has precluded the variety which may be expected in future numbers. We are sure much valuable information will be gained from the reports of our secretaries, and we trust that in many churches auxiliary societies will spring up at once. We hope to present soon a paper on the formation of auxiliaries.

Dr. Phillips, who is an indefatigable worker, writes, "Will you please say in your new magazine that our India Bible School is for women as well as men? A part of its work will be to raise up Zerana teachers, therefore we wish the good F. B. women to help it. Success to the Magazine. God make it a blessing to America as well as India."

Miss Julia E. Phillips is spending the winter months among the churches in New England, lecturing, forming auxiliary societies, interesting the children, and doing most effective work in arousing from indifference to activity. Her warm, earnest, loving words, born of a devotion to the needs of those she left in India, should be heeded and cherished. We are sure you will welcome her, as she comes among you, to a large place in your prayers and hearts.

We were so glad to meet Mrs. B. B. Smith a few weeks ago, and look in her face again. She has been an inspiration to us as she has gone bravely forward with that which God has set her to do, and now we are impressed more strongly than ever before, that she is favored who will listen to the call of God to bear the glad tidings of salvation to heathen lands. Will not some one in this glad New Year of 1878 give herself willingly to serve the Master in this glorious work?

Miss Ida Phillips, who left us for India in October last, we learn sailed in the S. S. India, of the Anchor Line, from Liverpool on the 10th of November, and at last accounts had reached Port Said, Egypt. We expect to have some notes from her journal for our next issue.

The Jubilee Singers are making a tour of the New England States, and are being received with favor. The character of their singing is constantly improving.
The Meeting at Fairport.

"Thank God for the Magazine!" says Miss Cilley, as she watches by the bedside of her suffering mother.

Annual Meeting.

The Fourth Annual Meeting of this Society was held in connection with the Triennial Conference in October last, at Fairport, New York. It was an occasion of unusual interest. There came together representatives of Christian work from all points of the denomination, and it was found that as heart came in contact with heart, the pulsations were quickened and a new impulse received for future action. The business meetings were frequent and characterized by a spirit of inquiry as to how more effective work can be done for the Master in this department of Christian labor.

The prayers asked for a more perfect consecration, the discussions were warm and earnest, and the plans laid, it is to be hoped, will ripen into effective results. One thing which especially occupied attention, was the best method of spreading a knowledge of our work, and the bringing into service the latent forces and unoccupied talent.

The marked feature of the gathering was the public anniversary of the Society held in the Congregational Church on Saturday evening, when an overflowing house greeted us. Mrs. E. W. Page, one of the Vice-Presidents, most admirably conducted the exercises, which were opened with prayer by Dr. Phillips. The reports of the Secretaries were read, and then came the full enjoyment of the occasion. There were with us three of our dear missionaries who are resting, nay, working in their native land, waiting the day that allows them to return.

Miss Phillips described the district work and showed the native dress. She spoke stirring words to the Christian women of their duty in this work which is ours because it is Christ's work.

Mrs. J. L. Phillips graphically described the dark homes of India, contrasting them with our own bright, happy ones. She spoke of the miserable child-life there; of the openings to Zenana work, and of the many dark things that appealed to her to plead the cause of those who look to us for light and life.

Miss Cilley caused us all to feel that the missionaries are conscious of blessings through the prayers of those at home, and that we had no right to withhold them.

It has been kindly said that this was the most marked meeting of the Conference. The brethren gave us many proofs of their interest in our undertakings, and encouraged us to go forward. "Onward with quickened steps" should be our motto for the coming year.
Children's Niche.

A MITE SONG.

Only a drop in the bucket,
  But every drop will tell;
The bucket would soon be empty,
  Without the drops in the well.

Only a poor little penny,
  It was all I had to give;
But as pennies make the dollars,
  It may help some cause to live.

A few little bits of ribbon
  And some toys; they were not new,
But they made the sick child happy,
  Which has made me happy, too.

Only some outgrown garments;
  They were all I had to spare;
But they'll help to clothe the needy,
  And the poor are everywhere.

A word, now and then, of comfort,
  That costs me nothing to say;
But the poor old man died happy;
  And it helped him on the way.

God loveth the cheerful giver,
  Though the gift be poor and small;
What doth he think of his children
  When they never give at all.

—Selected.

WORK FOR THE CHILDREN.

You see I take it for granted that you are ready, my young friends, for any good work. You have doubtless heard a great many times about how very ignorant the people are in India, especially the women and children. Millions of them know nothing of the Bible, but pray to idols they themselves make of brass and stone, instead of to Christ, and do not even know how to read a single letter. The good people in this country have sent very many men and women, who are trying to teach them better things, but a few cannot do all that is needed. The ladies in our churches are doing much in supporting teachers in India, and now they wish you to join them in this work.

Last October they sent to India, Miss Ida O. Phillips, youngest daughter of Rev. J. Phillips, who is to teach among the women and children. What they wish you to do is to support her, calling her the Young People's Missionary.

Her salary of four hundred dollars, is divided into shares of five dollars each. They would like you to form Mission Bands in your Sabbath Schools, and take one or more shares.
Every member of the Band will be expected to pay something into its treasury. The rule usually adopted is one cent a week. This money can be sent once in three or six months to Miss L. A. DeMeritte, Dover, New Hampshire, who is Treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Society, and she will send it to India. Miss Ida will be your own missionary, and you can write to her. She will answer you directly or through the "Little Star" and "Myrtle," and the Helper. How do you like the plan?

Quite a number of shares have already been taken, five each by the Bands in Olneyville and Pascoag, R. I., one each in Dover and Milo, Maine, and so on. If you wish to have a share you had better speak for one at once by writing to Mrs. J. M. Brewster, Providence, R. I., or they may all be gone. In order that this missionary may be wholly your own, I hope you will earn every penny you pay. Let me tell you what some girls and boys have done to get their mission money. One boy sold Mayflowers, another saved and sold all the rusty nails and old iron he could find, as well as rags and paper. Still another had a hen, which he called his "missionary hen." All the money he received from the sale of her eggs he saved for the Band.

The other day I heard of some Sabbath school children in Ohio who planted each a hill of potatoes, or several hills of corn. This last Fall they sold enough from this Sunday school garden to raise fifteen dollars, half of which is to go to India, and the remainder to the Home Mission. I need not, however, suggest anything more, for your busy brains have already invented a host of ways for earning your penny a week. By no means ask your mother for them, if you can possibly help it.

How you are to organize these Bands, and what you are to do to make them interesting we shall tell you very soon. Now prepare for work. Who will be the first to take a share?

Miss J. E. Phillips.

LEARNING TO WRITE IN INDIA.

In India, when a pupil can write well with his finger in sand, he is provided with a stylus and leaves of the Aristolochia Indica, or with a gypsum pencil and palaka—a little black-board serving as a slate. Each day the students copy the morrow's lessons on their palaka, which is carried home, and contents "learnt by heart." When delivering the lessons the boys go one
by one to the teacher, hold the slate with the back to their faces, and thus refresh their master's memory and prove their own. A Madras school spares its pupils the drudgery that custom has made necessary in all English schools, where weeks of weary labor are spent on unmeaning strokes, pot-hooks and hangers. The Indian child's first lesson is a complete letter, and he makes real progress thenceforward.

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**TREASURER'S REPORT.**

Cash on hand, September 30, 1876 ........................................ $1,177 58
Contributions from Oct. 1, 1876, to Oct 1, 1877 ..................... $1,793 81
Interest on money loaned .................................................. 4 22
Refunded from Miss Libby's outfit .................................... 200 00
Overplus in India per statement of Mr. Hogbin ..................... 168 00 2,166 03

Total to account for .................................................. $3,343 61

**DISBURSEMENTS.**

Appropriation to Mrs. O. R. Bachelor ............................... $160 00
" " Mrs. D. F. Smith ................................................. 200 00
" " Miss Crawford ................................................... 188 00
" " the South, paid Rev. A. H. Morrill ........................... 180 00
Miss L. Brackett's salary as teacher at Storer College, Harper's Ferry, W. Va ................................................... 322 00
Miss Mary Bachelor's salary as Zenana teacher ................... 150 00
Part outfit of Miss Ida O. Phillips ................................ 100 00
Premiums on remittances to India ................................... 52 82
Printing reports and postage on same ................................ 81 06
Stationery and stamps ................................................... 5 27

Total disbursements .................................................. 1,439 15
Cash on hand, September 30, 1877 ......................................... 1,904 46

Total accounted for as above ........................................ $3,343 61

Of the balance in the treasury ....................................... $1,904 46
Notes at interest and in Savings Bank ............................... $1,200 00
" loaned without interest to For. Mis. Society ................... 200 00
Overplus in India per statement Mr. Hogbin ....................... 168 00 336 46
Cash on hand .............................................................

LAURA A. DEMERITTE,
Treasurer.

I hereby certify that I have examined the foregoing account and find it correctly cast and properly vouched.

MRS. E. B. CHAMBERLIN,
Auditor.
**Contributions.**

**CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE**

**Free Baptist Women’s Missionary Society,**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1877.**

### MAINE

- **Abbott,** collected by Mrs. S. Warren, $2.00
- **Acton,** E. Fox, $1.00
- **Auburn,** Auxiliary, Court St. Ch., $47.47
- **Augusta,**
  - Mrs. Wm. Coombs, $2.00
- **Bangor,** F. B. Church, $50.00
- **Blaine,** F. B. Church, $1.40
- **Burnham,**
  - Mrs. G. W. Tasker, $1.00
  - Mrs. S. Seavy, $1.00
- **Dexter,** F. B. Church, $50.00
- **Dover,** Mrs. A. Page, Mrs. J. Syford, Mrs. H. Hart, $1.00 each, $3.00
- **Dover,** collected by Mrs. Hart, $1.32
- **East Corinth,** collected by Mrs. F. A. C. Clark, $6.50
- **East Otisfield,** Auxiliary, $8.00
- **Ft. Fairfield,** F. B. Church, $5.00
- **Foxcroft,** collected by Mrs. A. Hammond, $1.43
- **Gardiner,** Auxiliary, $9.45
- **Hallowell,** Mrs. C. B. Peckham, $1.00
- **Kenduskeag,** Mrs. J. Banks, $1.00
- **Lebanon,** Miss L. L. White, $1.00
- **Lewiston,** Auxiliary, Main St. Ch.
  - Class No. 13, $8.50
  - "Little Seed Sowers," $11.50
- **Maine Western Y. M.,** collected by Miss Phillips, $13.86
- **Milo,** F. B. Church, $1.38
- **North Berwick,** F. B. Church, $15.00
- **Parkan,** Mrs. M. Cummings, $6.00
- **Plymouth,** Mrs. A. S. Abbott, $2.00
- **Mrs. E. Whitcomb,** $1.00
- **Portland,** Auxiliary, Casco St. Ch., $47.00
  - Mrs. R. Deering, $20.00
  - Class No. 7, Casco St. Ch., $7.50
  - Mrs. Lewis, $20.00
- **Presque Isle,** F. B. Church, $5.00
- **Sangerville,** First F. B. Church, $1.70
- **South Dover,** collected by B. F. Hussey, $20.00
- **South Parsonsfield,** Mrs. H. F. Lampré, $1.00
- **So. Parsonsfield,** proceeds of Miss Fair, $40.00
- **Topsham,** F. B. Church, $3.00
- **West Buxton,** Auxiliary, $9.00
- **West New Portland,** Auxiliary, $20.00

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

- **Ashland,** Mrs. G. D. Vittum to constitute herself L. M., $20.00
- **Ashland,** Mrs. J. T. Ward to constitute herself L. M., $20.00
- **Bristol,** Auxiliary, $20.00
- **Candia Village,** Auxiliary, $25.00
- **Chester,** Lavinia Hook, $5.00
- **Danville,** Auxiliary, $42.00
- **Dover,** Auxiliary Washington St. Church, $57.75
- **Dover,** Young People’s Society, Washington St. Church, $20.00
- **Dover,** Auxiliary, Charles St. Ch., $8.26
- **Effingham,** Mrs. J. L. Meloon, $1.00
- **Farmington,** Auxiliary, $20.00
- **Fisherville,** Miss Betsy Elliott, $75.00
- **Gilford Village,** Mrs. K. J. Rich, $5.00
- **Great Falls,** F. B. Church, $7.86
- **Laconia,** Mrs. J. T. Weeks, $9.27
- **Lake Village,** Mrs. D. G. Holmes, $1.00
- **Manchester,** Auxiliary, Pine St. Ch., $8.35
- **New Market,** Auxiliary, $4.75
- **North Sandwich,** Auxiliary, $8.78

**TOTAL: $592.54**
### The Missionary Helper.

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**NEW YORK.**

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**OHIO.**

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<td>Harmony, Q. M.</td>
<td>$9.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henrietta, Woman's Miss. Society</td>
<td>$23.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marion, Q. M.</td>
<td>$1.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richland &amp; Licking Q. M.</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seneca &amp; Huron Q. M.</td>
<td>$29.90</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$50.00</td>
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**ILLINOIS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prairie City, Woman's Miss. Society</td>
<td>$7.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Q. M.</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
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<td>$27.85</td>
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**IOWA.**

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agency City, collected by Mrs. E. A. Dudley</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iowa Northern Y. M.</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postville, Mrs. G. W. Hanks</td>
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<td>$15.00</td>
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**WISCONSIN.**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Rochester, Woman's Miss. Society</td>
<td>$5.45</td>
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**MISSOURI.**

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Springfield, Miss Grisela Dittrick</td>
<td>$33.00</td>
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**MINNESOTA.**

<table>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Minneapolis, Woman's Miss Soc.</td>
<td>$19.60</td>
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<td>Money Creek, Mrs. M. C. Brann</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
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<td>Children's Offering to the &quot;Try Class&quot;</td>
<td>$22.95</td>
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<td>$5,793.81</td>
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