

Missions.

"Go ye into all the world; and preach the gospel to every creature."

THE SEVENTH-DAY BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

NUMBER V.

The Sixth Annual Report opens with earnest words in regard to the importance of being committed to the cause of missions in practice as well as in profession...

The report recommended for serious consideration the question of employing a general agent for the whole time.

The receipts for the year had been \$1,744 27, and the expenditures \$1,094 90, nearly all of this being for foreign missions.

Most, if not all, of the Associations were carrying on mission work within their respective bounds; but they had not yet acted upon the recommendation of the Society that Association boards should be appointed auxiliary to the General Board...

THE CHINA MISSION.

After a tedious passage of twenty-one days from Hong Kong, Mr. Carpenter reached Shanghai, where his reception by foreign merchants and missionaries was marked with kindness. Still, two missionaries told him very decidedly that he would better locate at Foo Chow...

Opposition began to give way; Mr. Carpenter made arrangements to receive his companions who had been left at Hong Kong; and, in a few weeks, they were zealously prosecuting their studies and planning for future usefulness.

The voyage of Mr. and Mrs. Wardner and Mrs. Carpenter to Shanghai was a perilous one; but they were graciously preserved by the God of Jacob, whose care and blessing they invoked upon themselves...

Their dwelling house, containing one room suitable for a chapel, was within the city walls, near two places of public resort, a sort of theatrical and medical establishment, and an idol temple.

The missionaries expected to be able, within two years, too prepare a short discourse once in two weeks; and, by alternating, to keep up a weekly service. They were inflamed with a desire to speak to the darkened, indifferent and sin-burdened heathen...

Mr. Wardner wrote, urging the importance of establishing a school, believing that the young could be more easily influenced than the old. The missionaries were authorized, provided all approved the measure, to open a school at once.

Still, the Board questioned whether the importance of schools as a branch of missionary effort had not been overrated; because the benefit to the cause of Christ had not been proportionate to the zeal and energy expended...

Our missionaries were troubled over translations of the Scriptures that seemed to give

to the first day the sanctity that belongs to the seventh; and the apparent efforts of some missionaries to have the Chinese consider Sunday and the Sabbath of the fourth commandment as one and the same day.

The missionaries subjected themselves to much inconvenience, and hesitated as to advanced steps, dreading to discourage some of the brethren at home by heaping up expenses at the outset, or to strengthen the impression that the denomination had embarked in an enterprise prematurely.

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The Sixth Anniversary was held at New Market, N. J., September 7th and 8th, 1884. The annual discourse was preached by Eli S. Bailey. The report of the Executive Board was adopted, after remarks by James Bailey.

Resolutions were adopted, after remarks by several brethren, among whom were Wm. B. Maxson, N. V. Hull, W. B. Gillette, E. S. Bailey, Samuel Davidson and Lucius Crandall, that related to the following ideas and principles: The kindness of the Heavenly Father to our missionaries...

The question of securing incorporation under the laws of New York, so that property could be held and bequests received, was referred to the Board with authority; and the Constitution was so changed as to give the Board power to fill vacancies.

DUTIES OF THE HOUR.

It would seem that the whole spirit of the gospel is in such harmony with the consistent, most reasonable command of our Saviour, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," that no Christian could ever question for a moment his duty and privilege to do the utmost in his power to help spread the good news of salvation for a lost and ruined world through the crucified Saviour.

It may not be just right to say it, but can we hardly help thinking, that they can scarcely see beyond the little circle which bounds their own vision? When we contemplate the fact, that there are in this world to-day nearly one thousand millions of persons in heathenism, and this means that they know just about as little as to the alleviation of pain as they do of the salvation of the soul...

Truly the servants of Jesus Christ go forth to subdue every form of evil, and to mitigate every species of suffering on the whole earth. They go to lead sinners to trust in Christ, to take his yoke, to substitute the revelation of God for the lies of heathenism and the moralities of the gospel...

how to die, to show them the way to glory, to make them know their God, to prepare them for heaven, and to guide them safely to its bliss.

It would seem the most natural thing in the world, that every lover of Jesus, who wept over a lost world, should have much of his love for the perishing; and if not able to go to proclaim this gospel, should be very earnest in efforts to send others.

Sometimes it seems as though the faithful workers would be so discouraged as to abandon the effort; and that they do not give us faith, unswerving faith in the blessed power of the gospel to give courage and strength to contend with opposing forces...

What is said in behalf of missions can be truly said of all other departments of work in the Master's vineyard. No reform ever did, or ever will, in all probability, go on without earnest opposition...

Having been a deeply interested reader for many years of the labors and great accomplishments of the Women's Missionary Societies of the various denominations, and wishing so many times in my heart that we had something of the kind in our own denomination...

It was stated that its mission, as constituted by the Conference, is to stimulate the zeal of our women for our work and to unify their efforts by concentrating them upon the main points of that work.

It never occurred to me there could be any good reason why all our women should not take this new trust committed to them, and by this united effort do far more and efficient work than had ever been accomplished...

Following are some of the statistics gleaned from these reports: The Woman's Missionary Boards of the Presbyterian Church steadily increased the amount of funds raised from \$7,000 in 1871, to \$223,000 in 1885.

The Woman's Board of Missions, Boston, Congregational, has on its rolls, 98 missionaries, 98 native Bible women, 27 boarding schools and 182 day schools. The receipts last year were \$110,905 04. The Methodist Episcopal Woman's Foreign Missionary Society has made appropriations for the current year amounting to \$192,477.

The United Presbyterian Church supports two missions, one in India, the other in Egypt, and has 115 stations and 312 laborers. The contributions of 372 women's societies last year for all purposes were \$28,082, and through the foreign mission treasury \$8,365. Two of these societies have provided means for sending out two women who will labor to save their ignorant and unhappy sisters in India.

tion there cannot rise higher than the tides of prayer and devotion here."

These facts and figures are incontrovertible. You will notice that in some cases the contributions have increased more than thirty-fold, and in all cases the aggregate receipts of the Boards have been increased far beyond the difference which this divergence could make.

These reports all show a steady increase in funds every year since their organization. Why should not the result be the same in our own denomination? Our Corresponding Secretary asked last year through the Missionary Department of the RECORDER, "Will not the woman's societies and committees see that \$800 are raised for our Medical Mission?"

Whereas we are met by several objections, a few of which I wish to notice. 1st. We do not quite like the spirit, or way, in which the Board was organized. Not being present at that session of the Conference, I must look to the reports and opinions of those who were present.

"Whereas the Missionary and Tract Societies have recommended some form of organization through which the women of the denomination may be enlisted in some practical and efficient way in our various denominational enterprises; and,

"Resolved, That this Conference do hereby and now constitute a Woman's Executive Board."

Among the specifications which follow, we find these:

"The Board shall be appointed by the General Conference at the same time and in the same manner as the other Boards now appointed by the Conference. It shall be the duty of this Board to raise funds for our various denominational enterprises and to enlist the women of the denomination in such ways and by such means as may seem best to them, provided they do not involve the Conference in financial responsibility, and report annually their doings to the Conference."

Not a shadow of anything wrong in all this action. To my inquiries of several who were present, if they could see in anything said or done any spirit except to advance the best interests of the various branches of denominational work in which we all are, or ought to be, so deeply interested, the reply has always been an emphatic no.

2d. We like best to do our work in the good old way. One moment's thought will show you that this spirit is fatal to all progress, and would never have given us the printing press, the telegraph, the sewing machine or a thousand other things which add to our comfort and happiness every day of our lives.

3d. No advantage in reporting our work, that there is a spirit of vain glory in it. This then would condemn all treasurers' or financial reports from all benevolent societies

of whatever name, and take away from us a deeply interesting part of their reports. I need not stop to show that these are essential and indispensable reports, and, as much as any other, stimulate to activity and benevolence; and every reason which can be urged for giving these reports by our Tract, Education or Missionary Societies will apply equally well to the Woman's Executive Board.

Three things at least must come into consideration before we can become interested in any work. What is being done, what needs to be done, and how much we can do; and the more intimate our knowledge of each of these points, the greater our efficiency and the grander the work accomplished.

You will readily see if there was an organization of women carrying on some important work, how much easier it would be to interest them. Physicians are much more deeply interested in all the developments of medical science than lawyers; and farmers in all agricultural proceedings and reports, while mechanics have their own particular study, which in their minds dominates all others.

The manner of doing this has been so largely dwelt upon in Miss Bailey's paper, and the items which have been published from time to time, it hardly seems necessary to say more in this direction...

At the meeting of the Board, last September, it was arranged that the members should take turns in writing both Mrs. Davis and Dr. Swinney a letter to go out every month. In conclusion, let me say if we had the consecration as a people we ought to have, the debts would all be speedily canceled and a larger sum flowing steadily into our treasuries.

Mrs. O. U. WHITFORD.

Sabbath

"Remember the Sabbath-day. Six days shalt thou labor, and do the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God."

PRESENT SUNDAY

Of the States and Territories of

BY REV. A. H. LEWIS

NEBRASKA.

In Nebraska, no court can any judicial business becept, 1. To give instruction deliberating on their verdict a verdict, or discharge a jury, or exercise the powers of a single criminal proceeding.

Every person who shall be found guilty of any misdemeanor any time during the first of commonly called Sunday, shall pay for every such offense, not exceeding twenty dollars.

If any person of the age of sixteen years or upward shall be found guilty of any offense, commonly called Sunday, shall be found on the first day of commonly called Sunday, shall pay for every such offense, not exceeding twenty dollars, he or she shall be fined in the county jail for exceeding twenty days, or be taken into custody for the violation of the court. And the age of fourteen years or upward shall be found on the first day of commonly called Sunday, shall be found on the first day of commonly called Sunday, shall pay for every such offense, not exceeding twenty dollars, he or she shall be fined in the county jail for exceeding twenty days, or be taken into custody for the violation of the court.

NEVADA

Nevada prohibits all theaters, race courses and chance for gain, and all on Sunday. No judicial proceedings except where juries have been called, shall be held on Civil service may be demanded immediately after for violation is a fine of not more than two hundred dollars.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

"No person shall do any labor of his secular calling or business on the Sabbath day, except where charity is the object, or on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, shall any person use any other means for the sale of milk and butter, cream, or other articles of food, than by means of a milk and butter can, or other contrivance, the general penalty being a fine of not more than two hundred dollars."

NEW JERSEY

The Sunday law is very elaborate. We conduct business, on land or water, excepted, all fishing, in all forms, for seine fishing—all of games or diversions one dollar. Exposed for sale incurs a penalty of fine, or imprisonment, not exceeding thirty days. Persons traveling for the purpose of business shall not be stopped by any officer, or detained till another passenger has been accommodated, unless it is allowed, except in cases of emergency.

