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SEVEN YEARS

OF THE

Woman's Baptist Missionary Society.

1871—1878.

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MANY times in the last year we have been asked to tell the reason for the existence of the Woman's Baptist Missionary Society, and to recount the causes which led to its formation, with the history of its earlier years. It is a pleasure to comply with the request.

The Woman's Union Missionary Society had opened the way, and had shown by its noble example that inestimable good might be accomplished by an organization of women, sending representatives to carry the Gospel to our heathen sisters. And more recently the Congregational, Presbyterian, and Methodist Woman's Boards, each working in connection with the general Missionary Society of its own denomination, had begun to give important aid to the work abroad, and to arouse to new interest and zeal the Christian women at home. But the women of the Baptist churches were in general almost ignorant on the subject of missions; and, with the exception of those contributing to the Woman's Union Society, only a few were personally giving anything to carry out the great commission in heathen lands. The enthusiasm awakened by the experiences of the Judsons and other earlier missionaries had been suffered to abate, and to fade from memory. During the gloomy years of civil war, thought and energy were absorbed for our own country and those who were fighting her battles; and we can hardly wonder if many a woman forgot to think of every soul the Lord had made, when she tried to say, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,"

in the time when her own dear one might already have fallen a sacrifice in the struggle to establish liberty and right.

There could be no doubt of the ability of Baptist women to carry forward a work similar to that begun by other Christian sisters; and when the reason for such an effort came in the shape of appeals from the foreign field, they were not slow to respond.

The appeals which led directly to the organization of this Society were contained in letters written in 1869 and 1870 by Mrs. Carpenter, of Bassein, Burmah. These letters give a vivid picture of a missionary and his wife sinking under their heavy burdens, calling for help, but in vain, till health gave way and life seemed in danger. The Sgau Karen churches in the Bassein district years ago determined to secure Christian education for their children, and with that object in view have made great sacrifices to provide school-houses and teachers, and to support their children while in school. The number of girls was larger in the school of that station than in any other; and therefore the demands of the school upon the missionary's wife were exceptionally great. Mrs. Carpenter, though without children, had, like other missionaries' wives, the ordinary cares of the household; and there were innumerable visits from Christians from all the churches in the district, to whom sympathy and counsel must be given; medical advice and remedies, too, were in constant demand. Mrs. Carpenter longed to go with her husband on jungle trips, when she could meet with the women as he could not; but she was often kept at home by the needs of the school. Miss Isabella Watson, who had been sent out by the Missionary Union, gave important aid in the school and in other departments; but her physical strength was not equal to her courageous and helpful spirit. The help sorely needed seemed to be, in Mrs. Carpenter's words, "a woman of character and piety, to take charge of the female department, and perhaps some of the higher classes in English." Not only at Bassein was there need in mission work of such help as women can give. At all the stations the missionaries and their wives had done all they could for the women and girls in the way of education, with most encouraging results, of which we cannot now tell; they may be known to all who will read the *Missionary Magazine*, where is a record of labor and success to move every Christian heart with sympathy and gratitude. Everywhere it

was possible to do more for women and girls, if more laborers and more money could be supplied. The number of girls in the station schools seems to have been generally in proportion to the leisure and strength of the missionary lady to take charge of them.

The Missionary Union had sent several unmarried women to the foreign field. The labors of Eleanor Macomber, Sarah Cummings, Miranda Vinton, and others, are held in high honor. At the time of which we write, Miss Haswell was with her parents, and had commenced the school which is now so highly commended by all who know it; Miss Gage was first associated with her sister, Mrs. Bixby, and afterward with Mrs. Douglass; but both these homes being broken up by the return of her friends to the United States, she had gone to Rangoon, and was in charge of schools there. Miss Adams had accompanied Mrs. Ingalls to Thongzai, and afterward removed to Henthada, where she had established a girls' boarding-school; and Miss Watson was, as we have said, with Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter at Bassein. Miss Higby and Miss Lefevre, of the Woman's Union Society, and Miss Norris and Miss DeWolfe, sent out by the Provincial Board, were in Burmah, engaged in important work; but the officers of the Union did not feel sufficiently sure that single women would be brave and steady and contented when far from home and relatives, and at the same time prudent in the care of their health, and willing to be guided by more experienced missionaries, to warrant them in sending many more, unless some new accession of funds to the treasury should justify an experiment in that direction.

In January, 1871, Mrs. Carpenter wrote, "We can see as yet no helper; one and another has come in sight; our signal of distress has been raised; our cry for help repeated again and again; but thus far none responds. May the ever-gracious Father give us patience and strength according to our day! We are doing all we have strength for, but the wheels turn heavily; and we see the harvest perishing for lack of reapers. Pray for us! I am not sure that you yourselves have not a work to do for missions at home — the forming of women's societies, auxiliary to the Missionary Union, as far as your ability and influence will allow. I believe that is the true course."

FIRST STEPS.

The friends who received these appeals found, on consulting other sisters in the churches, that the Lord was guiding their minds in the same direction, and awakening similar convictions as to the duty of the Baptist women of America toward their Christian and heathen sisters in foreign lands. Consequently, on the 28th of February, 1871, eleven ladies of the Baptist church in Newton Centre, Mass., met "for the purpose of forming a Woman's Missionary Society for the benefit of women in heathen lands, to act through and in connection with the American Baptist Missionary Union." After a free consultation, officers were appointed; and the secretary was requested to draft a constitution, and "to present a circular suitable to be sent to various churches, to interest the women in the work for missions."

At the next meeting, March 7, the following circular was adopted:—

In view of the very little which the American Baptist Missionary Union has been able thus far to do for the education of women at its various stations; of the insufficient funds at its command for prosecuting this work; of the successful beginning which it has made of it at several stations; of the desire of its Executive Committee to do everything possible for the elevation of woman as well as man; of its readiness to employ Christian women so far as practicable in this work; of the urgent need of more laborers at all our stations and in the regions beyond; and of our own duty to coöperate more fully in this great work,— we believe the time has come for us to form a Society or Societies for the special purpose of aiding our Missionary Union to do more for the heathen and Christian women in the stations under its care.

All ladies who are interested in our Foreign Missions are therefore invited to meet in the Chapel of Clarendon Street Baptist Church, on Monday, April 3, at three o'clock P.M., to consider the propriety of forming a general Woman's Missionary Society.

A committee was appointed "to send this circular to other churches, and do what else may seem wise to interest them in this object." The circular was accordingly sent to all the pastors in the Boston North and South Associations; and before the day appointed for meeting, many of the pastors' wives and other ladies in and near Boston were visited and consulted in regard to the proposed movement. Almost all were found ready to join cordially and actively in the work.

ORGANIZATION.

On the 3d of April, 1871, about two hundred ladies met in the vestry of the Clarendon Street Church. The constitution which had been drawn up was presented; and, after consultation, the Woman's Baptist Missionary Society was formally organized.

This Society, which was so planned that it might include every Baptist woman in the United States, had thus but a small beginning. Its members heard, as they believed, the call of the Saviour in the appeal of his servants for aid; and they felt that it was in their power to obey more fully than they had yet done his last command. They were inexperienced in such work as lay before them; they shrank with all sensitiveness from publicity and from responsibility; they knew not how their appeals might be received by the churches, nor who was to do all the work required to establish the Society all over the land; but they were ready to go forward step by step, looking for wisdom and for human help to Him who giveth liberally, and in whose hand are the hearts of all.

RELATIONS TO THE MISSIONARY UNION.

It was strongly felt that for the sake of economy, of harmony, and of efficiency, this Society must not seek to act independently of the Missionary Union, but must be auxiliary to it. Before the meeting at which the Society was formed, the subject was presented to the Executive Committee of the Union; and they were requested to state some principles on which wise and harmonious relations could be based. A minute was adopted by them, defining the relations which have thus far existed, the wisdom of which every year's experience has made more evident. This paper suggested that the Woman's Society leave the direct appointment and distribution of all laborers, the fixing of their salaries, the appropriation of funds for their support, and the direction of their work in foreign fields, where it now is,—in the hands of this Committee; adopting for itself the no less important task of awakening, by suitable means, a missionary spirit in the women of our churches, and of inducing them to contribute regularly to its treasury for the support of female (or other) laborers in the foreign field, who seek especially the religious, the mental, and the social elevation of woman.

Of the practical working of these principles, we may say, that

all missionaries to be supported by the Woman's Society first present themselves to its Board of Directors for examination, and if found satisfactory, are by that Board recommended to the Executive Committee for appointment. In only one case has the Executive Committee declined to appoint a lady who was so recommended; and that case was one in which the Woman's Board was most happy to have advice and guidance. The assignment of these missionaries to their fields of labor, the appropriating of funds for their support, and the direction of their work, are subjects of free and constant consultation between the officers of the Union and of the Woman's Society. As a result of such consultation, the Board suggests what it would like to have done; and the Executive Committee of the Union has always complied with its wishes. The Woman's Society intends its work to be always subordinate and supplementary to that of the Union; but the responsibility imposed by the relations here described is such as often to make us tremble; we cannot wish or dare to ask for more.

MEMBERSHIP.

Any woman who pays a dollar into the treasury of the Society is a member for the year in which she pays; and any woman who pays twenty-five dollars at one time, may be a life member. Larger gifts, and smaller ones, are gladly received; and it is earnestly wished that every sister in every church may be represented in the treasury by some amount every year. Surely almost every one of us can save something from outward adornment or personal indulgence for this object, without diminishing our usual gifts for any other department of Christian work. The amount raised from the beginning is \$193,448.92.

WORK OF THE FIRST YEAR.

For nearly two years, Mrs. Laura A. Bixby acted as corresponding secretary, and in that capacity made many journeys for the purpose of holding Woman's Missionary Meetings wherever the way seemed open to establish the work. A circular, stating the circumstances of the origin of the Society, and an appeal for coöperation, was sent to thousands of pastors. Letters were written to women in many places, and encouraging replies were received. Money began at once to come to the treasurer, Mrs.

Hannah B. Merrill, who for three years performed all the duties of that office, providing all the needed stationery and postage, till she was compelled by disease to resign the labor to other hands.

Mrs. M. A. Edmond gave important aid in the first year, by writing letters to the missionaries of the Union at all the stations, inquiring as to the condition of the women around them, and as to the need of additional labor such as could be rendered by lady missionaries. The replies to these letters were full of joy at the new impulse given to work for missions at home by the formation of the Society; and each told of the open field, the ready opportunity for such labor as was proposed.

At the first meeting of the Board of Directors, a letter was presented from Mrs. C. F. Tolman, of Chicago, in reply to which an invitation was sent to the ladies of Chicago to unite with us by forming a branch Society; and also a letter, stating what had been done by this Society. It was decided to hold a Woman's Missionary meeting in connection with the anniversary of the Missionary Union in Chicago; and delegates were appointed by the Board "to confer with those who might be present, and see if they would unite in the work." But before that meeting was held, the "Woman's Baptist Missionary Society of the West" had been formed as a separate organization; and it was found to be impossible to form one national Society directly auxiliary to the Missionary Union.

The subject was referred to a Committee of thirteen—two from Boston, two from New York, two from Philadelphia, two from Chicago, and one from each of five States,—who were to report at a meeting to be held the next year in New York. In the mean time, the question was considered and discussed; but the desire of the ladies of Chicago to continue an independent Society remained unchanged, and the eastern line of Ohio was finally accepted as the boundary between the fields in which the two Societies should work. Our Southern boundary must naturally be the same as that of the field of the Missionary Union, the sisters in the Southern States contributing through the Southern Baptist Missionary Convention. Thus our field has come to be New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. A circle has lately been formed in West Virginia; and we hope to welcome more.

It soon became evident that we must look, not to pastors, but

to warm-hearted Christian women in every locality, to present the cause of the Society, and establish auxiliary circles. As soon as practicable, therefore, an officer, called a State Secretary, was sought to begin this work in each State. In the first year, Mrs. O. W. Gates was appointed for Connecticut, Miss S. C. Durfee for Rhode Island, Miss C. H. Carpenter for New Hampshire, and Mrs. G. S. Abbott for Massachusetts.

On the 6th of September, 1871, it was voted "to invite Miss Kate F. Evans, of Painesville, Va., to come to Boston and meet the Board with a view to appointment as a missionary." Miss Evans had long been seeking such appointment from the Missionary Union, and gladly hailed the new Society as a possible aid in reaching the work to which she longed to devote her life. The record of October 19 states that "she was present, and gave satisfactory answers to all questions relating to the missionary work, and her reasons for wishing to enter upon it." She was recommended to the Executive Committee of the Missionary Union, and being at once appointed, prepared to go very soon to assist Mr. Bunker at Toungoo, Burmah. She sailed from New York December 16, 1871, with Miss Stevens, — the first missionary sent by the Society of the West, who went to Mr. Carpenter at Bassein. On their arrival abroad, Mrs. Ingalls made a strong appeal, which led Miss Evans to go to Thongzai, where she still remains, busy and happy, in good health, and often expressing her gratitude to God for allowing her to be there.

In October, 1871, Miss Haswell, who had lately come to this country, presented to the Board her project of personally raising funds to erect a building for her boarding-school for Burman girls at Maulmain, and received its indorsement of her efforts to do so. She was requested to use her influence in forming circles auxiliary to the Society; and this she did in many places, while the Society assumed the payment of her travelling expenses.

From May, 1871, till February, 1872, space was kindly given by the Missionary Union to the new Society in the Magazine for the presentation of its appeals, and to report the receipts of its treasury. But the increasing demand for such facts and appeals led to the offer of eight pages to be added to the Magazine; and this new venture was commenced in March, 1872, with the title of the *Helping Hand*. This was issued separately, as well as in connection with the Magazine, and was first under the editorial

care of Mrs. Bixby, and afterward of Mrs. Hovey. These ladies were all unused to such work; and carefully did they weigh every word that was to be printed. The first appeals were written three times over. The details of business with printers and publishers had all to be learned; but the apprenticeship was gladly served for the sake of the cause, which grew every day more dear. At the beginning of 1873, the Missionary Union gave to our Society, instead of the supplement to the Magazine, one-half, or four pages, of the *Macedonian*; and this became our medium of presenting missionary letters and information. The Society assumed one-half the pecuniary responsibility of the publication; and this was divided with the Society of the West in proportion to the number of subscribers in the respective fields, that Society occupying part of the space every month. The favor with which the *Helping Hand* was received, in this new form, was very gratifying. The only drawback to our satisfaction has been its failure to pay for itself, necessitating a payment each year from our treasury to meet a deficit. Mrs. C. W. Train was appointed editor in January, 1874. In January, 1875, a fifth page was added to our share, and under the title of "Little Helpers," was devoted to the children. In January, 1877, the Missionary Union offered us the whole publication, which was accepted. The terms of arrangement with the Society of the West are the same as formerly. We are allowed to rejoice in an increasing subscription-list, and in pecuniary profit for the year 1877, the paper having paid all its expenses and given a respectable sum into our treasury.

In January, 1872, Miss Cornelia H. Rand, our second missionary, was appointed; and she sailed March 2, in company with Miss Haswell, to labor in connection with her brother in the Karen Mission at Maulmain. She was very useful and happy at that station, and left it with deep regret when in 1876 her brother's failing health brought him and his family to the United States. She removed to Bassein, where she still remains in the Pwo Karen mission.

The Society in March, 1872, assumed the support of four unmarried ladies already connected with our missions, — Miss Haswell, Miss Gage, Miss Watson, and Miss Adams. Four Bible women were that year supported through the Society.

The first annual meeting was deferred till after the Missionary

Union in New York, in the hope that a National Woman's Missionary Society might then be formed. But this hope was disappointed; and the meeting was held June 6, 1872, in the vestry of Tremont Temple, Boston. The results of the first year's work may be summed up as follows: Missionaries, 6; auxiliaries, 141; life members, 146; receipts, \$9,172.63.

From the first, quarterly meetings have been held at churches in or near Boston, where we have listened with deep interest to the experiences and appeals of returned missionaries and of home workers. From these meetings we always come away with the desire to be better women — better servants of our Lord, in whatever position he may have placed us.

SECOND YEAR.

In the records of our second year, we find noted the appointment of Miss Anne Semple as State Secretary for Delaware, Miss Sarah Curtis for Maine, Mrs. Mial Davis for Vermont, Mrs. M. L. Smith for New Jersey, Mrs. J. B. Colgate for New York, Mrs. A. C. Kendrick for Western New York, and Mrs. S. A. Crozer for Pennsylvania. The present Assistant Secretary of the Society, Miss Mary E. Clarke, was appointed April 24, 1872.

Only one new missionary was sent out that year — Miss Sarah B. Barrows, of East Sumner, Me., who was designated to Dr. Cross' Karen school in Toungoo. She sailed for Burmah in August. At the same time Mrs. Maria C. Douglass, wife of the late Rev. J. L. Douglass of the Bassein Burman Mission, returned to Burmah; and her support was assumed by the Society. At the request of Mrs. Bennett an appropriation of \$2,500 was made for a building for a Burmese girls' school at Kemendine, near Rangoon. As soon as possible the school was established under the care of Mrs. Douglass and of Miss Gage, who had for two years been in charge of two day schools established by Mrs. Bennett and Dr. Stevens, one at Kemendine and the other at Lammadau. The boarding school then begun has been very useful and prosperous. In 1874, it became necessary to move the building; and a new compound was purchased, one-third being paid for by our Society. Through the liberality of Mr. and Mrs. Bennett a new and convenient house was built, and the former one placed near it as a dwelling for the teachers. Miss Gage returned to this country for rest in 1877; and Mrs. Rosa Adams

Bailey went to the assistance of Mrs. Douglass till Miss Rathbun, who was sent out as a teacher for the school, should learn the language and the duties of her new position. The school has now more than one hundred pupils.

In October, 1872, Mrs. Bixby resigned the office of Corresponding Secretary, much to the regret of all the officers of the Society. In December, Mrs. H. R. Carpenter, who had returned from Burmah early in the year, was elected Secretary. The personal knowledge of the mission field in Burmah possessed by both Mrs. Bixby and Mrs. Carpenter was of great value in the first years of our history, giving a special power to letters and personal appeals.

In this year Mrs. Gates, of Connecticut, removed to California; and Mrs. S. M. Whiting, who had the experience of several years in the Assam Mission, was chosen to fill her place.

It was in our second year that the idea was first suggested of seeking out a lady in each Association, to present the cause to every church, and assist in forming and conducting circles. Every day we have reason to thank our Heavenly Guide for showing us this way to extend the work. One by one women have become known to us who are fitted for this work and willing to undertake it; and their efforts, for which they receive no pecuniary reward, have been successful in a marked degree. They labor often for months and years with little apparent result; they have to meet indifference, and sometimes actual opposition, in trying to gain the attention of those who expect to be saved through Christ to his command to preach the Gospel to every creature. But after a time they are allowed to report the beginning of work in some of their churches. They hold woman's missionary meetings when their Associations meet; and with or without the help of some returned missionary who can tell from actual experience what life is where Christ is unknown, they try to impress on the sisters the duty of extending the blessings of salvation to those who are without hope. They follow up their appeals by letters, and when they can, by visits. Gradually it is seen that woman's work for missions is an element in the Christian work of the Association. Pastors and brethren are stimulated to learn and tell more of God's work among the heathen. A revival of interest in missions is spoken of as a feature of our denominational history at this time. Per-

haps no one will ever trace out and publish the agency of our State and Associational Secretaries and officers of circles in producing this revival; but in the Master's book of remembrance every appeal made in weakness and trembling, every sacrifice of leisure and personal comfort, every effort to overcome prejudice and indifference, is recorded.

Our first tract, "Woman's Work in Missions," by Rev. W. N. Clarke, was published late in our second year. At the same time the Board assumed the support of Mrs. Craig, a Karen brought up by the late Mrs. Vinton, and employed in the school of Rev. J. B. Vinton at Kemendine. Much to our regret, Mrs. Craig was compelled by ill-health to retire from the mission in 1877. An appropriation was made for a school for destitute Eurasian girls at Toungoo, under the care of Mrs. Cushing. Miss Adams returned to this country because of ill-health. The receipts of the second year were double those of the first; and the second annual meeting, held at the Shawmut Avenue Church in Boston, was an occasion of much interest. We had then, missionaries 9, auxiliaries 305, life members 337, schools 15, receipts \$20,158.67.

THIRD YEAR.

Early in our third year the following preamble and resolution were entered on the records of the Board: "Whereas, it has been urged that home mission work be united with foreign in the church and city societies auxiliary to the Woman's Baptist Missionary Society,

"Voted, That while we bid a hearty God-speed to every other good object, and are glad to share in the work of the Home Mission Society, we do not think it wise in the church circles composing our Society to combine home work and foreign, but recommend to our circles the special effort needed to carry out the object of the Society as stated in the constitution of the auxiliaries."

We may say here that, in more recent consideration of this question, the opinion of the members of the Board has remained the same as when the vote just quoted was taken. The constitution of the Society, as it now stands, would manifestly not allow the introduction of work for Home Missions; and the facts of the far greater difficulty of commanding attention and eliciting effort in behalf of Foreign Missions, and of the proportionately

small effort put forth to send the Gospel to the heathen, have confirmed the Board in the conviction that these two departments of mission work can be more efficiently promoted without uniting them in one organization.

In 1872 a small room was granted by the Missionary Union in its house in Bedford Street, for the use of the Society, the meetings of the Board being held in the room used by the Executive Committee of the Union. But most of the work was done by the officers at home, till the headquarters of the Union were removed to Tremont Temple. Then our present office, Room 13, Tremont Temple, was furnished by special contributions made for the purpose, and was ready for occupancy in April, 1873.

In our third year provision was made for houses for the schools of Miss Rand and of Mrs. Cushing; and two small houses were built for Bible women under Miss Fielde's care at Swatow, China. The new missionaries sent out that year were, Miss E. Lawrence, of Worcester, Mass., to Mrs. Cushing's Eurasian school, and Mrs. J. J. Longley, of East Boston, to assist Miss Haswell. The former remained in Toungoo till the autumn of 1877, when for several reasons it seemed wise to discontinue the school, and she went to the assistance of Miss Higby at Maulmain. Mrs. Longley was soon led to give most of her time to the school and home for Eurasian girls at Maulmain; and the Board cheerfully acceded to her wish to be transferred to that special work. In 1876 she visited England and the United States, returning to Burmah in January, 1878. Miss Barrows has for two years assisted Mrs. Longley in the Eurasian Home. The Board in 1873 assumed the support of Miss Jennie Simons, who assisted her father, Rev. Thomas Simons, in the Burman Mission at Prome. In 1874 her health compelled her to return to this country, where she remained till 1876, and returned to Burmah at her own expense. She soon married Mr. Thomas, an English Government teacher, and removed to Akyab, where she died in 1877.

This year witnessed many changes in our working force at home. The State Secretaries of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and New Jersey resigned; and their places were filled by Mrs. W. H. Eaton, Mrs. J. E. Taylor, and Mrs. W. C. Butler. Mrs. Davis, Secretary for Vermont, was suddenly called to her

heavenly home. Mrs. L. K. Fuller consented to accept the office of Secretary. Mrs. J. D. Herr, of Pittsburg, was appointed Secretary for Western Pennsylvania, and Mrs. W. M. Ingersoll for the District of Columbia. Mrs. Carpenter, the Corresponding Secretary, was about to return to Burmah; and Mrs. Alvah Hovey was chosen to fill her place. The Treasurer, Mrs. Merrill, resigned; and Mrs. J. M. S. Williams was elected Treasurer, Miss Clarke acting as Assistant Treasurer. Mrs. Nickerson took Mrs. Hovey's place as Chairman of the Board, and Miss A. L. Pierce was chosen Recording Secretary.

At the quarterly meeting, held in January, 1874, at the Somerset Street Church, Boston, Mrs. Carpenter bade us good-by, and the next day set out on her return to Burmah, followed by the affectionate and prayerful sympathy of all her fellow-workers.

In our third annual Report, Children's Mission Bands are for the first time reported by themselves, twenty-one in number. Since that time increasing attention has been given to that branch of the home work. Much labor and thought have been expended upon it; and thousands of dollars have been brought into the Treasury. More important still, souls have been led to Christ by this very effort to send his word to the heathen; and the foundation is being laid for the intelligent and zealous support of missions in years to come.

At the close of our third year, we were allowed to report missionaries, 11; auxiliaries, 520; life members, 606; schools, 22; receipts, \$26,061.52.

FOURTH YEAR.

Miss M. C. Manning, of Warwick, Mass., was sent to assist Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter in the Karen College at Rangoon. She removed with them to Bassein in the following year, and rendered good service in teaching; but her health suffered from the effects of a fall, and she reluctantly returned home in 1877. Miss Walling, of Gouverneur, N. Y., was sent to Bassein, where she still remains. Mrs. C. B. Thomas returned to the Karen Mission at Henthada; our Society assumed her support, and also that of Mrs. L. A. Knowlton, of Ningpo, China. The latter very soon came to the United States; and it is her delight to work for missions as much as her health allows. Miss Isabella Watson, who had been several years in Burmah,

returned home with impaired health in February, 1875. Miss Myra H. Stetson was appointed to assist Miss Haswell; and at our fourth annual meeting we bade her farewell. She took cold on the voyage, and never recovered her health, but returned home, being absent just one year. She died in October, 1876. Her memory is precious; her patient courage in setting forth alone to her chosen work, and in yielding to the will of God when withheld from that work, will be kept in our hearts as an example.

In October, 1874, the Society was incorporated in accordance with an act of the Legislature of Massachusetts. By the provisions of the charter, the President and Clerk of the Society act as President and Clerk of the Board of Directors. There is but one Vice-President. The constitution of the Society was not essentially changed.

About the same time, a contingent fund was established, consisting of legacies and gifts made in memory of friends. These are invested, and the interest is used every year in the work. It is understood that the principal may also be used at any time, if required.

In this year funds were granted for support of Mrs. Downie's school in the Telooگو Mission at Nellore, India, and for a substantial school-house; also for a girls' school and school-house under care of Mrs. Partridge at Swatow, China.

We counted in April, 1875, missionaries, 15; auxiliaries, 707; schools, 20; life members, 750; receipts, \$29,609.89.

FIFTH YEAR.

We were allowed, in our fifth year, 1875-6, to send four new missionaries to the foreign field. Miss Emma Chace, of Providence, R. I., went to assist Mr. Packer in the Rangoon college, where she remained till her marriage in June, 1877, to Mr. W. H. S. Hascall, of the Maulmain Burman Mission. Mrs. Dorothea Estabrooks, the only married woman on our list, assists her husband, the pastor of the English church at Maulmain, in labor for the Eurasians there.* Miss Clara A. Sands, of Zaleski, Ohio, was sent to Yokohama, and Miss Anna H.

*A telegraphic message received April 27, 1878, announces the death of Mrs. Estabrooks.

Kidder, of Providence, to Tokio, Japan. Both these ladies are in the stations to which they were sent; the latter quite alone since the departure and the lamented death of Rev. Mr. Arthur. The Board this year began to provide for the support of Mrs. Martyn as assistant to Mrs. Downie.

Mrs. M. R. Trevor consented to act as State Secretary for Eastern Pennsylvania; and Mrs. W. M. Young took the place in Western Pennsylvania of Mrs. Herr, who removed to New York.

The buildings provided for in our fifth year were, a school-house and chapel at Lammadau, near Rangoon; a school-house at Zao-hying, China; and one for the boys' school at Swatow. A plan was presented by missionaries to the Teloogoos for a school for the higher education of the children of Christians; and in our fifth annual report a large appropriation is assigned to the "Teloogoo Baptist College Building." It was then supposed that the Government of Madras would pay an equal amount toward this building, and for half the support of the school; but it is found there are no pupils sufficiently advanced to secure a grant from Government; and the school, if continued, will be no college, but merely an institution for the direct training of Christian workers.

The fifth annual meeting occupied two days, instead of one. This new departure was made with much doubt of success; but so delightful was every session, that it became evident that we could not again limit the enjoyment to one day. The more ample time for interchange of thought and experience by the home workers was most profitably filled; and our hearts were drawn nearer to each other and to our Saviour. A children's meeting was a source of much pleasure, with the opportunity it gave of seeing the costumes of several nations, and of hearing from Mrs. Whiting, Mrs. Bixby, Miss Watson, Mrs. Cushing, and Sauna of Toungoo. We reported, missionaries, 18; schools, 20; auxiliaries, 750; mission bands, 80; receipts, \$33,260.69.

SIXTH YEAR.

The record of our sixth year shows steady progress, with few important changes. Miss Martha Sheldon, of Providence, R.I., was sent to assist Miss Haswell at Maulmain; and Miss Emily H. Payne, of Halifax, N.S., with Mrs. Rosa Adams Bailey, who was reappointed a missionary, were designated to the Burman

Mission at Henthada. Both these ladies were attacked by fever, and compelled to leave Henthada. Mrs. Bailey, after several months' stay at the Kemendine girls' school, has begun work for the women at Zeegong. Miss Payne is now with Miss Rand at Bassein. Miss Isabella Watson this year returned to Bassein. The Board, on the death of Dr. Haswell, assumed the support of Mrs. Haswell. Lucy Magrath, a Eurasian who assists Miss Haswell, was also added to our list. Funds were sent to aid in building a chapel and school-house at Zeegong; and a cottage was purchased at an expense of about \$100, at Monmagon, near Tavoy, a most desirable location by the seaside, where missionaries may go to rest and recruit.

Mrs. Fuller, State Secretary for Vermont, resigned; and her place was filled by Mrs. R. M. Luther. Miss E. S. Coles was appointed to assist Mrs. Butler, State Secretary for New Jersey. It was in our sixth year that, as mentioned before, we undertook the entire management of the *Helping Hand*.

The sixth annual meeting was of greater interest than any preceding one, because of the presence of more of our State and Associational Secretaries, and other active workers from various points in our home field. A free conference of home workers was of great benefit to many; and a children's meeting was held, similar to that of the year before.

The report states that there were 21 missionaries, 34 schools, 25 Bible women, and 1040 life members; receipts, \$35,925.09.

SEVENTH YEAR.

In our seventh year, just closed, we sent out Miss Clara Bromley to Prome; Miss Ella F. McAllister to Bassein; Miss L. E. Rathbun to the Kemendine school; and Miss Mary M. Day to the Teloogoo Mission, of which her father was the founder. Miss Gage and Miss Manning returned to this country for rest and the recovery of health. Miss R. E. Batson and Miss M. Russell have been appointed missionaries at our request, and hope to go in a few months to the foreign field.

In November, 1877, Mrs. Colby, the President, went to Europe with her husband, for the restoration of his health. Her place in the meetings of the Board, and at the public meetings of the Society, has been ably filled by the Vice-President, Mrs. J. N. Murdock.

At the request of Mrs. E. O. Stevens, \$1000 has been paid to build a house at Prome for the accommodation of the sick, on land given for that purpose by Government. More than half the amount has been contributed by friends in New York, Brooklyn, and New Jersey.

An appropriation has been made for a school for the Christian training of Chinese boys at Zaohying, in care of Mr. Jenkins, and one to aid in the erection of a new school-house in the Sgau Karen Mission of Mr. Vinton at Kemendine. We have now 25 missionaries, 37 schools, about 1000 auxiliaries and bands, 1,170 life members. As many new circles have been formed as in any previous year; but some have become discouraged, and failed to contribute. Receipts of the seventh year, \$39,260.43.

It will be seen from this brief survey that much of the educational work of our missions has gradually come to be supported by our Society. This is in accordance with the appeals and the motives which led to the formation of the Society. It is our hope that we may be able to enlarge and strengthen this department to just the extent needed for the best interest of the cause of Christ. We long, also, to have more native Bible women going from house to house, wherever such workers are adapted to the character and customs of the people, to tell the women and children of the Saviour. But there must be missionaries fitted by character and education for the work of training these Bible women.

As we look over our foreign field, we have reason to be grateful for those whom we have been allowed to send there. They prove that unmarried women can be as brave and steady and devoted as any class of workers. God bless them every one, and supply all their need, according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus!

What shall we say of our success at home? Year by year we have rejoiced in the increasing number of active workers, and of contributors to the treasury; and most of those who have joined us are actually learning something of the work of God in foreign lands, and of the circumstances under which it goes on. The constant demand for missionary literature is in itself an encouragement. The instruction given to thousands of children will make them more wise and willing supporters of missions than we are in the present generation. We rejoice in the assurance

that the Woman's Mission Circle is in many churches what it is intended to be — a quickener of piety, a stimulating agent to love for souls, to prayer, to all forms of Christian growth and work. Its members call attention, by word and example, to the need of foreign mission work in accomplishing the object of all Christian effort — the bringing of every human soul into Christ's kingdom. And we hope our Society is helping effectively, though unobtrusively, to speed the day when every Christian shall, of necessity, as one who owes all to Christ, give and labor according to his or her ability, in making the gospel known to every creature. When that day comes, — when even the Baptist women of America may be counted on as sure, because of their abiding principle, to do their share in this great work, — we will gladly consider our mission as a separate organization at an end. But as yet we may not relax our efforts, but must rather persevere, with greater zeal and riper wisdom as the years go by.

RECEIPTS OF THE WOMAN'S BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY
BY STATES FOR THE SEVEN YEARS FROM ORGANIZATION.

	1st year.	2d year.	3d year.	4th year.	5th year.	6th year.	7th year.
Maine.....	\$199.86	\$1,114.63	\$1,716.29	\$1,970.10	\$2,022.78	\$1,963.54	\$1,883.32
N. Hampshire	172.00	470.03	720.51	1,321.12	1,745.09	1,281.62	1,463.73
Vermont.....	95.75	365.37	802.62	1,022.56	1,362.28	1,210.65	1,490.11
Massachusetts.	4,367.11	7,321.41	8,224.85	7,844.36	9,094.56	9,945.50	9,076.45
Rhode Island..	617.05	1,569.66	1,803.51	2,323.47	1,841.68	1,773.56	1,799.46
Connecticut...	460.96	2,079.77	3,207.40	2,964.30	3,221.43	3,332.63	3,270.37
New York.....	935.12	4,550.24	5,189.11	6,717.45	7,671.23	8,002.92	9,301.73
New Jersey...	45.00	980.23	1,510.08	2,697.80	3,390.24	4,106.57	3,941.03
Pennsylvania..	738.20	1,997.18	2,142.83	1,599.97	2,320.77	2,741.18	3,111.64
Delaware.....	.....	126.00	55.00	30.00	70.00	55.00	60.00
Dist. Columbia	10.00	15.00	115.00	90.18	89.19	190.25	151.60
California.....	40.00	30.25	66.70	57.00	25.00	5.00	1.00
Canada.....	25.00	.....	25.00	11.45	4.00	2.00	.....
Alabama.....	.....	.....	3.65	.....	1.00	.....	.....
Dakota.....	.....	1.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Illinois.....	53.59	1.65	.....	.10	.....	3.50	.....
Indiana.....	.....	55.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Iowa.....	.....	2.00	10.00	5.00	1.30	.....	.....
Kansas.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.00	6.00	.....
Kentucky.....	.....	1.65	.....	.....	1.50	2.00	.....
Michigan.....	.....	2.00	.....	.....	.....	5.00	.....
Missouri.....	.....	.....	.....	25.00	.....	.....	.....
Mississippi....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2.00	.....
Minnesota....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.25
North Carolina	.....	3.00	.....	4.00	.....	4.00	2.00
Ohio.....	25.25	5.00	.....	.....	4.25	171.35	24.25
Oregon.....	.....	.....	.65	3.00	9.50	.....	.....
Tennessee....	.....	5.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Virginia.....	.....	.....	.....	25.05	.....	.....	.....
Wisconsin....	.....	.....	.....	5.00	2.00	25.00	.....
Europe & Asia	25.00	50.00	27.00	.....	.....	37.88	25.00
Miscellaneous.	1,362.74	212.60	441.32	892.98	370.49	1,058.14	3,658.49
	\$9,172.63	\$20,158.67	\$26,061.52	\$29,609.89	\$33,260.69	\$35,925.09	\$39,260.43

Total receipts for seven years, \$193,448.92.

MISSIONARIES
OF THE
WOMAN'S BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

	<i>Station.</i>	<i>Mission.</i>	<i>Appointed.</i>
*Miss A. R. GAGE,	Rangoon, Burmah,	BURMESE.	1871.
“ I. WATSON,	Bassein, “	KAREN.	“
“ S. E. HASWELL,	Maulmain, “	BURMESE.	“
Mrs. R. A. BAILEY,	Zeegong, “	“	“
Miss K. F. EVANS,	Thongzai, “	“	“
Mrs. M. C. DOUGLASS,	Rangoon, “	“	1872.
Miss C. H. RAND,	Bassein, “	PWO KAREN.	“
“ S. B. BARROWS,	Maulmain, “	EURASIAN.	“
Mrs. J. J. LONGLEY,	“ “	“	1873.
Miss E. LAWRENCE,	“ “	KAREN.	“
*Miss M. C. MANNING,	Bassein, “	“	1874.
Mrs. C. B. THOMAS,	Henthada, “	“	“
*Mrs. L. A. KNOWLTON,	Ningpo,	CHINA.	“
|| Miss M. H. STETSON,	Maulmain, “	BURMESE.	1875.
§ “ E. A. CHACE,	“ “	“	“
¶ Mrs. D. ESTABROOKS,	“ “	EURASIAN.	“
Miss C. A. SANDS,	Yokohama, Japan,	JAPANESE.	“
“ A. H. KIDDER,	Tokio, “	“	“
“ M. SHELDON,	Maulmain, Burmah,	BURMESE.	1876.
“ E. H. PAYNE,	Bassein, “	“	“
“ E. F. McALLISTER,	“ “	KAREN.	1877.
“ J. C. BROMLEY,	Prome, “	BURMESE.	“
“ L. E. RATHBUN,	Rangoon, “	“	“
† Mrs. J. M. HASWELL,	Maulmain, “	“	“
Miss M. M. DAY,	Ongole, India,	TELOOGOOS.	1878.
“ ULIE CROSS,	Toungoo, Burmah,	KAREN.	“
“ R. E. BATSON, } “ M. RUSSELL, }	appointed, and expected to sail in 1878.		

*In this country. ||Died 1876. §Married Mr. W. H. S. Hascall, 1877. ¶Died 1878.

† A missionary of the Union since 1835.



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