

HISTORY OF  
THE CINCINNATI  
BRANCH

W. F. M. S.

1869-1894

BY MRS. B. R. COWEN

METHODIST  
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1895



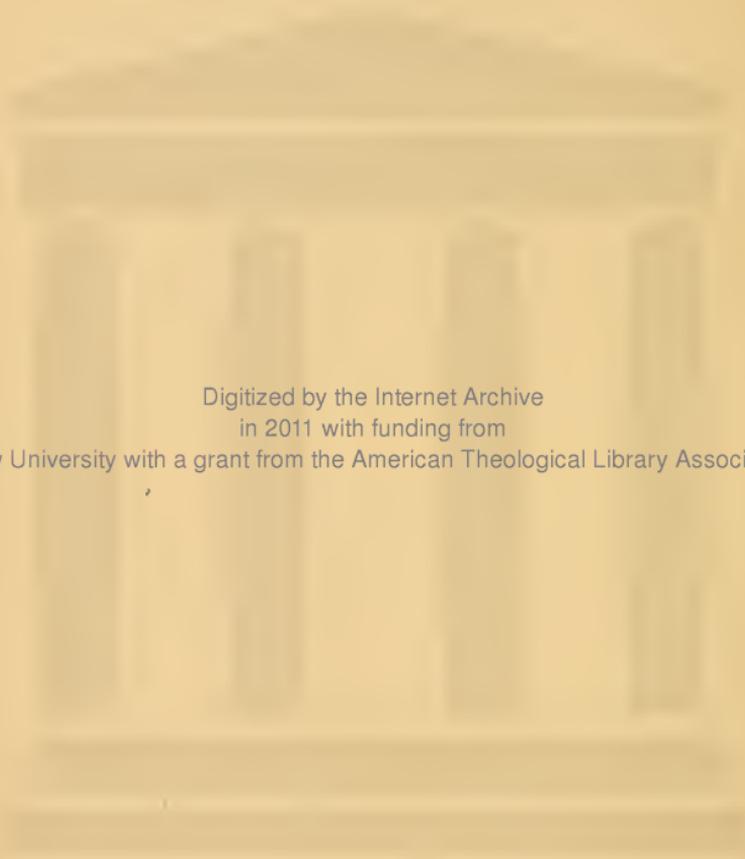
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HISTORY  
OF THE  
CINCINNATI BRANCH

WOMAN'S  
FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY,

1869-1894.

Board of Missions of The Methodist Church  
BY MRS. B. R. COWEN  
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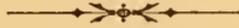
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HISTORY  
OF THE  
CINCINNATI BRANCH  
OF THE  
WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.



IN the autumn of 1868, Rev. E. W. Parker and wife, of India, then at home on sick-leave, visited friends in Ohio. The condition of the heathen world, the necessity of enlisting every Christian effort for its redemption, and the strong obligation resting on the women who owed all the hope and blessedness of their lives to the gospel, to send its story of peace to their heathen sisters, was the theme of conversation, the burden of their thoughts. The seed sown by these faithful servants was not in vain and when, a few months later, seven women met in Boston and organized the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, there were at least as many responsive chords touched within the bounds of the Cincinnati Branch, and hearts found ready to engage in the grand crusade against idolatry and sin. The first watch-fire was kindled July 30, 1869, in St. Clairsville, O., by Miss Isabella Thoburn, then

under appointment as the first missionary of the Society. August 30th, through the influence of Mrs. C. A. Lacroix, an organization was formed in St. Paul's Church, Delaware, with Mrs. Dr. Merrick as President. Wheeling, W. Va., followed in September. The first organization there was a union one, taking in all the Methodist Churches. The same week Mt. Auburn, Cincinnati, formed a Society, the first within the bounds of the Cincinnati Conference. In October, Miss Thoburn, then on the eve of sailing for India, organized another Auxiliary in Bellaire, O. Through the instrumentality of Mrs. A. S. Clason, William Street, Delaware, took the same step in November, with Mrs. Dr. McCabe as the President. So that, with the close of the year 1869, there were six organizations representing five Conferences within the bounds of the Cincinnati Branch, and their first contributions had to be sent to Boston, the headquarters of the Society. When, in order to add to the efficient working of the Society, it was determined to divide into districts, each district to be represented by a branch society or organization, Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky were set apart as the Cincinnati Branch, with headquarters at Cincinnati, and Mrs. Parker was sent out from Boston to organize it. The little Auxiliary at Mt. Auburn, the only link in Cincinnati, paid her traveling expenses, and every member pledged herself to work for a successful meeting. Mrs. Parker arrived in Cincinnati, Friday, April 1st. The next day was spent in anxious preparations. Notices were read in all the churches. Sabbath morning, and in the afternoon a large audience convened in Trinity

Church to hear Mrs. Parker. With what anxious, prayerful interest the few pioneers in the movement awaited the result of that meeting! How every little incident stands out in memory as the occasion is recalled! How good Brother Ferguson stopped two ladies at the door and asked, "Now is this to be but a 'flash in the pan,' or do you go in for life?" and the steadfast answer, "Until the world is converted to God," and his hearty "God bless and prosper it!" How only one timid, frightened sister could be induced to sit by Mrs. Parker's side in the chancel! How Bishop, then Dr. Wiley, presided, and what an impetus he gave the meeting with his hearty God-speed! How Dr. Bugbee spoke most effectively words of sympathy and approval! How Mrs. Parker, in a simple, earnest manner, carried her message to every heart! Long before she was through, it was evident that the day was gained and the organization of the Branch merely a question of time. On Monday a number of interested persons were invited by Mrs. Erwin House to meet Mrs. Parker at a luncheon at her home on Mt. Auburn. Preliminaries for the meeting on Wednesday were arranged, and many questions were asked and answered.

Tuesday, April 5th, Mrs. Parker organized an Auxiliary at Wesley Chapel, Cincinnati, and the following day, at 2 P. M., a deeply-interested audience assembled in Trinity Church. Mrs. Bishop Clark was called to the chair, and Mrs. Wm. B. Davis appointed Secretary. Mrs. Parker explained the aims and methods of work of the new Society, and pleaded earnestly for a place for it in every Church. After a

free interchange of views, the Cincinnati Branch was duly organized with the following officers:

President, . . . . . MRS. BISHOP CLARK.  
 Recording Secretary, . . . . . MISS DELIA A. LATHROP.  
 Treasurer, . . . . . MISS H. A. SMITH.  
 Corresponding Secretary, . . . . . MRS. B. R. COWEN.  
 Ass't Cor. Secretary, . . . . . MRS. J. L. WHETSTONE.

MANAGERS—Mrs. J. P. Kilbreth, Mrs. Rev. E. House, Mrs. Rev. L. Hitchcock, Mrs. Jos. Elstner, Mrs. Wm. Graveson, Mrs. A. R. Clark, Mrs. John W. Dale, Mrs. C. H. Wolff, Mrs. John R. Wright, Mrs. R. Turner, Mrs. Wesley Hamilton, Mrs. Granville Moody, Mrs. Boyers, Mrs. E. G. Niles, Mrs. White, Miss J. Hand, Mrs. J. W. Fowble, Mrs. Linenger, Mrs. Ahlers, Mrs. Milligen.

Of the twenty-one Vice-Presidents elected, three were from Cincinnati, and the others represented the different Conferences in the Branch territory.

MRS. A. N. RIDDLE, . . . . . Cincinnati, O.  
 MRS. G. E. DOUGHTY, . . . . . Cincinnati, O.  
 MRS. L. H. BUGBEE, . . . . . Cincinnati, O.  
 MRS. REV. DR. TRIMBLE, . . . . . Columbus, O.  
 MRS. REV. DR. NAST, . . . . . Berea, O.  
 MRS. DR. MERRICK, . . . . . Delaware, O.  
 MRS. C. W. HIETT, . . . . . Toledo, O.  
 MRS. E. R. JEWETT, . . . . . Sandusky, O.  
 MRS. JOHN TAYLOR, JR., . . . . . Zanesville, O.  
 MRS. S. F. MINOR, . . . . . Cambridge, O.  
 MRS. W. B. WATKINS, . . . . . Steubenville, O.  
 MRS. HENRY THOMSON, . . . . . Hillsboro, O.  
 MRS. ELIZA CHRISMAN, . . . . . London, O.  
 MRS. DR. H. P. KAUFFMAN, . . . . . Lancaster, O.  
 MISS HATTIE YOUNG, . . . . . Painesville, O.  
 MRS. WAITMAN T. WILLEY, . . . . . Morgantown, W. Va.  
 MRS. L. A. HAGANS, . . . . . Wheeling, W. Va.

MRS. REV. DR. SAVAGE, . . Covington, Ky.  
MRS. REV. DR. REILLEY, . . Louisville, Ky.  
MRS. HIRAM SHAW, . . . Lexington, Ky.

The first meeting of the General Executive Committee was to be held in Boston on the 20th of April. Mrs. Parker was elected as Branch representative, she having joined the Mt. Auburn Auxiliary to make such an election legal. A request was sent through her to the Executive meeting for the transfer of Miss Thoburn's support to the Cincinnati from the New England Branch, the money for her outfit, passage, and support having been furnished by New England Branch. Her support was pledged, and whatever additional sum the Executive Committee ordered. The meeting then adjourned to meet May 3d, when the organization was completed, and the work set apart for the Branch by the General Executive Committee accepted. The support of Miss Thoburn and her work in Lucknow, a share in the Bareilly Orphanage, and support of day-schools in Naini Tal, the whole amounting to \$1,800, was assumed. The first payment was due in June, and with an empty treasury and but few Auxiliaries, to begin a new enterprise that was looked upon with distrust by many and open opposition by others, required strong faith to go forward. After considering all these things, Mrs. Bishop Clark, in beautiful, earnest words, laid the burden on all hearts and urged, not only faithful work, but believing prayer, and the meeting closed to some of those present with God's promises as a rock beneath their feet. As their faith so it was unto them; the way was opened; money came

into the treasury, in strange ways sometimes, but every obligation was met. Meanwhile the work of organization was pressed diligently forward—April 7th, Trinity, Cincinnati; then Union Church, Covington; Race Street (German); Lancaster, O.; Christie Chapel, Asbury, Wesleyan College, St. Paul, York Street, Pearl Street, Wesley Chapel, Columbus—and so the leaven spread until, at the close of the first year, there were eighty-four Auxiliaries, and the Treasurer reported receipts amounting to \$2,844; so that, with all pledges met, the second year opened with \$1,000 in the treasury, while all over the Branch watch-fires were burning.

One notable itinerary taken by Mrs. Bishop Clark and Mrs. Mary B. Ingham, of Cleveland, in the fall of 1870, through Northern Ohio, added many Auxiliaries to the Branch, and very much to the growing interest in this new movement. In some strange way it seemed often the way had been prepared, and an organization followed as soon as the subject was presented. The first arrangement for the distribution of the *Heathen Woman's Friend* was through agents in the different Branches, instead of one general one in Boston, and this work required a great deal of labor. The Assistant Corresponding Secretary had entire charge of this department, receiving all orders and remittances, as well as using every means in her power to increase the list of subscribers. Mrs. J. L. Whetstone was the officer in charge of this work in the Cincinnati Branch, and prosecuted it with most energetic zeal and with great success. At the close of the second year the number of subscribers had reached 1,988.

At the annual meeting held in Trinity Church, Cincinnati, in April, 1871, Mrs. Charles Ferguson and Mrs. L. D. McCabe were elected delegates to the General Executive Committee, which met in Chicago, May 16th of that year. The same general Branch officers were re-elected. The names of Mrs. H. Benton, Mrs. Moses Hill, Mrs. J. Mitchell, and Mrs. L. D. McCabe were added to the list of Vice-Presidents, and Mrs. R. T. Lambdin, Mrs. Judge Hagans, Mrs. Dr. Comegys, Mrs. A. R. Colter, Mrs. W. B. Davis, and Mrs. C. W. Ketcham to the Board of Managers. The Branch was divided into six districts, with Mrs. W. B. Ingham, Mrs. C. A. Lacroix, Mrs. A. R. Clark, Mrs. Chas. Ferguson, Mrs. L. A. Hagans, and Mrs. Dr. Savage as Secretaries. Among the estimates sent forward from India was one asking for \$5,000 to purchase property in Lucknow for a home for our missionaries, in connection with a girls' boarding-school. Rented property suitable for the work was hard to find. It was the first request to the young Society for the purchase of property. Some objections were made to assuming so much, and the policy of buying property at all was doubted by others. The Cincinnati Branch assumed the whole amount in addition to the work of the previous year, making a total of \$6,830. This was the first property ever purchased by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and has proved one of its best investments in every way. Lal Bagh—the fine building with portico and balustrade, very fine in outside appearance and very well suited, with its high ceiling and large rooms, for the purpose desired, with a

garden, a well, and nine acres of land—was sold for one-fifth its value, and paid for by the Cincinnati Branch. Later \$2,000 more was sent to help put up school-buildings, and the price of part of the land sold for a site for the English Church was also invested in additional buildings for the increasing school and its equipment. For twenty-five years Lal Bagh has been the home for our missionaries and teachers in Lucknow, the gathering place for prayer and counsel, where, at Conference times and Desehra meetings, the place for special meetings has been always found. And it was also the House Beautiful to many a weary pilgrim who found rest and refreshment within its walls. As one of the Superintendents once wrote, "We find it is blessed to be the Lord's innkeeper."

After all these years of service, it has been partially pulled down, and merged into the "Harriett Warren Memorial." A valuable cabinet organ was sent to the Lucknow School by the young ladies of the Cincinnati Wesleyan College. It was a welcome gift, and twenty years afterward it was still in use.

In considering the rapid development of this work in the Cincinnati Branch, there should be mention made of some points in which it was peculiarly fortunate. While having the same experiences that those engaged in new enterprises must expect—criticism with its barbed arrows, distrust from those who should have known better, and open opposition from others—there were also true friends, and previous conditions, that greatly lightened and simplified the work of the new Society. Sixteen years before the formation of the Cincin-

nati Branch, there was organized in Cincinnati a "Ladies' Home Missionary Society" for local work. In this were representatives of all the Methodist Churches in the city, and all forms of evangelistic work were carried on under its supervision. Mrs. Bishop Clark was President from the first, and under her rare executive ability and the willing co-operation of the best women of Cincinnati Methodism, this Society had become a power for good. Systematic visitation of the city was made, Sunday-schools and sewing-classes organized and supported, the poor sought out and "considered" in gospel fashion, jail, work-house, and infirmary regularly visited, and twelve Churches supported, in whole or in part, by funds raised through this Society.

A number of ministers who served in these mission Churches have since risen to places of honor in the Church—among others, Bishop Walden and Dr. J. Pearson. The property belonging to this helping hand of the Church was valued at \$80,000. When it was thought that this work could, perhaps, be better done under a changed form of administration, and the ladies were relieved of much of their work and all of their responsibility, it left a great many trained workers ready for any other movement in the way of building up the kingdom of Christ. It was at this time that the duty of Christian women towards their heathen sisters had been pressed on the women of our Church and the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society organized. So it was from this most effective work in our home Churches our honored President transferred her service and interest to the new movement,

looking upon it as a providential ordering, and accepting the duties and responsibilities with the single eye to the glory of God that characterized her religious duties. The Treasurer, Miss Smith, had also had years of experience in places of trust connected with this Society. It was found in Cincinnati and vicinity that wherever an effort was made to organize an Auxiliary, women fitted for the work were ready to assume the duties devolving upon them. In addition to this, Ohio was early in the field in offering a college education to young women, the Cincinnati Wesleyan College being the first one in the world to receive a charter. Then at Delaware, Berea, Mt. Union, Hillsboro, and other places of less note, but with good educational advantages, were Methodist institutions, giving the daughters of our Church not only a thorough education, but adding the drill of literary societies, training them in the manner of conducting meetings and taking part in public work; so that, in the early days of the Branch all over our territory, there were found women capable as well as willing-hearted, and the wonderful progress of those early days is partly accounted for.

During the second year the number of Auxiliaries increased to 205, and the ground-work of the missionary structure that has contributed so much to the salvation of the world was thoroughly laid. The receipts for the second year amounted to \$8,423. At the annual meeting held in Cincinnati in April, 1872, various changes were made in the working force. Owing to the removal of Mrs. Cowen from the Branch, Mrs. R. R. Meredith was elected

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. A. Ingham was made Assistant Corresponding Secretary for Northern Ohio, Mrs. A. S. Clason for Central Ohio, Mrs. A. R. Clark for Southern Ohio, Mrs. L. A. Hagans for West Virginia and Mrs. Dr. Savage for Kentucky. Two Vice-Presidents were elected from each Conference, and Secretaries for Presiding Elder's Districts provided for. Mrs. Bishop Clark and Mrs. W. A. Ingham were elected delegates to General Executive meeting, Mrs. Meredith going by virtue of her office. This meeting took place in New York City. Mrs. Bishop Clark presided, and the addresses of Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Ingham on the anniversary occasion were mentioned as especially eloquent and convincing. Work in China was assumed at this Executive meeting, \$3,000 pledged for a building in Foochow, also the outfit and passage of a missionary to Kiukiang—the same work as that of the preceding year in India, with the addition of \$1,000 toward a hospital building in Bareilly—making in all \$7,840.

In 1872, the General Conference officially authorized the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society to prosecute its work as a recognized agency of the Church, and granted it permission to publish its report in connection with the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. During the year 1872 and 1873, the work of organization was most vigorously prosecuted. Looking over the records, new names are found, names of some that have become familiar as household words, of many who have since given years of most self-sacrificing labor to this woman's work for women. They can not all

be written here, but their record is on high. The new movement had a good friend in Rev. Erwin House, who, in his connection with the *Western Christian Advocate*, was able to render it most efficient service.

During this year one hundred and six new Auxiliaries were formed, making a total of three hundred and eighteen, while the subscription list of the *Heathen Woman's Friend* reached four thousand two hundred and seventy—a number largely in advance of the present time. At the Annual Meeting held in Cincinnati in April, 1873, after most careful inquiry and consideration of all sides of the question—legality, economy, systematic representation by authorized delegates, and many points of minor consideration—it was decided to constitute the Cincinnati Branch a delegated body, its members being the officers (with the exception of the Board of Managers) and delegates from districts entitled to send them. Each Auxiliary has the right to be represented in the District Convention, and to vote for Secretary and delegates to the annual Branch meeting. All Conference and district officers are ex-officio delegates. This plan has worked admirably, requiring but little readjustment in the passing years.

Before the close of this year Mrs. Meredith was obliged to resign the place of Corresponding Secretary, which she had so efficiently filled, her husband having been transferred to an Eastern Conference. Mrs. George E. Doughty, the First Vice-President, took her place until the close of the year. The pledge to send a missionary to Kiukiang failed, as the lady intended for that field was transferred to

the Parent Board and sent to another country. The money remained in the treasury to be used for like purpose the following year. The receipts for the third year were \$10,290. The same general officers were elected, with the exception of Mrs. G. E. Doughty as Corresponding Secretary, and Mrs. William B. Davis as Treasurer, in place of Miss H. A. Smith, who, after three years of faithful and efficient service, was obliged to decline renomination, her duty to her mother requiring all her time and care. Mrs. G. E. Doughty, Miss Delia A. Lathrop, and Mrs. A. S. Clason were sent as delegates to the General-Executive meeting, held in Cincinnati, May 14, 1873. At this meeting the sum assumed as the Branch obligation for the coming year was \$8,600. Among other pledges was the sending out of three missionaries—one to India, one to China, and one to open work in Mexico—in answer to most earnest appeals for women's work in the fields of our "next door-neighbor." Early in August, 1873, Miss Sarah Leming, the second missionary from the Cincinnati Branch, sailed for India, and was appointed to zenana work in the city of Bareilly. In January, 1874, Miss Susan M. Warner was sent to Mexico, and Miss Letitia Mason was appointed to Kiukiang, the first medical missionary of the Cincinnati Branch. She did not sail, however, until the following autumn.

During the year 1873 and 1874 the great "Temperance Crusade" swept over the country, and made heavy drafts upon the leading Branch workers, for the women who had been first to enlist in foreign missionary work were also first in an organized

movement against this foe to every household and every interest of Church and State. Mrs. Thompson, of Hillsboro, the first Crusader, testified that she received her call to this work while on her knees at a Woman's Foreign Missionary meeting; and as the Crusade swept from city to city, and from village to village, it was always the missionary women that led the movement. And from general officers down to members of remote Auxiliaries, it was seen that opening heart and hand to the need of those we shall never see until we meet them before the bar of God, had not shut out the vision of woe and want and need of work for those near at hand. Mrs. Bishop Clark had a pitcher of beer thrown over her by some one in a saloon. Exposure to all weathers, weariness, insults were endured while working on with unflinching courage. Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Doughty, and her assistants, Mrs. W. A. Ingham, Mrs. A. S. Clason, Mrs. A. R. Clark, and Mrs. L. A. Hagans, were foremost in the ranks of workers, and yet the missionary campaign moved forward this year with a wonderful impetus.

The provision made the previous year for the election of District Secretaries and delegates to the annual meeting had met with much favor, District Conventions were held and plans discussed to meet the expenses of district work by the Auxiliaries. At the close of the year the number of Auxiliaries reached 428; receipts \$9,647. At the annual meeting held in Wesley Chapel, Columbus, all the officers were re-elected, and provision made for an Assistant Recording Secretary, and Mrs. J. E. Gilbert elected to that office. Mrs. L. A. Hagans, of Wheeling,

West Virginia, and Mrs. H. M. Ingham, of Cleveland, were elected delegates to the General Executive meeting; Mrs. Dr. Lowrey and Mrs. J. H. Creighton alternates. The appropriations assumed amounted to \$10,672. Of this, \$1,800 was for building in Kiukiang, China, and Moradabad; the rest for supporting missionaries on the field and carrying forward the work of the preceding year, which showed a healthy growth. It was determined to publish a report of the year's work, and the first Annual of the Cincinnati Branch appeared in April, 1874. Thirty-four pages of very interesting matter made it a welcome visitor to every Auxiliary, and a great help in establishing the details of the work. It was enriched by a very fine paper written by Mrs. H. M. Ingham, of Cleveland, on "Our Fields," which was read at the Anniversary. It was especially valuable for the information concerning the new field of Mexico. The year 1874-75 is the first one in which bequests or donations are recorded. One thousand dollars was received from John P. Letter, of Lockland, O., \$1,500 from Miss Minerva Evans, of Circleville, O., and \$250 from Sarah White, of Wilmington. The work of organizing went forward with unabated vigor. The number of Auxiliaries reported at the close of the year were 490, and receipts \$10,446. It was a matter of great regret that Miss Leming was obliged to relinquish all hope of being able to live and work in India; not health only, but life was endangered by a longer stay. She reached home May 20, 1875. It was decided, on motion of Mrs. Ingham, at the Annual Meeting held in Cincinnati, April 8, 1875, that "the

Cincinnati Branch be arranged with reference to Conference boundaries, rather than in the present geographical division, and that a Secretary be appointed for each Conference or fraction of a Conference included in Branch limits." On further motion, the name of Assistant Corresponding Secretary was changed to Conference Secretary, and further, that in order to lessen the labors of the Treasurer, it was decided that treasurers of Auxiliaries be instructed to send their money to their respective Conference Secretaries, these Secretaries reporting quarterly to the Branch Treasurer. Miss Nettie C. Ogden appeared before the ladies, and was accepted as a missionary candidate, but as no door was then open her appointment was deferred. For the first time Miss Elizabeth Russell, of West Virginia, appeared at a Branch meeting, and a paper read by her, entitled "Indifference of Women to Mission Work," appears in the Annual of that year. Bishop Foster gave the address at the Anniversary, strongly indorsing the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. The first list of Conference Secretaries were the following names :

Cincinnati, . . . . .	Mrs. C. Ferguson, . .	Waynesville.
Ohio, . . . . .	Mrs. M. E. Bing, . .	Newark.
Central Ohio, . . . . .	Mrs. A. S. Clason, . .	Delaware.
North Ohio, . . . . .	Mrs. H. M. Ingham, .	Cleveland.
West Virginia, . . . . .	Miss L. M. Boyd, . .	Wheeling.
Kentucky, . . . . .	Mrs. C. B. Savage, .	Covington.
Washington, . . . . .	Mrs. L. A. Hagans, .	Wheeling.
Pittsburg (fractional), .	Mrs. K. B. Bruch, . .	Canton.
Erie (fractional), . . .	Mrs. W. A. Ingham, .	Cleveland.
Baltimore (fractional), .	Miss E. Russell, . . .	Piedmont.

The close of the year was saddened by the fact that Mrs. G. E. Doughty, the beloved Corresponding

Secretary, was constrained to yield her place to another on account of ill-health. Most tender and heartfelt resolutions of love and sympathy were spread upon the minutes. At the election, Mrs. W. A. Ingham, of Cleveland, was chosen for the place. Mrs. W. A. Gamble took Mrs. Gilbert's place as Assistant Recording Secretary, and the other officers were the same as the preceding year.

The delegates to the General Executive meeting held in Baltimore, May, 1875, were Mrs. Bishop Clark, Mrs. William B. Davis; alternates, Mrs. H. Benton, Mrs. A. S. Clason. Twelve thousand one hundred and seventy dollars was assumed for the work of the succeeding year; \$2,000 of this amount was for buildings in Kiukiang, China. Early in the year 1875-76 Miss Ogden was sent to Mexico, Miss Warner's illness making it necessary.

Owing to the systematic division of the Branch each year there was less friction, and a steady advance all along the line. On account of the action taken by the General Executive Committee changing the ending of the fiscal year from April 1st to February 1st, the report only covered ten months. The number of Auxiliaries had increased to 543; receipts for ten months, \$7,592. The question of a change in the Constitution of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society by striking out the word "foreign" was presented, fully discussed, and a resolution deprecating any such action, and instructing the delegates to vote against it, passed. The same officers were elected, with the exception of Recording Secretary, Mrs. W. A. Gamble taking the place filled so acceptably by Miss D. A. Lathrop, and Mrs. P. S.

Donelson took the place of Mrs. A. S. Clason in the Central Ohio Conference. Delegates to the General Executive meeting were Mrs. Bishop Clark and Mrs. A. S. Clason. Interesting papers read at this meeting by Dr. Agnes Johnson, of Zanesville, on "Medical Work," and by Mrs. Bishop Morris on the "Utility of the Mite-box," were published in the Annual. Early in this year Mrs. George E. Doughty, who, for two years as Corresponding Secretary, had most faithfully served the Branch, and whose interest dated back to its first organization, was called from labor to reward. In labors abundant she toiled on until the Master said, "It is enough, come up higher." The loss to the Branch, the social circle, the Church, the temperance cause, and every interest where help was needed to raise the fallen or cheer the desolate, was keenly felt. Mrs. A. S. Clason, C. Ferguson, and W. A. Ingham were appointed to prepare and present a memorial. Extracts from this, which were read by Mrs. Clason, are inserted: "God hath always His own; known unto Him by name; precious unto Him; as holding a White Stone with a name graven thereon; but to us who are so dependent on our fellows, when one that has tested the promises of God, one that has kept the commands of God, is brought close to us, and we see their life and learn the triumph of their death, it is indeed an epistle to us. We therefore rejoice in the abundant labors of the life, and triumphant death of our sister Louisa F. Doughty, late Corresponding Secretary of the Cincinnati Branch. Patient, industrious, warm-hearted, courteous, cheerful, bringing all the tithes into the storehouse, what wonder that her conse-

crated heart knew nothing of a faltering faith! Incited to continued labors for the kingdom of Christ, rejoicing in promises that are yea and amen to us, we take the life and death of our sister as an example, a demonstrative and uplifting proof that the Lord He is God, we are His people, the sheep of His pasture; and that those who, for His Son's sake and the gospel's, have followed Him, shall in this life receive an hundred-fold, and in the world to come, life everlasting."

The amount assumed for the year 1876-77 was \$16,692; \$5,000 of this was for new buildings in China. Much sorrow was felt in the Branch by the return of Dr. Letitia Mason from her work in Kiu-kiang. Her health was so seriously affected that a return was imperative, and she came most reluctantly "leaving," as some one wrote of her, "her heart in China." The medical work was opening up so auspiciously, and so many hopes were built upon it as a strong factor in China's redemption, that the failure was keenly felt. The money which had been collected for a hospital was put at interest, subject to a call when the way opened for the erection of such a building. At the General Executive Committee, which met in Washington City, May, 1876, a report was transmitted to the General Conference, then in session in Baltimore, giving an account of the work accomplished, and asking for continued indorsement. Notice of this in the *Daily Christian Advocate* had the following: "Cordial greetings were transmitted to the Executive Committee of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society with assurance of our deep sympathy in their labor

of faith and love, and of our earnest prayers for their prosperity." A committee was appointed to confer with the Executive Committee, suggesting some modification of the methods of their work in order to secure a more intimate financial union of the two Societies. The committee performed the work assigned to it, and reported later that the Executive Committee concurred in the suggestion that a report of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society have a place in the annual report of the General Missionary Society; that the suggestion that the constitution of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society be altered so as to allow the anniversary to be held in connection with that of the General Society was taken under advisement, and declining as inexpedient any closer financial relations. The summary at the close of this year for the Cincinnati Branch was as follows: Auxiliaries, 619; members, 9,500; subscriptions to *Heathen Woman's Friend*, 2,094; life patrons, 3; life managers, 16; life members, 309; receipts, \$12,284.

The seventh annual meeting of the Branch was held in Delaware, O., and was largely attended. Very full reports of the work at home and abroad were furnished in letters from various fields, in addition to Mrs. Ingham's exhaustive report. The election resulted in re-electing the old list of general officers, with a number of changes in Conference Secretaries. Mrs. Ferguson, of the Cincinnati Conference, and Mrs. H. M. Ingham, of the North Ohio, asked to be relieved, and Mrs. M. L. Pickering, of Hillsboro, and Mrs. H. Benton, of Cleveland, were elected instead. The fractional parts of Pittsburg and

Erie Conferences were united in the East Ohio, and Mrs. B. R. Cowen elected Secretary, Mrs. Kate Burch being obliged by removal to relinquish the place she had so well filled. Miss E. Russell was made Secretary of West Virginia Conference in place of Miss Boyd, who had taken up other work. For the first time there was a report from the Mite-boxes by the new agent, Mrs. Bishop Morris. The delegates to Minneapolis, where the Executive meeting was to be held, were Mrs. Delia Lathrop Williams and Mrs. C. B. Savage; alternates, Mrs. C. Ferguson and Mrs. H. Benton. Dr. H. Lowry, of China, delivered the anniversary address, which was full of interest and awakened much enthusiasm. The closing address of Mrs. Bishop Clark was one long to be remembered, and much regret was felt that it was unwritten and could not be reproduced. She spoke of the life and work of Mrs. Doremus, of her constant self-denial and unwearied labors for the world abroad, as well as the poor in her own land, and from this and another instance of self-sacrificing devotion, drew a most inspiring lesson of the beauty and glory of a consecrated life, and in earnest words, most happily chosen, told of the encouragements of the past and hope in the future.

The appropriations assumed by the Executive Committee amounted to \$11,907, \$3,000 of which was for buildings. Japan appeared this year for the first time in Branch appropriations in the support of four scholarships. A small appropriation for Africa, and a Bible woman in Italy, made the scope of the Branch work taken in six countries. The

year 1877-78 closed with the Branch well organized. The change in Conference boundaries made the work more elastic. Washington District had but three or four charges in West Virginia—and naturally belonged to the Pittsburg Conference—and petitioned to send their money to the Philadelphia Branch, which was granted. Cumberland District was also ceded to the Baltimore Branch.

The health of Miss Warner had been much broken by overwork, and in addition she was prostrated by fever, and, not recuperating as it was hoped, was obliged to return home on health-leave. Later, Miss Ogden also returned for a change, which she felt she needed, leaving the Branch for a time without a representative in Mexico. The annual meeting held in Fourth Street Church, Wheeling, W. Va., April 10th and 11th, drew together a large attendance of delegates and visitors, and much routine business was transacted. Mrs. M. E. Bing conducted a District Secretary's meeting, drawing forth much interest, and Mrs. Dr. Rust delivered an interesting address on Africa. The Committee on Nomination of Officers presented their report, announcing the names of Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Davis, and Mrs. Gamble for renomination, and stated that, having received a communication from Mrs. W. A. Ingham declining renomination, the Committee presented the name of Mrs. B. R. Cowen, and they were all elected. The Branch voted Mrs. Ingham most heartfelt thanks for her earnest and laborious services during her years of office, which she acknowledged in a happy manner. Mrs. M. P. Adams took Mrs. Cowen's place in the East Ohio Conference,

and the other officers were unchanged. Delegates to the General Executive meeting: Mrs. Bishop Clark and Mrs. P. S. Donelson; alternates: Mrs. H. Benton and Mrs. M. E. Bing. Miss Blanche McLean was introduced to the ladies as a missionary candidate, and as she stood before them in her young enthusiasm, and told of her love for Christ and her desire to work for him, tears came to many eyes.

The anniversary, held the evening of March 10th, was addressed by Dr. A. C. George, and a large crowd, fine music, and deep interest made a very interesting occasion. The following evening a missionary symposium was held that was very enjoyable. Mrs. Dr. Donelson presided, and addresses on the "Women of Africa," by Mrs. J. H. Creighton, the "Women of India," by Miss Kate Brawley, the "Women of China," by Mrs. Moses Hill, and the "Women of Japan," by Mrs. N. U. Walker, followed one another in a varied manner, but in most interesting matter. A solo by Miss Carrie Scott closed the evening, and the eighth annual meeting was over.

The appropriations for the year 1878-79 reached \$15,208. Part of this covered pledges to send missionaries to Cawnpore, India, and Tokyo, Japan. Misses S. A. Easton and M. J. Holbrook, who were accepted by the Executive meeting held in Boston in May, 1878, were transferred to the Cincinnati Branch, and sent to their respective fields early in the following autumn. South America also came into the work of the Branch for the first time, and \$1,300 were appropriated for schools there. A close

sifting of the list of Auxiliaries during the year revealed the fact that many who, in the enthusiasm of a new enterprise, had joined the ranks, had soon become weary in well-doing, and these Societies, like the seed sown in stony places, "having no root, they withered away." All such were dropped from the list, and only the paying Auxiliaries were counted in the summary. 489 Auxiliaries were reported, with a membership of 9,226. Receipts for the year, \$10,530. The annual meeting was held in Trinity Church, Cincinnati, April 10 and 11, 1879. A review of the first ten years of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was presented, and doxologies sung over the fact that the Cincinnati Branch had been used of God to advance His kingdom, and that such honor had been conferred upon His servants as to be counted worthy to be co-workers with God.

One evening of this meeting was devoted to a new feature of work—a model meeting of the Busy Bees of Trinity, Cincinnati, under the leadership of Miss Blanche McLean. This was in advance of permission for such organizations; but this evening's exercises formed an object-lesson that made it only a question of time until such permission would be granted. The name of Miss Alice Jackson, of North Berne, O., who was preparing for medical missionary work, was presented, and she was accepted as a candidate of the Cincinnati Branch.

The death of Mrs. C. A. Lacroix, of Delaware, one of the first to take this woman's work in her heart, during the year, was a subject of deep regret,

expressed in testimony and resolutions. By the pen, a potent factor in her hands, by word and by influence, she gave the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society her best. Her faith never faltered, her love never grew cold, and her memory was recalled as precious "ointment poured forth."

The same officers were elected, with the exception of Mrs. E. Hingeley as Secretary of the East Ohio Conference, in place of Mrs. M. P. Adams, who was obliged to relinquish her office on account of removal. Miss Blanche McLean was elected as Committee on Mite-boxes, taking the place filled efficiently by Mrs. Bishop Morris, who declined re-nomination. The Mite-box Committee had been added to the list of Standing Committees some years previous to this. Provision was made for Committees on Maps, Missionary Outfit, Printing, *Heathen Woman's Friend*, and Life Membership Certificates. Delegates to the General Executive Committee were Mrs. Horace Benton and Mrs. P. M. Hoyt; alternates, Miss E. Russell and Mrs. M. E. Bing. The appropriations assumed at this meeting amounted to \$16,270. The opening of woman's work in Nagasaki, so strongly urged by Bishop Wiley, was assumed, and the Cincinnati Branch given the honor of once more doing pioneer work, in sending one of the missionaries and bearing half the expense of opening the work in Southern Japan. Miss Elizabeth Russell, so well known in the Branch, was selected, and with Miss Gheer, sent by the New York Branch, sailed for Nagasaki in October, 1879, and from that day until the present the work in Southern Japan has formed a large part of the Branch history.

This year was one of trial to the Japan Mission; the death of Miss Higgins, the loss by fire of Miss Priest's school-room in Hakodati, and a few weeks later the total destruction of our beautiful home and school in Tokyo, Miss Holbrook, with the other missionaries and scholars, only escaping with their lives. But the trial showed the spirit of our missionaries. Not waiting to bemoan personal losses, or complain of personal discomforts, they rented a house, gathered in the girls, and the work went forward. Bravely the Cincinnati Branch workers came to the rescue, and with willing offerings made good the personal losses. Orders for immediate rebuilding were forwarded, the Cincinnati Branch pledging \$2,000. Miss Warner returned to Mexico in November of this year, relieving Miss Hastings for a health trip, which she greatly needed, by taking charge of the school at Pachuca.

Miss Alice Jackson, who had been accepted as a missionary candidate at the last annual meeting, was suddenly stricken down, and after a short illness, called home while it was yet morning. Many hopes had been built on her future work. Strong, earnest, intellectual, and yet humble, she seemed fitted for the work she felt God had called her to do. It was a mysterious Providence, but with her it was as with the Society, in submission accepting the truth that "He doth all things well."

The tenth annual meeting was held in First Church, Canton, April 16th and 17th, a meeting that was pronounced by a deeply-interested visitor as "harmonious, business-like, and zeal-inspiring."

The Home Summary gave the number of Aux-

iliaries as 508; membership, 10,000; subscribers to *Friend*, 2,207; receipts, \$12,896. The address of Mrs. Rev. Wilson, delivered at the Anniversary, was listened to with intense interest, a very large audience being present. The District Secretaries meeting, in charge of Mrs. Professor Brush, covered many points of interest in connection with their work. The reports of Conference Secretaries were listened to with marked attention, and showed most thorough oversight of the work assigned them. A number of needed changes in the By-laws were made at this meeting. The second evening was filled by a very successful platform meeting, addressed by Dr. Agnes Johnson, Mrs. Colonel Taylor, and Mrs. M. E. Bing. The election of officers showed no change from the old list, with the exception of Mrs. S. E. Moore as Secretary of West Virginia Conference, in place of Miss Russell. The delegates to the General Executive Committee, to be held in Columbus, Ohio, in May, 1880, were Mrs. M. E. Bing, Mrs. E. Hingeley; alternates, Mrs. J. K. Pickering, Mrs. H. Benton.

The tenth Annual contained, besides the usual items of business, an appendix with the papers presented at the District Secretaries' meeting, in charge of Mrs. Brush. Mrs. G. E. Hughes, Mrs. Darlington, Mrs. J. P. Cory, Mrs. G. W. Manly, Mrs. B. Excell, Mrs. L. Taft, Mrs. Rev. Matthews, and Miss Kate Brawley, took part in the discussions. The Question Drawer, conducted by Mrs. Benton, was very profitable, and a summing up of questions and answers in the appendix made very valuable reading.

The appropriations assumed at the Columbus

meeting for the year 1880-81 amounted to \$20,450. Of this sum, \$2,500 was pledged for a home and hospital in Tientsin, China, and the money for Kiu-kiang was transferred, by consent of donors, to Tientsin. The same amount for a building in Tokyo was pledged. It was also decided to send another missionary to India and one to North China, and Misses Florence Nickerson and Annie B. Sears appeared before the Committee on Candidates, and were accepted and appointed to their respective fields, sailing some months afterwards. At this meeting action was taken of very great importance in reference to work among the young people. There had been Societies in the Cincinnati Wesleyan and Delaware Colleges, but though these and one or two more were organized, they were as Auxiliaries, not as a separate kind of organization. There had been a Children's Band in Berea some years previously—but the date is lost—the work of Mrs. Dr. Pierce. January 1, 1877, six little girls in Lexington, Kentucky, called a meeting and organized themselves into a Mission Band. They earned five dollars the first six months, and when it was reported at the annual meeting, \$20 was sent them, and quite a lot of fancy work to encourage them. They afterward supported a girl in Japan, named for Mrs. Savage. Then the Busy Bees, of Trinity, Cincinnati, by Miss Blanche McLean, who, in her sweet young womanhood, had offered herself as a missionary candidate, but when failing health made this impossible, gave her remaining days of service to developing the missionary spirit in young lives, and started a train of influence that has gone on in

widening circles through all the following years. The first Young Woman's Society, under the new rule, was in Trinity, Cincinnati. There was a Juvenile Society in Columbus also, previous to this General Executive meeting. The officers of the Branch had repeatedly sent back money from Sunday-schools, adhering to the letter of the law forbidding such action; but when it was shown that the children of the Church in large numbers were meeting with bands connected with other Churches, thus taking their interest and money away from the Methodist Church, with the natural result of following, when older, where their treasure had preceded, and that meetings could be held without in the least endangering the interests of the General Missionary Society, the Executive Committee changed the resolution adopted in 1869, discountenancing the formation of Juvenile Societies, to the following:

*“Resolved, That this General Executive Committee do positively discountenance forming Societies in the Sunday-school, or in any way violating the Eighth Article of the Constitution.”*

This action opened up great possibilities, not only in increasing the collections, but in training the coming women of the Church. The constitution used by Trinity Busy Bees was adopted by the Cincinnati Branch. In May, 1880, Miss Thoburn returned, on health leave, after eleven years' absence in India, and was able to render effective service in visiting Conventions and Auxiliaries.

The meeting in Columbus was a great blessing to the Branch. Many of the workers attended the sessions, and caught fresh zeal and inspiration from

the contact with kindred spirits engaged in the same great work. The members of the Executive meeting visited many places in the city and vicinity, holding meetings which resulted in a large increase of membership.

The eleventh annual meeting convened in Hillsboro, Ohio, April 13, 1881, and a year of great prosperity was reported. Thirty-two District Conventions had been held, forty-seven Auxiliaries organized, and all obligations met. During the year a wonderful impetus was given the Branch work by developing the missionary spirit among the young people in the Churches. Young Women's Societies and Children's Bands were reported in many places, and the enthusiasm with which they had gone to work was an inspiration to older Christians. Of the \$17,183 reported by the treasurer, \$1,200 came from this source. The testimony from all quarters agreed that while the girls worked enthusiastically for this cause, it by no means interfered with their contributions to the Sunday-school missionary collections. The news from foreign fields also told of growth and prosperity. Miss Easton, in Cawnpore, and Miss Nickerson, in Lucknow, reported cheerfully. Miss Sears found her place in Peking Boarding-school, a place she was to hold, with one home vacation, for fifteen years. Miss Holbrook, in her new home, and Miss Russell, with the early opposition fast disappearing, had only words of hope and faith and success. Miss Warner, relieved by the return of Miss Hastings to Pachuca, was sent as the first pioneer to Puebla, and went "looking to God for strength."

Within the year a new avenue for women's work in missionary lines opened in the organization of the Woman's Home Missionary Society. Mrs. Dr. J. C. Hartzell had been helping her husband's work in New Orleans, where he was stationed, by employing missionaries among the women, and eight of these workers had been supported by contributions from persons interested through Mrs. Hartzell's efforts.

From this beginning came the thought of the organization of a society for work in our own country, and a meeting was called when Mrs. Hartzell was North in 1880, which resulted in the formation of the new society. At the Hillsboro meeting cordial resolutions were passed, to the effect "that while our own special work is directed to the foreign field, we will give our sympathy and aid to the home work, and pray for a general uprising of the women of our land, to work for the degraded in home and foreign lands."

The sad news of the death of Mrs. B. B. McVey, Secretary of Mansfield District, called forth appropriate resolutions. Also the tidings of the declining health of Miss Kate Brawley, Secretary of Marietta District, with apprehensive sorrow, and a motion to suspend business, and commend her to God in prayer, prevailed. Miss Mary Warner led in an earnest petition for her recovery, should it be God's will, and for the grace needed, not only in the sick-room, but by her family, and the district work so dear to her heart.

The Committee on Nomination of Officers returned the same as the preceding year. Two

changes were made in the list of Conference Secretaries. Mrs. P. S. Donelson asked to be relieved from the work of the Central Ohio Conference, which she had vigorously carried on for five years, and Mrs. A. S. Clason, her predecessor in office, was re-elected; and Mrs. M. E. Bing, who for nine years, first as District, then as Conference Secretary of the Ohio Conference, had been in labors most abundant, pioneering the new movement, organizing and building it up, all through the Conference, was obliged to withdraw from the work so dear to her, and Mrs. J. H. Creighton, also one of the early tried workers, was elected in her place. The address of welcome at this meeting was delivered by Mrs. E. J. Thompson, the earnest leader of the Crusaders of eight years before, and was one of great power and beauty. The response of Mrs. A. E. Pine also lingers in the memory after all the years. The address of Miss Thoburn was published in the eleventh Annual. Delegates to the General Executive Committee, to be held in Buffalo, were Mrs. J. H. Creighton and Mrs. H. Benton; alternates, Mrs. H. B. Ridgeway and Miss A. Taylor. The appropriations assumed amounted to \$21,000; \$4,000 of this was for buildings in Nagasaki and Peking. Also the additional expense of sending two more missionaries to India: Miss Ellen Hoy, of Lebanon, Ohio, as assistant teacher for Cawnpore Normal School, and Miss Ellen Warner, of Berea, Ohio, who had been Professor of Mathematics in the University there, to open work in Rangoon, Burma. They were both accepted at the meeting in Buffalo, and arrangements made for their depart

ure in October, though only sufficient money to pay the passage of one was in the treasury.

In August, at a missionary meeting at Lakeside, Miss Thoburn told of Miss Warner's offer to go, and the lack of means to send her, and in a very short time \$430 was contributed. They both sailed with Miss Thoburn in October, 1881. A strong plea was presented before the Executive Committee for a new building in Nagasaki. The school was growing, rents very high, and houses suitable for school purposes hard to find. Eight thousand dollars was asked, the Cincinnati Branch pledging half the amount.

The ladies in Nagasaki had their own plan for a building, but were told they must send it to Yokohama, and have an architect make out the specifications for the Japanese builder. This would cost \$150, and as Miss Gheer had a brother who was an architect, they concluded they would save that expense. So they sent home their plan, and it came back so plainly specified that the Japanese workmen, under Miss Russell's directions, were able to complete the work most satisfactorily, and within the amount of money appropriated for the purpose. It was of this building that criticism and wonder was expressed that the American ladies made the workmen haul stones up the hill, and then dig holes in the ground to put them in. This was a new thing, but when the typhoon struck Nagasaki, and the house, in its exposed situation, stood unharmed, opinions changed. Dr. Maclay wrote of this Home and school: "The building occupies a site which, for eligibility, sanitary conditions, and beauty of

scenery, is unsurpassed in Japan. The building itself is an ornament to Nagasaki. Your work is an honor to your Society and all engaged in it. Misses Russell and Gheer have accomplished wonders." The building was formally opened May 29, 1882, Joseph Cook delivering the address. At the General Executive Committee, held in May, 1881, it was determined to change the date of meetings to conform to the change of fiscal year in the foreign fields, from July to January; so the Branch year was made to close October 1st, and the next General Executive meeting was advanced until the fall of 1882. The Branch annual meeting had been set for the second week of April as usual, and was held in Grace Church, Dayton. Mrs. Dr. Pearne welcomed the delegates and friends in the name of Dayton Methodism, and Mrs. H. C. Fribley, of Marion, O., responded. She dwelt on the importance of individual effort, and drew a beautiful illustration of the wheels used in machinery, drawing comfort from the thought that "the little mill which catches its power on flutter-wheels from the mountain stream has its mission as surely as the immense ones."

An hour devoted to prayer and consecration service, led by Mrs. Esther Tuttle Pritchard, was a time of deep heart-searching. The Vine and its Branches the theme, and the question, "Do I bear that close union to Christ which the branch bears to the vine?" becomes a personal one.

Dr. and Mrs. Waugh, of India, were present throughout the meeting, and their music and addresses were greatly enjoyed. Mrs. Wm. B. Davis, the Treasurer, in presenting her annual report,

prefaced it with some interesting information concerning the cost of carrying on the home work, and how much of each dollar given reaches the foreign field. The full report was published in the Annual, and as the statements made were the result of careful inquiry, the reader could rest satisfied that money given through the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was invested in a very economical concern, if looked at from a business standpoint only. Mrs. Dr. Donelson was prevented by illness from delivering the anniversary address, and Dr. Waugh filled her place most acceptably. In referring to Mrs. Davis's statement, as to the very small per cent of outlays in sending money, which in most cases is more than covered by the rate of exchange, Dr. Waugh said that, from what he had seen in China and India of the work of the Society, judging by results, he would think three hundred per cent reached the foreign field. Mrs. Waugh related experiences of thrilling interest, and deeply moved the audience.

A map lesson by Dr. Agnes Johnson, and a poem by Mrs. W. H. DeWitt, entitled, "What is Woman's Work?" were marked features of one afternoon. A tender, appreciative tribute in memory of Miss Kate Brawley was read by Mrs. Bing. Miss Brawley was the second candidate to offer herself for missionary work in the Cincinnati Branch. Not being able to get a health certificate, the door was closed against her, and she then threw all her energies into the organization and building up of her district, and left a work behind her that will remain. Changes were made in By-laws in order to con-

form to the change in the fiscal year. Much regret was felt in parting with Mrs. Dr. Ridgaway, Secretary of the East Cincinnati District, the value of whose service was seen in the increased effectiveness of the Auxiliaries under her care. Her removal to Evanston left a vacant place, which was filled by Mrs. Dr. DeWitt, of Mt. Auburn. The increasing family cares of Mrs. M. L. Pickering, Secretary for three years of Hillsboro District, and for five years of the Cincinnati Conference, made her resignation imperative, and resolutions expressive of appreciation and regret were passed. Mrs. J. F. Loyd was elected Secretary of Cincinnati Conference in her place. The remaining officers were all re-elected. Receipts for the year, \$19,094; of this amount, the Young Women's Societies, twenty-six in number, contributed \$1,156, and thirty-eight Bands, \$794.

The closing exercises consisted of an "hour with our missionaries," in which Misses Anna Hall, Corda Drake, Esther DeVine, Anna Bing, Bertha McVey, Carrie Winall, Annie Loyd, Stella Bunker, and Mrs. Thirkield participated, giving a bird's-eye view of our whole mission field. Owing to change of fiscal year no Annual was published after May, 1882, until October, 1883. A semi-annual meeting was held in October, 1882, in Trinity Church, Cincinnati. The history of this six months showed great activity in all departments of work. Forty new Auxiliaries, five Young Women's Societies, and eighteen Bands had been organized. The money pledged had all been raised. Eighty life members and one life manager had been constituted by special gifts, and there was a small increase in subscriptions to the *Heathen*

*Woman's Friend.* The Committee on Appropriations recommended \$22,000 as the sum to be pledged for the coming year. Vacancies were filled and various business matters transacted. Delegates elected to the General Executive Committee were Mrs. Wm. B. Davis and Mrs. A. S. Clason. Alternates: Mrs. Dr. W. H. DeWitt and Mrs. J. D. Taylor. Life members and managers made during this period were incorporated with those published in the fourteenth Annual. The obligations assumed for the year 1882-83 amounted to \$25,090. This included \$2,500 for buildings, and the outfit and passage of three missionaries. Only one was sent, as the other prospective candidates failed to meet all the requirements. Miss Esther DeVine, of Delaware, who had spent four years in preparation, sailed for India in this year, and was appointed to the boarding-school in Moradabad.

During this year the revival spirit was manifested in Japan, and the blessed results thrilled and encouraged the home workers, and brought joy untold to the missionaries, who had sowed the seed in faith, believing that in God's good time the harvest would be reaped. Miss Holbrook reported the happy conversion of twenty-four girls in the Tokyo school, and the upbuilding in Christian life of many others, whose religious life had been from the head only, an intellectual belief, but whose hearts were now given to God in a new covenant, finding a new joy in His service. All the schools in Japan shared in the blessing, those of the General Society as well as those under the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. In Nagasaki, where for three years our

faithful missionaries had been at work, the revival was one of great power. Miss Russell wrote of it: "While the missionaries were gathered together in the Girl's School praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, two girls were converted in their rooms, and the same hour three students in the Boy's School were converted in Brother Long's study. That day brought eight applicants for baptism. The next day the interest was so intense that recitations had to be dispensed with; the girls were weeping and praying in their rooms. That night the first mourner's bench was seen in Nagasaki. A number of Church members, among others, were seeking pardon. On Tuesday night forty-five were at the altar. Wonderful testimonies were given by those who had a new song put into their mouths. Fifty-eight of our girls are now Christians. A man who has two daughters in our school was converted with his wife. He came to us for the name of the parents of our girls. He wanted to send them the good news. How wondrously the Lord hath wrought! When we came here, less than four years ago, there were but four Christians in Nagasaki, and they were not natives of the place."

In all the other countries where the Cincinnati Branch was represented, there had been a "lengthening of cords and strengthening of stakes," and the annual meeting, held in Lexington, Ky., was one of great enthusiasm and rejoicing. Owing to the fact that so many of the Branch workers were also temperance workers, and the interest in the vote on the "prohibition amendment," which was to take

place October 10th, was so absorbing, it was thought best to postpone the annual meeting one week.

October 17th the fourteenth annual meeting opened, and a large attendance showed the interest felt. Mrs. H. M. Shaw, in an address of great beauty, as well as one replete with "sisterly kindness," welcomed the delegates to the beautiful and hospitable city; and the reply by Mrs. Dr. Campbell, of Galion, was also an admirable expression of Christian fellowship. Miss Lizzie Fisher, of London, O., and Miss Hettie Mansell, were presented as missionary candidates. Miss Fisher was accepted, and not long after loaned to the Baltimore Branch and sent to China, where, as Miss Fisher first, and then as Mrs. Wm. Brewster, she has given good service ever since. Miss Mansell had another year in school before being able to leave. The reports of Conference Secretaries were full of interest and told of growth and prosperity. There were sad stories in the songs of rejoicing, for death had been busy in the year; Mrs. Dr. Merrick, of Delaware, President of the first Auxiliary, in Central Ohio, continuing in office until her death. It was said of her that "a life that had been undemonstrative, except in deeds of love, was blessed in the closing hour with irrepressible rapture." Mrs. H. M. Stitt, of Wooster, and Mrs. Caroline Claggett, of Dayton, O., had been faithful to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in life, and remembered it in death, two bequests enriching the treasury.

A memorial service for Miss Blanche McLean, who had been Mite-box Agent and Assistant Secre-

tary, was an hour of mournful interest. A paper was read by Mrs. F. A. Aiken; resolutions offered by Mrs. Savage; a memorial by Mrs. W. A. Gamble, consisting of texts of Scripture arranged as an acrostic; and testimonies of her character, by Mrs. Bishop Clark and Mrs. W. B. Davis, her Sunday-school teacher and friend—all combined to make it a season of tender interest.

The resignation of Mrs. W. A. Gamble, for eight years the faithful and efficient Recording Secretary, was a matter of deep regret, and called forth not only resolutions of thanks and appreciation, but many personal expressions of love and regret. On motion the delegates to the Executive meeting were instructed to ask that Tennessee be added to the Cincinnati Branch. This was not done with the intention of dismembering the Atlanta Branch, but to give Tennessee the oversight now lacking.

The anniversary address by Mrs. L. M. Albright was one of great power and inspiration. It was printed in the Annual by special resolution, and furnished a rich store of argument, facts, and Scriptural authority for missionary workers seeking such help. General officers were re-elected, with Mrs. W. C. Hamilton, of Covington, Secretary in Mrs. Gamble's place. Mrs. Moore, of West Virginia Conference, was obliged to decline renomination; and Mrs. J. D. Chidester was elected to that office. Changes in Standing Committees as follows: Mite-boxes, Mrs. T. J. Davis; Literature, Mrs. F. E. Barber; Maps, Mrs. A. K. Lindsey; Life-membership Certificates and Printing, Mrs. W. A. Gamble; Missionary Outfit, Miss Mary Gamble; *Heathen Woman's*

*Friend*, Mrs. Charles Coffin. The summary of this year gave: Auxiliaries, 571; members, 12,000; King's Daughters Societies, 61; Bands, 80; receipts, \$20,061. Delegates to Executive meeting, Mrs. W. A. Gamble, Mrs. L. M. Albright; alternates, Mrs. E. Hingeley and Miss Mary Warner.

At this Executive meeting, which was held in Des Moines, Iowa, a proposition and plea was presented by Rev. T. Craven, of India, for a zenana paper for the women of India. He pictured the state of the converted heathen woman, after learning to read, without a line of literature in her own language fit for her perusal. After many discussions, and much thought and prayer, the following plan was presented by Miss Isabel Hart: That the Society pledge the sum of \$25,000 for this purpose, the money to be invested in this country, and only the interest sent to India. And as this would have to be an extra gift, and not in the least diminish the sum required for carrying forward the work, Miss Hart suggested that if the 100,000 members of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society would each give twenty-five cents for this purpose, the sum could be easily raised. The proposition was agreed to, Mrs. Sleeper Davis, of Boston, pledging the last \$5,000, though the name of the generous donor was known to but a few at the time.

Tennessee was transferred to the Cincinnati Branch, and the Western Branch, covering such a vast territory, was divided into three branches, the name of each corresponding with its headquarters, Des Moines, Minneapolis, and Topeka. Provision was also made for a Committee on Candidates in

each Branch, no candidate to be presented unless recommended by this Committee, after a personal interview.

The year 1883-84 was notable in the Branch history for trial, as well as success. Floods devastated, and drought and fire consumed the property of many who had given largely heretofore, but were now obliged to retrench. Serious illness with several of the leading workers, and trials of various kinds threatened to retard the onward movement of the Branch, but the year was crowned with mercy, and closed with every obligation met; and the assurance cheered each heart that this must be the Lord's highway, where every hill of difficulty was followed by a valley of blessing.

The receipts for the year amounted to \$21,138, besides over \$2,000 for the zenana paper fund. Six missionaries from the Branch were sent to the front—Misses Mary Reed and Hettie Mansell to India, and Miss Carrie I. Jewell to China; Miss Mary Loyd was transferred to the Philadelphia Branch, and sent to Mexico; Miss M. C. Hedrick to the New York Branch for India; and Miss Fisher to the Baltimore Branch for China. Miss Warner, home on health-leave, returned to Mexico, and Miss Holbrook returned from Japan, for a year's rest in the home land. Owing to exigencies in the work in Nagasaki Miss Gertrude Howe was transferred there for a time, the Cincinnati Branch assuming her support. Bequests of \$100 from Mrs. E. Bedford, Springboro, Ohio, and \$500 from Mrs. Eli Johnson, of Leesburg, Ohio, were received, the last to be used in making twenty-five members of the Auxiliary life members of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. Mrs.

L. Taft, the faithful and efficient Secretary of Columbus District, in the midst of plans for the work under her charge, was taken from labor to reward, leaving to her family and fellow-workers a memory fragrant with loving service. The number of organizations at the close of the year was 677.

The annual meeting was held in Chillicothe, Ohio, and was one of very great interest. A large attendance and very attractive program made it one to be remembered. The reports of growth in all the mission fields cheered all hearts, and renewed faith and courage. A beautiful poem by Mrs. De Witt, "The Weaver's Dream," and an address by Mrs. Wilson, of Canton, were the features of the anniversary evening. The District Secretaries' meeting, under charge of Mrs. Ferguson, was unusually interesting. Twenty-three Secretaries reported, and items of interest were told, without the least flagging of interest on the part of the audience. At the close, Mrs. De Witt, in behalf of the District Secretaries, paid a beautiful tribute to the beloved President, Mrs. Bishop Clark, who had served the cause of missions, as leader of the Cincinnati Branch, from its organization, and also for years as District Secretary, giving the closest attention to all the details of the work. With a voice trembling with emotion, Mrs. Clark responded in a few well-chosen words, thanking the ladies for this token of their love and appreciation.

An address on Systematic Giving, by Mrs. Esther Tuttle Pritchard, was a powerful presentation of God's plan, and was so logical and convincing that one good brother said, "No one reading it could tell

that it was not written by a man." The address was afterwards published and widely scattered. Mrs. T. J. Davis read a very suggestive paper on mite-boxes, showing how they could be utilized, and relating some interesting incidents connected with "gathering up the fragments." The closing evening was opened by an eloquent address by Mrs. W. A. Davidson, which was listened to with rapt attention, followed by a paper read by Mrs. Sites, which served as an introduction to Miss Hu King Eng, of China, who told first in English her desire "to study medicine, go back to China, make sick people well, and tell them about Jesus." Then she spoke in Chinese, Mrs. Sites interpreting, telling of her conversion, and thanking the Americans for dividing Jesus' love with the Chinese.

The old officers were re-elected, with the exception of Mrs. Joyce, Committee on *Heathen Woman's Friend*, in place of Mrs. Coffin; Mrs. Comegys, on Printing, and Mrs. L. W. Wolff, on Life-member Certificates, in place of Mrs. W. A. Gamble. The delegates to the General Executive meeting, to be held in Baltimore, were Mrs. J. H. Creighton and Mrs. E. Hingeley; alternates, Mrs. J. F. Loyd and Mrs. J. Mitchell. The appropriations assumed for the year 1884-85 reached the sum of \$26,000, \$4,500 of which was for buildings in Peking, Moradabad, and Puebla. The money for the outfit and passage of Mrs. M. F. Scranton, of Cleveland, Ohio, the first missionary to Korea, was pledged. In this case the representative of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society accompanied those of the Parent Board to open work in a new field. Heretofore

they had followed when the ground was in a manner prepared for them. As far as can be ascertained, the first practical suggestion for the evangelization of Korea came from one of the members of the Cincinnati Branch. Nearly two years before action was taken by the Missionary Society concerning Korea, an article appeared in the *New York Advocate*, entitled "A New Mission Field." Among other statements made concerning the country and people, was the fact that "women had not even a name in Korea." Soon after this, Mrs. Davis, the Treasurer of the Cincinnati Branch, received \$88 from Mrs. L. B. Baldwin, an aged servant of God, in Ravenna, Ohio, who wrote that she had read this article, and had been especially touched by the place occupied by women in this Christless nation, and sent a widow's mite, praying it "might be the nucleus around which the contributions of the Church should gather, until one more fire should be lighted, never to go out until the knowledge of God should reach every land." So the first appropriation sent from the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society to the country where woman had no name carried with it this first gift to the Cincinnati Branch. At this General Executive meeting the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church was made an incorporated body, and so worded that bequests or donations made to it must be paid to the Treasurer of the Branch within whose bounds the bequest or donation is made, unless otherwise specified by the donor. The act of incorporation was secured under the general law of the State of New York for

the incorporation of Missionary and Charitable Societies. Mrs. H. B. Skidmore was made Treasurer of the Society, with power to sign release to executors, and perform acts called for by the act of incorporation. The year 1884-85 closed with the record of all pledges met, and provision made for sending out two missionaries to supply the urgent need in Nagasaki and Rangoon. The aggregate of organizations had reached 737, while the receipts for the year amounted to \$23,103. There was also \$511 more towards the zenana paper fund.

At the General Conference of 1884, which was held in Philadelphia, the members of the Reference Committee met with a committee from the General Conference to confer on a change in the wording of Article 8 of the constitution of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, removing some restrictions in the collection of money. To the section referring to the manner of raising funds, another section was added. "Section 4 of this Article shall not be so interpreted as to prevent the ladies from taking collections in ladies' meetings convened in the interest of their Societies," etc. This was a very great help to the missionary workers, who had held to the "letter of the law," often at sore disadvantage.

Miss Ellen Hoy, who had been sent to India in 1881, and had given most acceptable service in the Cawnpore school, was married to Rev. J. C. Lawson, of the North India Conference, and her support transferred to the General Society. Her outfit and passage money were returned, according to agreement.

During this year a number of missionaries at home, on health-leave, rendered most effective service—Dr. and Mrs. T. J. Scott, Dr. and Mrs. Sites, Rev. J. E. and Mrs. Scott, and Rev. G. J. Stone, of the General Missionary Society, and Miss Holbrook, fresh from Japan, with stories of the victories of the Cross in the "Sunrise Kingdom" during the preceding year.

The growth of the home work, great as it had been, had not kept pace with enlargement abroad. From every field came the old-time cry, "The place is too strait for us: give place for us that we may dwell." Miss DeVine, in charge of Moradabad School, found more room necessary for her 103 girls, and \$1,500 were sent for its enlargement. Miss Easton, at Cawnpore, found it impossible to carry on her increasing school without more room for dormitories, so money was forwarded for that purpose. In Puebla, Mexico, where Miss Warner opened a girl's school in 1881, in the upper story of a most uncomfortable house, and bravely held her post amidst most trying circumstances, after two years' prejudice began to give way, better accommodations were secured, and the work grew, until it became necessary to buy property, and to this the Cincinnati Branch contributed largely. It was in connection with this school that the first thank-offering meetings in the Cincinnati Branch were held. Through tearing down a wall, repairs were needed to prepare a room for chapel service. No appropriation had been made, and \$800 must be furnished. It was a case of emergency. A circular letter was written, and special offerings asked for.

Within a few weeks the sum required was all gathered and sent forward.

The results in the Auxiliaries taking part in the free-will offering was so blessed that it was felt the service should be continued; and this interest was deepened when the reports from Mexico told the story of the first real revival ever witnessed in Mexico, taking place in the room built by special gifts, hallowed by earnest prayer. Another open door was found this year in Fukuoka, Japan. This place, seventy miles from Nagasaki, was visited early in the winter by a revival under the labors of a native preacher. A Church of forty-six members was formed, and an earnest appeal sent to Nagasaki for one of the ladies to come and open a girl's school. The ladies replied they would have to consult the home authorities, and could not hear before the 1st of April. The first boat that landed in Fukuoka after that date was met by an eager crowd, waiting to greet the teachers. Miss Russell wrote: "What could we do? We had not heard, but we could not say no. Somehow two of us could carry the load until Conference, and Miss Gheer was sent. We divided our school supplies and household goods, and sent her forth in faith that the asked-for help would come. Through her influence four persons were brought into the Church in the first month. Fukuoka is the capital of the province, and has a population of 70,000. Immediate steps were taken to re-enforce the work in Nagasaki, and Miss M. J. Elliott, from the Cincinnati, and Miss Smith, from the New York Branch, were sent there in October, 1885. Miss Ellen Warner, overworked and worn

with care and sickness, had to be relieved, and another King's Daughter in the Cincinnati Branch was found ready to go. Miss Julia Wisner, of Berea, offered herself, but the money was lacking. A special appeal was made to the Bands throughout the Branch to raise the money for her passage, and almost all the expenses were met by extra offerings from young girls. She sailed in October, 1885.

The annual meeting was held in Franklin Avenue Church, Cleveland, October 14th and 15th, and was largely attended. The Treasurer, Mrs. W. B. Davis, and the Recording Secretary, Mrs. W. C. Hamilton, were both detained at home by sickness. Mrs. A. M. Dolph was appointed Treasurer *pro tem.*, and Miss Carrie Winall, Secretary. Mrs. Benton spoke cordial words of welcome, and Mrs. Dr. Carr fitly responded. Mrs. F. E. Barber presented a most excellent and comprehensive report on missionary literature, and Mrs. Joyce supplemented the service by an earnest appeal for the *Heathen Woman's Friend*, stating that "two indispensable factors for the conversion of the world were inspiration and information." The anniversary address was delivered by Miss M. J. Holbrook, and was listened to with the greatest interest as she presented Japan, its customs, religions, and needs. Receipts for the year were \$23,103.

The District Secretaries' meeting was in charge of Mrs. Dr. Burt, and the Young People's Hour, of Miss Martin, of Delaware, and both were deeply interesting as well as helpful. The closing evening furnished an excellent program. The address of Emma Moore Scott presented in a realistic way the

"Village Work in Our India Mission," giving a vivid mental picture of that phase of missionary work. A fine poem, by Mrs. W. H. DeWitt, entitled "Our Ships," was published by request in the Annual; also a very suggestive paper on memorial gifts, by Mrs. Maggie Stevens, of Delaware, O.

The election of officers resulted in the return of the old list, with the exception of Miss Carrie Winall for Recording Secretary, in place of Mrs. W. C. Hamilton, who asked to be relieved. A resolution of thanks for efficient services and sympathy in her present affliction was adopted. Mrs. Dr. Bigney was elected Chairman of Printing Committee in place of Mrs. Dr. Comegys. Mrs. J. F. Loyd and Mrs. H. Benton were elected delegates to the General Executive Committee, to be held in Evanston; Mrs. Dr. Savage and Mrs. T. W. Chidester, alternates. The amount assumed for 1885-86 was \$27,000; \$3,000 of this was for buildings.

The news of the serious illness of Miss Thoburn was received while the Executive Committee was in session. Business was suspended, and fervent, effectual, and, it was believed, prevailing prayer was offered in her behalf. Provision was made for her return home, if possible; also for the return of Miss Easton, who had given eight years of continuous service, and greatly needed a rest. A missionary for Mexico, and \$2,600 additional for Pueblo, were pledged. During this year an important factor was placed in the Branch work by the organization of ten Auxiliaries in the Central German Conference, the result of a tour through the Conference by Miss Margaretha Dreyer. Each Auxiliary made a report

the first quarter. Miss Lizzie Baur, of Cincinnati, was chosen Secretary, and heartily welcomed into the Branch family. An appeal was sent to each Branch in the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, stating that the uncared-for grave of Mrs. Ann Wilkins, in Orange County, New York, was a reproach to Methodist women, and asking that a treasurer be appointed in each Branch to gather up and forward money collected for the purpose of removing the remains of this honored servant of God to Newberg, on the Hudson, and erecting a suitable monument. Miss H. A. Smith was appointed Treasurer of this fund in the Cincinnati Branch. Mexico asked largely this year. It was found absolutely necessary to purchase property in the City of Mexico for the Orphanage, or relinquish the work as now carried on.

The Conference in Mexico sent a petition through Bishop Foster to the Reference Committee for permission to buy property adjoining that of the General Missionary Society. It was very desirable, but the price was \$32,000. Bishop Foster, on his return from Mexico, strongly urged the purchase, and the Secretaries of the Missionary Society seconded his request, offering to loan the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society the sum asked for, beyond the \$10,000 required for the first payment. The property was bought, and the Cincinnati Branch sent \$2,000 to meet the first claim. As this came in the middle of the year, and the full amount for the Branch year had already been appropriated, this sum was raised by special gifts. A day was set apart for prayer and giving, and observed all over the

Branch, with the result of bringing all hearts nearer to God, as well as meeting the emergency in Mexico. The full sum was paid in three years, the Cincinnati Branch contributing \$6,500 of the \$32,000 required, as well as a share in the interest.

Miss Holbrook returned to Japan, and was put in charge of the work in Yokohama during Mrs. Van Patten's absence. Miss Thoburn reached home early in the year, much broken in health, and needing quiet and rest; Miss Easton a few months later. Both were at the annual meeting in Zanesville, October 13th and 14th. The information that Misses Sears and Nickerson must be relieved made the necessity of finding more recruits apparent. Miss Miller was sent to India, and Miss Ayres to Mexico—the latter immediately after the Branch meeting. Two of the missionaries on the field had added the labor of writing a book to the busy cares found in every missionary's life.

Miss Sears had prepared a school geography for use in the schools in North China. Good text-books were almost unknown in China, and teachers labored under many difficulties. Miss Russell issued a Bible history of 550 pages. Of this book, "Woman's Work for Japan" says: "The Old Testament History, compiled and translated by Miss Russell, deserves special mention. It makes a neat volume, and by its ready sales is already finding its way into the hands of many students of the Bible, and promises to be a text-book in the various mission schools." The annual meeting was largely attended, and much enthusiasm was manifested throughout the entire meeting. Mrs. Dr. Pearne, in replying to the address

of welcome delivered by Mrs. W. K. Watson, turned at the close to Mrs. Bishop Clark, and presented her, in behalf of the ladies of the Branch, with a beautiful onyx paper-weight. The President, in tender, loving words, thanked the givers, and added some timely suggestions relative to the workings of the Society. The presence and addresses of Mrs. Anna J. Thoburn, M. D., Miss Thoburn, and Miss Easton, from the field; of Miss Ayres, under appointment; and Misses Green and Ernsberger, candidates for foreign work—added greatly to the interest of the occasion. Miss Thoburn spoke on the theme, "Our Young Women and Girls," leaving the thought that "only complete consecration gives complete satisfaction." Miss Easton spoke of "English Schools in Connection with Missionary Work in India," and Mrs. Thoburn presented "Medical Work in Mission Fields."

Miss Dreyer gave a profitable talk on "All Things for Christ." The reports from Standing Committees and Branch officers were full of interest; also the District Secretaries' meeting, conducted by Mrs. Bing. The able address of Mrs. P. P. Pope on the "Weapons of Our Warfare," delivered at the Anniversary, was much appreciated, and much regret was expressed that a copy could not be had for publication. A hymn, written and sung by Mrs. A. W. Gruber, was printed in the Annual. The parting words of Miss Ayres, just ready to leave for Mexico, came warm and earnest, right from her heart, and touched a responsive chord in every other heart, so that those who heard her felt ever after a warm personal interest in her and her work. Receipts

for the year were \$25,272. Bequests of \$150 from Mrs. Eliz. Spangler, of Coshocton, and \$350 from Mrs. Sarah Scott, of Rootstown, are included in this sum.

The appointment of Dr. Loyd to work outside the Branch took from the work one of the workers who was first in the field, and as District and Conference Secretary had faithfully filled her allotted task. Resolutions expressive of deep regret, and of tender love and sympathy, were passed. The old officers were re-elected, with the exception of Mrs. I. W. Joyce, in place of Mrs. Loyd, as Secretary of Cincinnati Conference, Miss Mary Masson in place of Mrs. Dr. Bigney, and Mrs. Emma Hubbell in place of Mrs. L. W. Wolff. Delegates to General Executive Committee: Mrs. Dr. Geo. Savage and Mrs. G. W. Manly; alternates, Miss Carrie Scott and Mrs. E. D. Whitlock. The appropriations for 1886-87 amounted to \$29,000, \$2,500 for buildings; and a pledge to send a missionary to Korea was made, one capable of leadership in educational work. The fact was published, with the question, "Who will say, Here am I, send me?" By a chain of circumstances out of the usual way, in answer to prayer it surely seemed, the lot fell on Miss Louisa Rothweiler, of Berea, daughter of Rev. Dr. Rothweiler, of the Central German Conference. She "was not disobedient to the heavenly vision," but freely accepted the call. The first gift for Korea helped to send Mrs. Scranton; now, two years later, with the way made clear, a school-house built and woman's work inaugurated, when a teacher is wanted, the Cincinnati Branch was hon-

ored in sending one worthy of the place. A Thank-offering Day was generally observed, and from the prayers offered and the money given that day, came the first missionary teacher for Korea and the money to send her forth. For three years the Cincinnati Branch had observed a Thank-offering Day with growing interest and success, but without any special day, or authority for it, in the By-laws. In 1887, at the April quarterly meeting, Mrs. W. B. Davis offered a resolution, which was adopted, that the Branch Thank-offering Day be recognized in By-laws, and observed as near the date of Branch organization—April 6th—as may be practicable to the Auxiliaries. This was confirmed at annual meeting, and incorporated in By-laws.

Miss Ellen Warner, after more than five years' service in Rangoon, was married in May, 1887, to Rev. D. O. Fox, of the South India Conference, continuing her missionary work in her new home. Miss Mansell was obliged to return home after a severe attack of typhoid fever. Her shipwreck, preservation, and rapid recovery made a chapter of more than ordinary interest. Miss Easton returned to India in November of this year. For the first time death entered the ranks of the Branch missionaries, and Florence Nickerson, the dearest and the best, as we fondly think, of the lost ones, "was not, for God took her." Miss Rowe was chosen to bring her home, when it was found she could not come alone. She gave up her trust when God claimed it, and came on alone from the Gulf of Aden, where Florence Nickerson sleeps beneath the sea. The six months spent by Phebe Rowe in America were

filled with labors "most abundant," and left a benediction wherever she went. The annual meeting was held in First Church, Akron. Miss Stella Wilcox extended a royal welcome from one of the oldest Auxiliaries in the Branch, and Miss J. N. Wilson responded. Changes were made in the By-laws covering the provision of money for local work of "not less than five cents per member, the money to be forwarded to the District Treasurer;" also a form for Constitution of King's Daughters Societies, and better arrangements made for reporting to the Statistical Secretaries of Conferences.

Mrs. B. T. Eddy, of Medina, delivered the anniversary address. She spoke from knowledge, having been a missionary in Calcutta, and quoted, in closing, the words: "The prospects in India are as bright as the promises of God." Receipts for the year, \$28,784. Included in this are bequests as follows: Five hundred and fifty-three dollars from Mrs. Mary A. Clark, of Franklin Avenue, Cleveland; \$86 from Mr. Thos. Wyatt, of Jersey and Lima, and \$25 from Rev. Granville Moody, and a gift of \$200 from Mr. and Mrs. E. Savage, of Berea. Mrs. Gamble reported \$52 received from the sale of photographs. Mrs. F. E. Barber, from the sale of missionary literature and articles from foreign fields, reported \$147.50. Miss Jennie Gheer gave a most interesting talk on Japan. She, with Miss Russell, pioneered the work in Southern Japan, and was doubly welcome in the Cincinnati Branch for this association. Mrs. J. Mitchell had charge of the District Secretaries' meeting. Reports from home and foreign fields were full of interest. Miss Hol-

brook had been offered a place in the Empress's school for girls in Tokyo, a school for the daughters of the nobility only. It was thought best to accept the offer. She was only required to teach three hours a day, and spent the rest of the time in evangelistic work. Her salary being met in this way she asked that another lady be sent with the money thus saved. Miss Belle J. Allen was selected. The election of officers resulted in the return of the old staff. Mrs. M. E. Bing and Miss M. A. Humphreys were elected delegates to Executive Committee meeting; Mrs. Dr. Davis and Mrs. P. P. Pope, alternates.

The last evening was devoted to a short experience meeting, in which two missionary candidates, Miss Anna Bing and Miss Julia Bonafield, and Miss Annie Gallimore, under appointment to India, gave each the story of her call, and of their joy in being honored with such an opportunity for service. This was followed by a missionary love-feast, and many short but clear and convincing testimonies were given. At the close Mrs. Clason offered congratulations to the beloved President, Mrs. Clark, for her continued good health, and for the fact that she had been permitted to reach her threescore years and ten. Mrs. Clark responded in fitting words.

Resolutions on the death of Mrs. Colonel Taylor, at this meeting, of Cambridge, recalled the resolutions prepared and read by Mrs. Taylor the year previous at Zanesville, closing with this sentence: "Resolution 6. That, as we have clasped each other's hands and looked into each other's faces, we have felt anew how good it is to be workers together in this great harvest-field, and in a spirit of trustful obedience

we would pledge ourselves anew to the work of sending the glad tidings of great joy throughout all the world, until from the valley of labor we shall ascend the shining heights of victory, and at the feet of Him Who loved us and Who redeemed us with His own precious blood we shall, with the redeemed of all nations, join the everlasting song of Moses and the Lamb." To her the victor's song came soon.

The appropriations assumed for the year 1887-88 were \$34,426. Pledges to send two missionaries to China, two to Japan, and two to India were contained in this amount. In February, 1888, the name of Mrs. Mary Ketring, of Napoleon, O., was presented to the Reference Committee, and accepted for work in Peking, and she left three weeks later for her distant field in company with Dr. and Mrs. Lowry. In September Miss Julia Bonafield, Miss Belle J. Allen, and Miss Anna Bing sailed from San Francisco for Foochow, Tokyo, and Nagasaki, respectively. A little later Miss Lucy Sullivan, Miss Izillah Ernsberger, M. D., Miss Elizabeth Maxey, and Miss Kate Blair, all from the Cincinnati Branch, left for India; Miss Sullivan for the Home of the Friendless in Lucknow, Dr. Ernsberger to open medical work in Baroda, and Misses Maxey and Blair to open a Deaconess Home in Calcutta. This made a contribution to the foreign work of eight consecrated workers in one year. Not having money to send them all out, Miss Maxey was transferred to the New York Branch. Misses Easton and Mansell, home on leave, had returned early in the year to India, and Miss Sears had reached home

after eight years of uninterrupted service. The annual meeting was held in St. Paul's Church, Toledo. The fine address of welcome, by Mrs. P. P. Pope, appeared in the Annual. There were present Misses Thoburn and Sears, from the front; Misses Maxey and Sullivan, under appointment, and Miss Rue Sellers, a missionary candidate. The District Secretaries' meeting was most ably conducted by Mrs. A. W. Gruber, eleven Secretaries taking part in the exercises. Miss Frankeberger, assisted by seven young ladies, gave a pleasing insight into the work of the young people. There were many changes in the working force during the year. Mrs. Joyce, consequent on her husband's election to the episcopacy, moved to Chattanooga, and though still in the Branch and a sharer in its councils, her presence at headquarters, with the influence of her example, was sadly missed. Her life had been an incentive to all who knew her for conscientious giving, and faithful performance of duty. She gave back the Cincinnati Conference to Mrs. Loyd, who had returned from the South. Mrs. G. W. Manly, of Akron District, who had been its most efficient Secretary for fifteen years, was obliged, by failing health, to give up the work so dear to her. During her years of service the District paid to the Branch treasury \$9,913, while the cost of organizing, holding district meetings, and attending eight Branch meetings had cost the District \$152. She left to her successor, Mrs. Dr. Locke, twenty-eight Auxiliaries, two Young Women's Societies, and four Bands.

The retirement of Mrs. Ferguson from active work as Secretary of Dayton District, on account of

sickness in her family, took from the Cincinnati Branch one of its first, as well as most faithful, laborers as Conference and District Secretary. Mrs. Ruth Worthington, for twelve years Secretary of Springfield District, removed to another Branch, leaving a memory in her old district fragrant with good works. Her place was taken by Mrs. C. D. Davidson, of Xenia. The itinerant wheel also moved Mrs. Dr. Pearne out of the bounds of Cincinnati District, though not out of the scope of abundant labors for the missionary as well as all other Church interests. Mrs. Dr. De Witt was chosen as her successor. A memorial was read by Mrs. Joyce of Mrs. Rev. John Pearson, who had been for some years the efficient Secretary of Hillsboro District, and resolutions of sympathy for her family and recognition of the loss sustained by the Branch were adopted. The Treasurer reported \$29,457 as the receipts for the year.

The theme of Miss Thoburn's address at the Anniversary was "Woman's Power," and she showed how even in India, where the idea of woman's place is weakness, yet, even there, "God had chosen the weak things of this world to confound the mighty."

The election of officers resulted in the election of the same general officers. Mrs. Crawford was elected to Committee on Photographs in the place of Mrs. E. P. Marshall. Miss Ellen Reveley and Miss S. A. Wilson were selected to prepare program for annual meeting. Mrs. J. R. Mills, of East Ohio Conference, and Mrs. F. Heerman, of West Virginia, were elected delegates to the General Executive meeting, with Mrs. Dr. John Mitchell and Mrs. S. E.

Moore as alteruates. A platform meeting closed the two days' program, Miss Loyd, Miss Sullivan, and Miss Maxey participating. After earnest words of commendation spoken by Dr. Whitlock and Rev. P. P. Pope, Mrs. Clark, in a few closing sentences, impressed the thought of co-partnership with God, urging more complete consecration, and closing with a brief prayer for the blessing of the Lord on work and workers for the coming year.

The amount assumed by the General Executive Committee for the Cincinnati Branch was \$36,000. This meeting of the General Executive Committee was a very remarkable one in many particulars. Cincinnati was centrally located for the whole country, and many visitors came, as well as an unusual number of missionaries. An invitation was sent to Conference and District Secretaries in the Cincinnati Branch, and many availed themselves of the privilege of attending the meetings. The weather was propitious, the arrangements happily conducive to getting the utmost out of the opportunities offered. The mornings were spent in Executive meeting, our own loved President presiding. Then luncheon, served by bright-faced girls, directed by hospitable matrons, was enjoyed in an adjoining room. From 2 to 3 P. M. was set for the devotional hour, and, somehow, never in all the years of the Society have there been such meetings. In the room where the Branch was organized, where all our quarterly meetings have been held, where prayer has gone up year after year, the meetings were held, and

“Heaven came down our souls to meet,  
And glory crowned the mercy seat.”

The attendance was large, for this and the following hour, when the Committees have gone out to their work. Missionaries or Christian workers talked on themes that seemed to interest every one, for the crowds came day after day. There were in attendance nine returned missionaries, and eleven outgoing, among those present the first representative of the Society. The presence of so many bishops and their wives was also a matter of interest. Bishops Walden, Joyce, and Thoburn were present at many of the sessions. Mrs. Clark presided, and Mrs. Ninde served as delegate from Topeka Branch, and the wives of Bishops Wiley, Joyce, and Walden sat upon the platform. There were rejoicings over an increase in collections of over \$15,000, and the sum reached was \$206,308. Twelve new missionaries were accepted and appointed.

Mrs. Gracey, writing of this meeting, says: "The devotional hour each day was rich. The experiences of those who had for years been toiling at home, and the call to service of the missionary candidates, the story of those returned from the presence and surroundings of heathenism, all magnified the grace already given. These meetings culminated on Tuesday afternoon in a service lasting nearly three hours; the first hour devoted to testimony, the remaining time to the administration of the Lord's Supper. Bishops Walden and Joyce had charge, assisted by Dr. Rust, Dr. Bayliss, Dr. Van Cleve, and others. About twenty ministers communed; then the missionaries, Corresponding Secretaries, and delegates, followed by the congregation. It was an hour never to be forgotten. Bishop Joyce delivered an

address to the outgoing missionaries in words of sympathy and encouragement, tender and loving. At the close, many gathered about the missionaries to grasp the hand, and give a final God be with you."

An aged saint reported that after this service she met a Doctor of Divinity with long years of experience, who said to her: "You and I will never see such a meeting again until we get to heaven." As Bishop Joyce addressed the outgoing missionaries, promising them the prayers of the women whose representatives they were, he turned to the audience, and asked those who would pledge themselves to follow these missionaries with their prayers to rise, and almost the entire audience stood up. Sitting near the door was a returned missionary of the General Missionary Society, who said, with streaming eyes, "I have often wondered at your missionaries holding out so bravely in the face of difficulties and trials, often, too, with sickness added, but I wonder no longer. Who would not be courageous, with such a rear-guard?" and added: "I thank God for this day's experience."

The spiritual influence left by the godly women at this meeting was very blessed, and many in other lines of Church work, and in missionary work outside of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, were strengthened and helped to better effort. The Methodist Social Union, of Cincinnati, gave a reception of welcome to Bishop and Mrs. Walden, and of farewell to Bishop Joyce and wife. It was during the Missionary-week, and an invitation was extended to the Executive Committee, and nearly all were in attendance. Three hundred and twenty Methodists

sat down to the table in the Grand Hotel, and the representatives from all parts of the country had a good opportunity to see Cincinnati Methodism. Mrs. Keen, of Philadelphia, represented the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in a very graceful and appropriate way.

As the year 1888-89 marked the closing of the second decade, it was determined to set up a memorial stone in Foochow, the first place for women's work in China, and in Lucknow, where the first school was established in India. A new building was a necessity in Foochow, and Lucknow College had an equal claim. So the Branch pledged \$2,000 to each object, the money to be raised by the Thank-offerings of the Branch. It was announced at this meeting that the full amount asked for the endowment fund for the zenana paper had been secured. This *Woman's Friend* is published in five languages—Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Tamil, and Marathi. The amount contributed by the Cincinnati Branch was \$2,740.

Another item of interest at this meeting was the reception of a memorial from the Pacific Coast, asking for a Branch on the other side of the Rocky Mountains. The request was granted, and the new member of the family named Pacific Coast Branch. Mrs. Gracey, writing of this, says: "The Pacific sister came in with the singing of a good old hymn; for all that this committee ever deviates from business is to a diversion of prayer or song."

The good seed sown at this meeting, and the faithful labors of missionaries and home-workers throughout the Branch, was seen in a large increase

in membership, while the receipts were \$5,000 in advance of the previous year. Donations and gifts were added to the usual collections in a way to make the heart glad; a second donation from Rev. Wesley Webster, of South Charleston, of \$300; a donation of \$300 from E. Savage, of Berea; \$1,000 from Rev. Sheridan Baker, to be invested, and the interest used in the support of a Bible woman in India, as a memorial of his daughter Maggie, recently crowned, and to bear her name. This was done, and in Calcutta, where Maggie Baker had hoped to go herself as a missionary, a Bible woman for the years to come will carry the story of peace to those who know it not. Surely such a memorial is more enduring than marble. Miss Mary A. Hubbard, of Cleveland, left \$500, and Mrs. James Perfect, of Galena, \$100 to the Society.

There was an unusual amount of sickness among the Branch missionaries. Misses Reed and Wisner were both ordered home from India, Miss Jewell from Foochow, and Miss Elliott from Japan, while Miss Warner was waiting in Mexico for some one to take her place, compelled by failing health to give up, for a time at least, the work she had toiled in so long and established so well; Miss Rothweiler, in Korea, was obliged to go to North China for treatment for her eyes, seriously affected by using them too soon when recovering from smallpox; Miss Russell reached home during the summer, after ten years' of continuous service, and received a warm welcome from friends and fellow-workers; Miss Sears waited, hoping to be able to return to Peking, but was obliged to put it off for another

year; Miss Thoburn spent the year in Cincinnati, having been selected as Superintendent of the Deaconess Home, just being opened, and assumed the duties, though far from well, with the understanding that one hand could be free to work for India.

The twentieth annual meeting was held in Trinity Church, Xenia, October 9 and 10, 1889. Miss Russell was present, and her address on "Japan and Its Needs" elicited marked attention, and was pronounced by some of the good brethren to be "statesmanlike."

Mrs. Walden, just home from Mexico, gave a picture of degradations she had seen, as well as the results of the mission work on those who were among *the very lowest*, in a way that impressed itself on the heart and mind. Telling of the wretched Peons, she said her first thought was, "Can it be that they are human?" One shrank back from contact, even in thought, with them. Then the question came, "Did Christ die for such as these?" and with quick-heart response: "Yes; for the very lowest." She added: "Then I felt I could get down in the dust beside them, if I could only lift them up to Christ!" She told of the schools where Mexican children from the lowest class looked like they belonged to another people, and were a living proof of the uplifting power of the gospel.

A Bible reading by Mrs. J. T. Holmes, of Columbus, Ohio, entitled, "Jesus as Leader, Strength and Counselor," and one at the opening of the second morning session, by Mrs. Dr. Pearne, with "Com-

munion with God" for the theme, were very helpful, and by special request were published in the Annual. The meeting for District Secretaries was conducted by Mrs. M. C. Manly. The Secretaries of seventeen districts took part in the exercises, and matters of vital interest to the work were discussed.

Miss C. Breyfogle, of Columbus, had charge of the meeting for young women, and very ably discharged the duty assigned her. Miss Thoburn and Miss Fannie Scott were the speakers for the closing session. Mrs. Henrietta Monroe, President of the Ohio State Woman's Christian Temperance Union, followed, and at the close of the address a resolution was adopted, "That the officers of the Cincinnati Branch of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society be empowered to sign the petition for the prohibition of the liquor-traffic on the Congo River, in behalf of the twelve thousand members of the Branch."

The re-election of all the officers took place, with the exception of Mrs. E. P. Marshall as Committee on Literature in place of Mrs. A. M. Dolph, and several changes in District Secretaries. Tennessee was set apart as a separate division, and Mrs. Bishop Joyce made Secretary. Committee on Thank-offering Day: Mrs. L. A. Albright, Miss Ellen Martin, Delaware. Delegates to General Executive Meeting: Mrs. Bishop Joyce, Mrs. H. Benton; alternates, Mrs. M. E. Bing, Mrs. A. S. Clason.

The week following the annual meeting, Miss Fannie Scott, of Cincinnati, and Miss Rue Sellers, of New Matamoros, left for India—Miss Scott to re-enforce the work in Rangoon, and

Miss Sellers to go to the assistance of Miss Easton at Naini Tal. They were gladdened by special gifts from various sources. An anonymous friend in Cincinnati presented Miss Scott with an organ valued at \$145. From other friends she received a sewing machine; from the King's Daughters at Wesley and young women in the Book Concern, a beautiful watch. The Chautauqua Circle and other friends remembered her also in a very practical way. Cambridge District showed its appreciation of Miss Sellers by many gifts and special donations. Newport, Beverly, New Matamoras, McConnelsville, and Cambridge, all shared in this, and felt a deeper interest in Miss Sellers and her work in consequence.

The General Executive meeting was held in Detroit Michigan. The appropriations assumed, with \$1,000 for the Contingent Fund, amounted to \$40,000. Seetapore was chosen as the object for Thank-offerings, the boarding-school there having always been entirely supported by the Cincinnati Branch, and its growth had made a new building a necessity.

In April of this year Miss Sears returned to Peking, after two years' absence. An urgent call for more helpers in Korea resulted in the acceptance and appointment of Miss Margaret Bengel, of Pomeroy, Ohio, and she sailed from San Francisco, September 4th. Mrs. Dr. Rothweiler collected \$308 to help pay her passage. Miss Jewell returned from China in January; Miss Wisner from Rangoon a month later; and about the same time Miss Reed from North India. Miss Warner was able to remain in Puebla until May, but then was obliged to leave, and

reached home in time to care for her mother in the last three months of her life, and to follow her to the grave. Miss Ayres, suffering from the altitude of Mexico City, came home for a few months, returning in November, ready for work again.

The presence of so many missionaries at home, even though on the sick-list, was blessed to the home Societies, and at District Conventions, camp-meeting anniversaries, and Auxiliary meetings, stirred up the membership to renewed consecration to the work of world-wide evangelization. Miss Russell was in labors most abundant, and Misses Elliott, Jewell, Reed, and Wisner, as they were able, though still on partial sick-list. The money collected during the year amounted to \$34,564; \$875 of this came from a bequest of Miss A. Sheera, of Oxford, O.

The annual meeting was held in Broad Street Church, Columbus. Over two hundred delegates and visitors were in attendance. After a consecration service, led by Mrs. Bishop Clark, and a talk by Mrs. Dr. Pearne on the text, "Lo, I am with you always," which was rich in spiritual power, Mrs. L. B. Taylor gave the address of welcome, and Mrs. Professor Semans, of Delaware, responded. Following the introduction of the pastor and other ministers, the venerable Dr. Trimble addressed the meeting, and those present who knew how true a friend he had been to the Society from the first organization, rejoiced that he had been spared to see its growth and rejoice with them over its success. Dr. Trimble congratulated the Society on its progress, recalling the early days of its weakness, and said, "it was now a factor in every good work."

A large number of missionaries were present at this meeting, five of them on the eve of returning to their respective fields. Miss Wisner presented Burma; Misses Elliott and Russell, Japan; Miss Ayres, Mexico; Miss Jewell, China; Miss Reed, India; while Miss Thoburn told of her "joy in returning to the land of her adoption." Mrs. A. Bowers had charge of the District Secretaries' meeting, and the Young Woman's Hour was led by Mrs. C. W. Barnes, the Recording Secretary. Both meetings were suggestive and helpful.

The reports of Committees and Conference Secretaries were unusually interesting. One item from Mrs. Benton's report will bear repeating. "Some ten years ago Mrs. Ann Reed, of Granger, wrote: 'I am old and feeble. I live in the country. The sisters think we can not have a Society, but I want to do something. I send you \$2.58—\$1.04 for the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, \$1.04 for the Woman's Home Missionary Society, and 50 cents for the *Heathen Woman's Friend*.' This has gone on for ten years as regularly as the years have come and gone. In the note inclosing her remittance this year she says: 'This may be my last, for I am eighty-two years old.' Think what it would be were the fourteen thousand women in the North Ohio Conference to follow her example!"

Mrs. De La Matyr delivered a very fine address on "Our Girl, the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society." A Bible reading, by Mrs. Ellen Martin, of the Ohio Wesleyan University, on the "Hands of Jesus," was full of pathos and tenderness, and by request was published in the Annual.

The election of officers resulted in the same corps, with but few exceptions. Mrs. T. E. Powell was elected on the Committee for *Heathen Woman's Friend* in place of Mrs. Holmes, resigned, Miss Mary Jones and Mrs. S. M. Richardson continuing as the other members of the Committee. Mrs. T. F. Smith, of Columbus, was elected on the Photograph Committee in place of Miss Casement, of Delaware. Mrs. J. H. Creighton and Mrs. C. W. Barnes were elected delegates to the General Executive meeting; Miss Carrie O. Scott and Mrs. Dr. Pearne, alternates. Mrs. L. B. Taylor and Miss C. Breyfogle, Committee on Thank-offering Day.

At this meeting steps were taken towards establishing a Branch Depository in Cincinnati, and a memorial sent to the Executive Committee asking leave for such action. It was also determined that the Young People's Societies should be represented in District Conventions; also that, when practicable, one of the Conference Vice-Presidents be elected from the Young People's Societies. Miss Leonora Seeds, of Delaware, was presented to this meeting as an accepted candidate, and Miss Ruth Sites was transferred to the Baltimore Branch and sent to Foochow.

The closing service of the Columbus meeting was one of intense interest. Misses Russell, Jewell, Ayres, and Thoburn were all to leave shortly for their distant fields of labor. Miss Thoburn was on the program for an address, which was a brief one, and coupled with it were farewell words to the Branch. In the years of her sojourn, the ties cemented so many years before had only grown

stronger. This was the fourth annual meeting she had attended since coming back broken in health, and with the joy of taking up once more the work laid down, there was the sadness that comes with all partings when time and distance will intervene, and so the tones faltered and many eyes were wet.

Mrs. Bishop Clark expressed the sorrow felt by the Branch, and assured her and the other missionaries of the love, sympathy, and prayers that would follow them. Mrs. Pearne sang:

“God be with you till we meet again.”

And there was comfort in the thought of the meeting when partings shall be no more.

Thirty-eight thousand eight hundred and sixty dollars was the sum appropriated for the year 1890-91. Miss Cecelia Frey, of Bucyrus, O., was accepted by the General Executive Committee, and appointed to Peking. She sailed from San Francisco the following September. Miss DeVine returned from India in April, 1891, after eight years of most effective work in Moradabad and Lucknow, and a month later was married to the Rev. George Williams. The year was a good one in all the Conferences—gains in membership and collections, enthusiastic work and united effort. Each Conference Secretary had a story of triumph and rejoicing. The contributions reach \$39,823, the highest in the Branch history. A bequest of \$500 from Mrs. Harrison, of Painesville, and another of like amount from Mrs. Webb, of Alliance, made glad the heart of the Secretary of the East Ohio Conference.

The annual meeting was held in Bellefontaine,

O., October 14th and 15th. The cordial words of welcome were spoken by Miss M. A. Humphrey, and Mrs. F. E. Duduit, of Portsmouth, responded. There were changes in officers that caused regret, though able substitutes were elected. Mrs. W. A. Gamble resigned the Chairmanship of the Literature Committee, and Mrs. P. C. Wilson was elected in her place, with Miss Viola Crapsey for Assistant. Mrs. R. L. Thomas was put in charge of the Cincinnati District, Mrs. F. E. Barber resigning the place. Mrs. M. A. Davis, of Cleveland District, East Ohio Conference, on Mrs. Rev. J. Wilson's removal, and Mrs. R. S. Strall in New Philadelphia in place of Mrs. Davis. In Central Ohio Conference, Mrs. Barkdull gave place to Mrs. Dukes in Findlay District. The North Ohio Conference was this year reorganized, making five districts, instead of six. This necessitated a change in the missionary equipment as well, Galion and Mansfield Districts consolidating. Mrs. Dr. Campbell, who had been in the work from the first, who had been District Secretary from the first organization with district officers, and who had never missed an annual meeting in seventeen years, gave up the place she had filled so long with such earnest devotion to a younger worker, stepping aside with the meed of praise: "Well done, good and faithful servant." Mrs. Dr. Lyon was elected Secretary of Mansfield District. Special resolutions were presented on the retiring officers; also on the death of Miss Isabel Hart, whose death was a loss, not only to her own Branch and the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, but to Methodism. Of the thousands who

had been inspired and helped through her writings, the Cincinnati Branch claimed a large part, and it was like a personal loss with many.

The presence of a number of missionaries added much to this meeting—Mrs. Lee, with her plea for Bengali women; Dr. and Mrs. Beebe, with the needs of China's millions pressing on their hearts, and speaking out in earnest words. Miss Wisner told most effectively the reason "Why I went to Rangoon." The love of Christ that "constraineth" made such going easy. A searching talk on "Cursed be he who doeth the Lord's work negligently," by Mrs. Dr. Thomas, and the hours given to the District Secretaries in charge of Mrs. J. R. Mills, and the Young Woman's Hour conducted by Miss Clara Nelson, were also marked features of the program. Helpful Bible readings by Mrs. Dr. Pearne and Mrs. S. M. Richardson added much to the spirituality of the meeting.

But the one thing above all others that set apart this meeting at Bellefontaine in the hearts of all present was the fact made known for the first time to the public of the sore affliction that had befallen our loved missionary, Mary Reed. Though the sad secret had been known to two or three persons for some months, it was necessary to keep silent until Miss Reed had reached India, and a letter was received from her the second morning of the meeting, written at Bombay, saying she had consulted eminent medical men in London and Bombay, and the opinion of her physicians here was confirmed. She had written to her parents, and gave permission to tell her story to those most interested in

her, her sisters in the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. No one present will ever forget that hour, as that congregation of devoted women heard the story told, and in one impulse, it seemed, fell on their knees, and there sent to heaven such prayers of love, sympathy, and earnest pleading that it seemed no wonder that the grace given Miss Reed was sufficient for her great need, and her wonderful preservation of health and strength afterwards was assured to the hearts of some who talked with God that day. It drew the hearts of all the workers together, and showed the ties that bound them reached into the beyond, and also, as nothing else had ever done, it drew out the love and sympathy of the Branch to all its representatives in every field surrounded by dangers that had not been understood, yet joyfully enduring all for Jesus' sake. It was remembered that only a year before, at Columbus, Miss Reed, sitting amidst her sisters, sang in Hindi the hymn she said she loved,

"Nothing but the blood of Jesus,"

little thinking her home in far-away India should be one of separation, and should have above the outer gate the words: "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin."

With chastened, saddened spirits, the meeting drew to a close. The general officers were re-elected. The delegates to the General Executive meeting chosen were Mrs. J. F. Loyd and Mrs. E. Hingeley; alternates, Mrs. A. S. Clason and Mrs. L. Paine. Committee on Thank-offering Day: Mrs. E. Johnson and Mrs. J. B. Jones, of Covington. Fol-

lowing the resolutions of thanks to the people of Bellefontaine, it was stated that two hundred dollars had been given by one of the officers who never allowed the right hand to publish the gifts of the left, to constitute the pastor of the Church, Rev. C. R. Havighorst and wife, life managers of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. In her closing charge to the Branch workers, as they went out to another year of labor, Mrs. Clark gave as a motto for the year, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." The amount assumed for the year 1891-92, including contingent fund, was \$45,770. The place selected for the thank-offerings for the year was Nagasaki College, and \$2,500 was asked for this purpose.

Miss Wisner returned to Rangoon in November, 1891. In August, Miss Rothweiler returned from Korea, and the same month Miss Hammond sailed for South America to engage in school-work in Montevideo. Miss Elizabeth Hoge, of Bellaire, O., went out to Lucknow to open up kindergarten work in connection with the Girls' School, and Miss Anna Keeler to Rangoon, to assist Miss Wisner in the boarding-school there. The absence of the service of our missionaries in the home field was keenly felt, even when rejoicing in the fact that the twenty-four standard-bearers were all at the front. There were failures to meet pledges in a number of the Conferences. It had been a hard year with many; but there came from no one a hint of disheartenment, only a redoubling of effort, and a strong determination to make up in the future what was lacking at this time. Mrs. Rev.

Beetham, of East Ohio Conference, was called home, and her sister workers passed appropriate resolutions.

The East Ohio Conference alone had made an advance. One hundred dollars came from Mrs. Hodge's estate, \$300 a gift from Mrs. Russell, of Mayfield, to endow a scholarship in memory of her daughter, and the sum of \$500 for Miss Hoge's outfit and passage money, which was raised by the Bellaire Auxiliary Young Ladies' Society and Children's Band. The Central Ohio Conference lost two most faithful Secretaries in Miss Hardy, who had served six years in Defiance District, and Mrs. Harnly, of Lima District, who was eight years a secretary, both compelled to withdraw on account of change of residence and pressing duties. Mrs. Nettie Fauver and Mrs. Leatherman were respectively appointed to the vacant places.

The General Conference of 1892 removed the restriction in Section 5, Article 8, of the Constitution of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, changing the words "this paragraph shall not be so interpreted as to prevent the women from taking collections in women's meetings," etc., to "shall not be interpreted to prevent the women from taking collections in meetings convened in the interest of their Societies," which concession was most gratefully received. In Section 4, "promiscuous public meetings" was changed to "regular Church service."

The twenty-third annual meeting convened in First Church, Cleveland, October 12, 1892. A large number of delegates and visitors were present. The opening consecration service was opened by the President, and was followed by a Bible reading

by Mrs. Dr. Pearne on the theme, "Let us stay our minds on Jesus." An address of welcome by Mrs. Dr. Gilbert, the wife of the pastor, was most cordial, as well as suggestive of the work we were set to do.

Before the appointment of Committees, Mrs. Bishop Clark presented a letter of retirement from the office of President of the Branch, an office she had held continuously for twenty-three years. The faces of all present spoke of the deep regret felt by this decision, which they felt to be final. In the absence of Mrs. W. B. Davis, Mrs. E. W. Mullikin was appointed Treasurer *pro tem.* During the meeting, Mrs. M. E. Campbell, of Cambridge, delivered a very fine address on the thought, "For such a time as this thou art come into the kingdom." Mrs. W. O. Semans conducted a very successful District Secretaries' meeting, twenty-one Secretaries taking part in the discussions. Miss Mary Carr had charge of the Young Women's Hour; and, among others, called forth Miss Anna Keeler, an accepted candidate, soon to leave for India, who gave an interesting account of her call to foreign work.

Letters were read from Miss Thoburn and Miss Mary Reed. The latter being the first addressed to the Branch from her mountain home, was received with deep interest. At the close, by Miss Reed's request, Miss Havergal's poem, "Compensation," was read with marked effect.

Mrs. B. F. Jackson gave a fine map lesson on Japan, and Mrs. John Mitchell delivered an address on the theme, "The Relation of the Woman's For-

eign Missionary Society to the Parent Board." The anniversary address was delivered by Miss Rothweiler; and as Mrs. Scranton went out to Korea from the First Church, more than ordinary interest was connected with the presentation of Korea as a mission-field. An address by Rev. Toyama, of Japan, was listened to with much interest, and as he told of his steps towards renouncing idolatry, then coming to Christ for forgiveness, and his great joy, and afterwards giving up his will and finding a "great peace," it was plain that this gospel story is the same all the world over.

A communication from Mrs. William B. Davis, declining renomination as Treasurer of the Branch, and suggesting that two Treasurers (a Receiving and a Disbursing Treasurer) be elected, was referred to the Committee on By-laws, who recommended the changes in Branch By-laws making provision for such election.

The Committee on Nomination of General Officers presented the following: For President Emeritus, Mrs. Bishop Clark; President, Mrs. Bishop Joyce; Recording Secretary, Mrs. C. W. Barnes; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. B. R. Cowen; Receiving Treasurer, Mrs. J. C. Kunz; Disbursing Treasurer, Mrs. Oliver Kinsey. Delegates to the General Executive Committee, Mrs. J. Mitchell, Mrs. W. O. Semans; alternates, Mrs. H. Benton, Mrs. M. A. Humphreys. Committee for Program on Thank-offering Day: Miss Eleanor O'Connell and Mrs. W. D. Yerger.

During the year just closed, Mrs. C. B. Savage, who for twenty-two years had led the missionary

forces in the Kentucky Division, was compelled, by change of residence, to give up the work so dear to her heart. A Committee, consisting of Mrs. A. S. Clason and Mrs. H. Benton, were appointed to convey to Mrs. Savage, as well as Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Davis, an expression of the deep feeling of the Branch officers and members in the separation that seemed so hard to accept as inevitable. The following resolutions, prepared by the Committee, were read by Mrs. H. Benton on the closing evening in a hush of intense feeling:

“We have stood beside an ivy-grown wall where, for some reason, changes were to be made, and it became necessary to take down the vine. As the tendrils that had made their way into every little crevice were torn away, it has seemed almost a human thing. A human cry of pain has seemed to follow each separation. The voiceless wall has almost seemed to say, ‘Why am I thus bereft?’ and the bleeding vine to cry out for its stay and support.

“We who are here gathered have learned by bitter experiences, often repeated, that partings and good-byes are a part of the life we now live.

‘Like pilgrims on the hills of life,  
We cross each other and are gone.’

“With real sorrow we have heard that some who have become very dear to us in the work of this Society, especially in this Branch, with whom for many years we have taken sweet counsel, are no longer able to continue in active service. Very vividly can several of us recall the annual meeting of the Branch in Trinity Church, Cincinnati, in April, 1872, and many of those then present—our honored President and others—some of whom have taken up different lines of work, others remaining true to their first love, and others still have passed from labor to reward. None do we remember better, or with higher Christian respect or more loving regard, than our dear sisters, Mrs.

'Clark and Mrs. Davis. Twenty years have come and gone since we commenced work together. We were then but a 'little folk.' In what a wonderful way has the promise been verified to us, that 'a little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a great nation!'

"At the time of that meeting, the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society had three missionaries in the field. At the ensuing meeting of the General Executive meeting, in New York, in May, plans were made for sending out three more. The three already abroad were in Northern Central India, and there was talk at this meeting, and a candidate presented for Foochow, China. Now we have work in North and South India, in Burma and Malaysia, in Northern, Western, and Central China, in Korea, Bulgaria, Italy, Mexico, and South America, carried forward by over eight hundred teachers, medical missionaries, native assistants, Bible-readers, deaconesses, and others, in boarding and day schools, orphanages, zenanas, hospitals, and training-schools. In that year, 1872, there was an income for the entire Society of \$44,477, while last year it reached the sum of \$263,660. We had then one paper, with a subscription list of 1,500. Now we have three papers,—the original mother of them all, the *Heathen Woman's Friend*, the *Heathen Children's Friend*, and the German paper, the *Heiden Frauen Freund*, with an aggregate subscription of 31,000, besides an illustrated paper, published in five of the languages of India.

"In looking back over the way we have been led, well may we exclaim, 'What hath God wrought!' and rejoice—nay, exult—that we have been privileged to labor together in such a work. Small wonder is it that, praying and planning and working for such results, 'our hearts have burned within us by the way,' and have been strongly knit together. Twenty years of work, of trials and triumphs, of failures and successes—more, we are glad to record, of the latter than of the former—and all binding our hearts together in stronger, closer bonds. Through it all—all the years and all the work—our sisters have seemed to us now like Great Heart in the story of the immortal dreamer, the brave, true-

hearted guide, full of resources, ever placing himself between his beloved Pilgrims and all danger; and again, like Mercy, tender and true; or, like Christiana, strong in the faith that all would end in peace and rest, and the goal be safely reached at last. Our dear Sister Savage, too,—with pain we learn that, being called to another and distant home, she will be with us in our counsels no more. How do we recall her tenderness and sympathy! How often we have been moved to tears by her pathetic tales of life among the lowly, Christ's dear ones among the mountains and valleys of her beloved Kentucky; and again to laughter by her quaint recitals of humorous situations, of which she was sometimes victim and sometimes heroine!

“Dear sisters, we are glad, though in this poor fashion, to voice to you the loving regret of the Cincinnati Branch that you must go out from us as active workers and leaders. When the beautiful autumn comes, the fruition of nature's life and energy on every side astonishes us with the wealth of its product, almost the lavish waste of the harvest. We can not tell the seed-sowing, sunshine, rain, and wind that have made the harvest so abundant, so beautiful, so sustaining to life, health, and the promise of perpetuating the future of the world.

“With such thoughts as these we console ourselves, and stay our hearts amid the changes inevitable to life. As Christian women, we would rejoice in the dispensations of our pilgrimage. We would not put heavier burdens on those who have bravely borne them heretofore; but we feel that we must take occasion to express our affection, our appreciation, our regret, our prayer that the richest blessing of the Lord may rest upon you, abide with you, and sustain you evermore.

“We commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. In good old Saxon phrase ‘God by ye’ to the end, and then—

‘Love, rest, and heaven.’

“MRS. A. S. CLASON,

“MRS. HORACE BENTON.”

Mrs. Clark in a few words expressed the appreciation she felt of the kind words spoken of herself and loved daughter, who was compelled by family affliction to withdraw from the work where she had been such a tower of strength, not only to her mother, but to the work they both loved so well. Many eyes overflowed during this touching scene. The mutual love and forbearance that has always made service in the Cincinnati Branch a joy, had bound the workers together in a "threefold cord," and it was almost a physical pain to hear the parting words.

Mrs. A. W. Ozias and Mrs. T. H. Hall were on the Committee for General Resolutions, one of which referred especially to Mrs. Clark:

*Resolved*, That it is with the most tender and deepest appreciation that we bid farewell to our beloved retiring President, Mrs. Bishop Clark, who, since the very beginning of our work, has so loyally given herself to its interests; that we pledge our constant prayers that the evening light of her life shine on in ever-increasing beauty, until it merge into the higher glory of immortal day."

It was with saddened hearts, but renewed earnestness, that the delegates returned from this annual meeting. The love and harmony with which the officers had worked together, "in honor preferring one another," had made hard work lighter, and brought a blessing with every service. So it was with something of the feeling of one who "walks apart" in an old, familiar path, that the work was done—some ties broken and other withdrawals shadowing the near future, saddened and yet inspired to greater effort "while it is called day."

The name of Mrs. Warren, so inseparably connected with the *Friend*, had become like a household word in the Cincinnati Branch, and her sudden death in January, 1893, was felt like a personal bereavement, and in District Conventions and Auxiliary meetings, special services were held in her memory.

The year 1892-93 was a good one in the Branch financially, spiritually, and numerically. Early in the year an earnest call for a medical missionary for Korea was answered by Dr. Mary Cutler, of Pomeroy, Ohio. She was accepted by the General Executive Committee, and sent in January, 1893, the Cincinnati Branch paying her passage and outfit. She was transferred to the New York Branch, on her arrival, the medical work being under that Branch. Miss Bengel, who had been in Korea less than her allotted five years, was married to Rev. Heber Jones, of Seoul, and the money refunded by the General Missionary Society was used in sending Miss Lulu Frey, of Bellefontaine, to take her place. She sailed, September 12th, in company with Miss Mary W. Harris, who was appointed to Korea at the last Executive meeting. Miss Nellie Harris, who had been studying in this country, returned to India to open kindergarten work in Calcutta.

Miss Mary Ketring and Miss Anna Bing returned home on health-leave. Miss Rothweiler, while slowly regaining her health, was still unfit for regular duty, and reluctantly "possessed her soul in patience," waiting for coming strength, and with it all she was abundant in labors.

There was an increase of subscribers to the

*Heathen Woman's Friend*, and a great demand for literature. It was decided by the Branch Executive Committee to issue a Quarterly, with reports of Treasurers and Secretaries and other items of special interest, immediately after each quarterly meeting, in a sufficient number to furnish one, at least, for each Auxiliary. The first number was published in April, 1893.

The District Conventions, without exception, were sessions of great spiritual power; penny-a-day members increased, and proportionate giving grew in interest. Most enthusiastic reports came from Bands and King's Daughters Societies. Missionary meetings were held at eight camp-meetings, and anniversaries at seven Annual Conferences. While the year at home was marked by self-denying giving, earnest supplications, and faithful work, the foreign reports from every field brought the same story: "God is walking among the nations of the earth, and the day of opportunity is the day of the Lord," while harvest-fields, awaiting the laborer, and the Master's call, "Go work to-day in my vineyard," sounds in the ears of His Church.

The annual meeting was held in Cambridge, Ohio, October 11th and 12th. As many of the delegates reached their destination in the afternoon of the day previous, a praise-service was held in the church on the evening of the 10th. It was led by Mrs. Bishop Joyce, the new President, and was deeply spiritual; a good beginning for the work of the annual meeting.

Wednesday morning the opening exercises were conducted by the President, "Christ's Commission to

his Disciples" the theme chosen. An earnest prayer was followed by a Bible reading by Mrs. William Fisher, of Avondale, founded on the text, "I am debtor, both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians." The address of welcome was delivered by Mrs. Rev. J. M. Carr, of Cambridge, and the response by Mrs. W. C. Hamilton, of Covington, Kentucky.

After appointment of Committees, an interesting talk on "Evangelistic Work in China" was given by Miss Ketring, who knew whereof she spoke by actual experience. Miss Bing was introduced, and spoke briefly of Japanese girls, and presented the Corresponding Secretary with a beautifully-carved writing-desk, the work of the girls in the Nagasaki school, and a present from them. As the pleasure received seemed to be shared by all present, a vote of thanks was returned from the entire Branch.

The Conference Secretaries' reports were listened to with an interest that was painful in some cases. Mrs. Savage was absent, and her successor, Mrs. J. B. Jones, appeared for the first time as representative of the Kentucky Division. Mrs. Clason was absent for the first time in twenty-one years. Fifteen years Conference Secretary of Central Ohio Conference, and six years as Assistant Corresponding Secretary in charge of a division, now other cares made it necessary to lay down her trust. Her report was read by Miss Carrie Butler, of Bellefontaine. Mrs. H. Benton gave the report of the North Ohio Conference, of which she had been the loved and honored Secretary for seventeen years, and previous to that had held places of trust in the pioneer days. With her report came the fact that she de-

clined renomination, not feeling strong enough to push the work as she thought it should be done. Mrs. Hingeley, of the East Ohio Conference, its faithful Secretary for fourteen years, was also absent, called to the dying bed of an only sister, and on account of removal from the Branch, her services ended with the year, to the deep regret of all—especially her Conference co-laborers, who had been bound to her with cords of love. A special Committee was appointed to draw up resolutions expressive of the sorrow and sense of loss sustained by the Branch.

Fraternal greetings from the sister Churches and from the Home Missionary Society were given, and responded to by Mrs. E. S. Emerson, of Madisonville. A helpful consecration service was conducted by Mrs. J. M. Carr, which lifted all thoughts heavenward, and brought balm to some aching hearts.

The receipts for the year amounted to \$39,181. The first bequest from West Virginia came in this year. The sum of \$1,000 was left the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society by Mrs. T. H. Logan, of Parkersburg, which, with \$23 additional from interest, was paid by the executor; \$203 also came into the treasury, from a bequest of Mrs. Paris Haynes, of West Hartland, Ohio.

The anniversary address was given by Miss Anna Bing, and was a strong presentation of "The Work in Japan." A very unique District Secretaries' meeting was conducted by Mrs. J. Mitchell. The subject, "The Duties of the District Secretary to Self, to the Public, and to the Auxiliary," was defined in answers to sixty questions given to as

many persons, covering one minute each. Mrs. Anderson, of Portsmouth, read a paper entitled "My Conversion to Missionary Work," which was ordered published in leaflet form. The hour given to young women's work was in charge of Miss Carrie Butler, of Bellefontaine, a number of young people assisting in the discussion. For the first time, the "Little Light Bearers" were brought before the Branch meeting. Mrs. Haines spoke briefly but earnestly, and a resolution was adopted, that the Branch recommend the formation of "Light Bearers'" Bands, according to the instructions of the General Executive meeting.

The general officers were re-elected. Mrs. J. Mitchell was made Secretary of North Ohio Conference, Mrs. A. E. Winter taking her place as Secretary of Cleveland District, and Mrs. J. R. Mills, Secretary of East Ohio Conference, with Mrs. D. W. Chandler, Secretary of Barnesville District, and Mrs. M. E. Bing, of London District, in place of Mrs. H. C. Wilson. Mrs. E. D. Whitlock was elected in Mrs. Clason's place in Central Ohio Conference. The delegates chosen for the General Executive meeting were Mrs. Bishop Joyce and Mrs. C. E. Jackson; alternates, Mrs. P. C. Wilson and Mrs. J. F. Rose; on program for Thank-offering Day, Mrs. H. Benton. Mrs. A. E. Baldwin, of Parkersburg, West Virginia, was constituted a life patron, on account of the payment of \$500.

Mrs. Dr. Thomas read a letter from Miss Mary Reed, in which she spoke of the view from her mountain home, and said, speaking of the other mission stations at Pithoragarh: "If I had a field-

glass, I could see the busy workers as they come and go about their Master's business." Mrs. Thomas suggested a small gift from each one present would purchase one, and enough was immediately contributed to send a fine telescope to this loved missionary sister.

The Branch took action on the opening of a new helper to missionary work, in the establishment of a Department of Missions in Delaware University, and resolutions were passed recognizing its value in preparing missionary candidates, and pledging interest and co-operation. Mrs. A. S. Clason was appointed to represent the interests of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in this connection. The special Committee appointed to consider the withdrawal from active service of Mrs. H. Benton, Mrs. A. S. Clason, and Mrs. E. Hingeley, presented the following resolutions, which were read by Mrs. M. A. Davis:

"In all our lives there comes at some time a strain of sadness. Changes are not always desirable, although sometimes imperative.

"When there comes a time in the lives of our experienced workers that they, after laying their cause before the Lord, feel that duty demands the laying down of the arms of aggressive warfare and retiring to the private ranks of workers, we believe that it brings to them no less of sadness than to us. If Elijah must go up, we would all desire to be Elisha, to catch his mantle. Three of our silvery-haired, sunny-hearted workers feel impelled at this Branch meeting to yield up the palm of honorable, conscientious, continuous service. They are Mrs. H. Benton, of the North Ohio Conference, Mrs. A. S. Clason, of the Central Ohio Conference, and Mrs. E. Hingeley, of the East Ohio Conference; Mrs. Benton having given twenty-two,

Mrs. Clason twenty-three, and Mrs. Hingeley fourteen of the best years of their lives. One of these dear sisters expressed herself as feeling 'as if she had made her will, and turned her face to the wall.'

"How we shall miss them, is but poorly expressed in the thoughts of these resolutions. Their presence, as they have gone in and out amongst us, has been not only an inspiration, but a benediction. Now we turn our thoughts outward, and say: 'Who can fill their places?' No one can. Each of us, as God's workman, must fill our own place.

"We hope we are not saying good-bye to them, only 'God rest thee!' May we not still be privileged to have your dear counsel, your warm sympathy, your earnest prayers?

"The consoling thought comes to us, that the work of these dear ones will still go on and on in the Branch, ever widening the circles of good deeds, until only the endless cycles of Eternity shall reveal the results. Then to us, as to them, if we are as faithful as they have been,

'The harvest home of God will come,  
And after toil and care,  
With joy untold our sheaves of gold  
Will all be garnered there.'

From this meeting the delegates returned to their homes with renewed consecration for the work of the coming year.

The members of the Cincinnati District held their Convention, October 17th, in the Clifton Church, Cincinnati. There was a large attendance. The beautiful new church, opened for the first time for such a gathering, the perfect October day, the cordial welcome, all conspired to make the meeting an ideal one. In the congregation, a deeply interested auditor, sat the loved President Emeritus, Mrs. Bishop Clark. As the story of the Branch meeting, with

its recorded victories of another year, was told, her face showed the joy felt that the work went forward, under another leader, with its old-time success; that the God who had in the long years of her administration led the way was still with his servants. The next morning the news flashed over the wires that Mrs. Clark was called home. Silently in the watches of the night, the death angel came, and without a struggle or pain heaven's door swung open wide, and she went in to be "forever with the Lord." It was more like a translation than death. As the tidings spread, the Cincinnati Branch represented a bereaved family. To those who were privileged to meet her that last day, it seemed hard to realize that she who had so long led the missionary host had "fallen on sleep," her labors ended, life's conflicts over, she was with Christ, "eternally shut in." And yet how sweet to die, as she herself would have chosen, after a long life of blessed service, ere the "weary days" have come; to sleep on earth and wake in heaven; the last good-night to the loved daughter changed to glad greetings of those gone before to the mansions prepared for her; her last service attending a missionary meeting; her last reading, the *Heathen Woman's Friend!* It could well be said of her, by those who knew of her labors of love, as the Master surely said: "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of our Lord."

Following the news of her death and the first startled sense of bereavement, came reports of action taken all over the Branch in memorial services in Auxiliaries and District Conventions, and a deeper

consecration to the work she loved so well was manifest. Being dead, she yet spake through those whose lives had been enriched by her example and earnest words of counsel. From sister Branches, as well as the General Executive Committee, there were expressions of a common loss and heartfelt sympathy. The chastened members of the Branch took up once more the duties assigned them, feeling, as never before, that they must work while it is called' day.

The General Executive meeting convened in St. Paul, Minn. Mrs. Joyce was kept at home by the serious illness of her husband. Mrs. Jackson also was prevented, as were the alternates, so that the Branch, for the first time in twenty-four years, had no representative except the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Walden, and Misses Bing and Ketring. The money assumed for the year 1893-94 was \$43,390; \$2,000 of which was contingent.

Miss Lula M. Kidwell, of Delaware, and Miss Mary Shockley, of Columbus, were accepted as missionary candidates. Miss Kidwell was appointed to Nagasaki, and Miss Shockley's appointment was deferred until after her graduation.

At this meeting it was determined to carry out the resolutions previously passed by the Reference Committee, to the effect that as the year 1894 "marks an important epoch in the history of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society—the close of the first quarter of a century"—and that "it be celebrated as a Silver Anniversary." A resolution was passed that the sum of \$10,000 be raised by this means to erect a college-building in Lucknow in

memory of our lamented editor, Mrs. Harriet M. Warren, whose deep interest in the higher education of girls was so well known. The usual Thank-offering meetings of the Branch were combined with Silver Anniversary meetings, and this retrospective view of the way the Lord had led in this work for him strengthened the faith and enlarged the vision of the women interested, and the offerings gathered were but a small part of the good achieved by keeping this feast.

The year 1893-94 was one of great activity and advancement. Though three Conferences began the year with new Secretaries, the retiring officers among the most efficient and experienced of the Branch workers, and twelve Districts changed officers, while others were prevented by illness from active work, it might have been expected that the readjustment of lines of work would have retarded growth somewhat; but the results proved the fact that "with God the humblest instrument can 'work wonders.'" Eighty-seven new organizations were added to the working force. Penny-a-day members were growing in numbers, and Mite-boxes were widely scattered. The Little Light-bearers came with added numbers, giving promise of the time when, from the "infant of days" to the gray-haired saint waiting her crowning, a place will be found in the ranks of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. The services of Misses Bing, Ketring, Ayres, and Ernsberger were freely given and brought rich fruitage.

In September, Miss Kidwell sailed from Vancouver for Nagasaki. Miss Ume Hamada, who

came to America with Miss Wilson, and after graduating in the Ohio Wesleyan as well as in kindergarten work, was sent back by the Cincinnati Branch to work among her own people. Misses Ayres and Loyd returned to Mexico. The receipts for this year were \$40,536. Two thousand of this came from a bequest from our translated President. It seemed strangely appropriate that, after nearly a quarter of a century of devotion to this cause, her last gift was laid upon the altar in this significant year.

The annual meeting was held in Central Church, Springfield, October 10th and 11th, Mrs. Bishop Joyce presiding. The opening prayer was by Mother Stewart, followed by a consecration service, conducted by Mrs. Joyce. Mrs. Heber Ketcham was appointed Assistant Secretary. Mrs. J. A. Myers welcomed the delegates and visitors in a most cordial manner, and Mrs. Rev. Keister, of Watertown, responded. A love-feast followed that was a feast indeed. The Conference Secretaries, with the exception of Miss Baur, were all present, and their reports were full of interest. Addresses were delivered by Misses Bing, Loyd, Ayres, Jewell, and Dr. Ernsberger, all of which elicited the closest attention. A Bible reading on "Tithing," by Mrs. L. Townley, of Wyoming, called forth much discussion, and many requests to have it printed. A beautiful original poem, by Mrs. Minnie Baines Miller, written for the twenty-fifth year of the Society, was read by her, and much appreciated by the hearers.

The District Secretaries' meeting was in charge

of Mrs. M. A. Davis, of Cleveland, and was admirably conducted. Miss Mary Shockley, of Delaware, had for the theme for the Young Woman's Hour, "Calls to the Work of a Missionary," and the time was taken up with the experience of the missionaries present as well as several candidates, and made a very impressive service. A memorial service in honor of Mrs. Bishop Clark was conducted by Mrs. H. Benton, and was a time of tender recollection and deep feeling. Tributes of love were offered by Mrs. J. H. Creighton, Mrs. C. W. Barnes, Mrs. I. W. Joyce, Mrs. B. R. Cowen, and Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart.

Mrs. Bishop Joyce, after two years of service as President of the Branch—years in which she had only grown in the love of those under her leadership—declined renomination, and Mrs. W. B. Davis, so long the Branch Treasurer, was elected President, and Mrs. Joyce took the place of First Vice-President, vacated by Mrs. Davis. The other general officers were re-elected. A number of changes were made in district officers: Mrs. C. D. Davidson, of Xenia, for Springfield District in place of Mrs. Dr. Pearne. In the Central Ohio Conference Mrs. C. R. Havighorst, Mrs. A. M. Wiley, and Mrs. M. Gascoigne were placed respectively in charge of Bellefontaine, Delaware, and Lima Districts. Mrs. W. O. Semans and Miss Humphrey had given years of service, but were obliged to give up their trust, though reluctantly. In the North Ohio Conference, Mrs. M. J. Monnette took the place of Mrs. Dr. Lyon on Mansfield District, and in the East Ohio Conference Mrs. R. S. Strahl was placed in charge

of Barnesville, and Dr. Mary Lemmon, of New Philadelphia District. Mrs. T. E. Powell asked to be relieved from the *Heathen Woman's Friend* Committee, and Miss Mary Jones and Mrs. S. M. Richardson were elected. Mrs. Z. L. White, of Columbus, was elected as Committee on Photographs. Delegates to General Executive meeting: Mrs. J. R. Mills, Mrs. M. K. Goulding; alternates, Mrs. W. B. Davis and Mrs. Wesley Hamilton. Committee on Thank-offering Programs: Mrs. H. Benton.

The address on the closing evening, by Dr. W. F. Oldham, on "The Women of Heathenism," was an eloquent one, and no woman hearing it could fail to see how blessed among the women of the earth is the lot of womanhood in our own land, "of every land the best." The Committee on Resolutions on the retiring President, recognized "the good judgment, earnest devotion, and unwavering faith that had been a source of inspiration and strength greatly appreciated by her fellow-workers," and it was

*"Resolved,* That as sister workers and Branch representatives, we hereby express our appreciation of her services and our abounding love for her personally; that we rejoice she will still be in our circle, and a sharer in our toils and triumphs.

*"Resolved,* That our earnest prayers shall be with her, whether in our Branch work or wherever the work of the Church may lead her. Together we have overcome, and together we will rejoice in a kingdom that is an everlasting kingdom."

The resolutions of thanks to the good people of Springfield, and of reaffirming the faith and hope of the members, presented by Mrs. Benton, closed

with this, which makes a fitting ending to the year's record:

"The Cincinnati Branch of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, assembled for its twenty-fifth annual session in Central Church, Springfield, desires to record its appreciation of the beautiful Christian welcome and hospitality from the homes and Churches of Springfield; from its presiding elder, pastors, and people; from its sweet singers and players upon instruments; for courtesy extended by railroad officials and gentlemen of the press; for the helpfulness of our Branch officers during the session; for their inspiring reports, which stand for so much of personal work and sacrifice during the year.

"We are thankful for the presence of so many of our missionaries, returned and prospective; for their words of cheer, which have been to us an inspiration to more faithful work; and hereby express to them our hearty sympathy. We can but rejoice that this twenty-fifth year of our Branch work has been crowned with love and mercy from our Heavenly Father; that we have made steady advance on all lines of work, material and spiritual; and though we entered its labors with much of disquiet and uncertainty, we close its record with songs of praise and victory, so that we may truly say, 'We know in whom we have believed, and are persuaded that he is able to keep that which we have committed unto him against that day.'

"And we would hereby pledge anew to Him, and to this work which we believe He has given us to do for Him, our love and loyalty."

The amount assumed for the year 1894-95 by the Cincinnati Branch was \$46,870. Two thousand dollars was sent to the "Warren Memorial." Miss Julia M. Donahue, M. D., of Fremont, O., was accepted as a medical missionary, and appointed to Hing Hwa, China; a pressing call for woman's work to be opened in the District of Bastar, India, a rich country with a people accessible to

missionary influences, speaking the same language, and heretofore without any effort made to give them the gospel. Advantageous offers were made the Methodist Episcopal Church to enter and possess the land in the name of our King. An urgent plea for medical work, for girls' schools, and evangelistic work was made to the General Executive Committee, and, after careful and prayerful consideration, it was determined to assume this work for the Cincinnati Branch, calling it for our crowned leader the "Mary J. Clark Memorial Mission," and to send Dr. Ernsberger to open medical work there. This was taken as the object for thank-offering gifts; also \$1,000 in rebuilding in Tokyo, \$500 on the property in Rome, and the money to send a missionary to Japan—\$5,000 in all.

The second quarterly meeting of the Cincinnati Branch for the year 1894-95 was held, April 9th, in the same room at Trinity Church, Cincinnati, where, on April 6th, twenty-five years before, the Branch was organized.

The leading events of the intervening years have been briefly told in these pages. Many things that should have been recorded have been crowded out by lack of room, and many names have been passed over that will shine as stars for ever and ever. The "good women and true" who, all over the Branch, have carried the burdens and borne the heat of the day, are not forgotten; neither have their labors been in vain. For them the blessed recognition waits, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me."

One chapter should have been given to the District Secretaries alone. The systematic work, uniformity in reports, faithful adherence to new lines of work and zeal in the performance of duty, has made it so that, to a certain extent, leaving something for unexpected gifts, it can be known just what to expect from a District and Conference. Surely in all this broad land there are no more faithful women, in any line of work, than are to be found in the Conference and District Secretaries of the Cincinnati Branch. And while He for whom they labor will render unto them double for their toil and self-denial, it is also right to have the acknowledgement of the Branch.

Nor should those who have passed over the portals of the grave, and "whose works do follow them," be forgotten. Every Auxiliary is represented in that better country where sin and death never enter, and, while holding their memories in sweet remembrance, it is strongly impressed on those who are left that time is flying, and what is to be done must be done quickly.

The aggregate of organizations, Auxiliaries, Kings' Daughters, and Bands, amount to 1,032, with a membership of 18,000. There are 12 life patrons, 40 life managers, 2,720 life members; aggregate subscriptions to the three papers, 4,470. The money collected in the twenty-five years amounts to \$523,624.09—over half a million of dollars gathered by busy women and disbursed by women, who have not been forgetful of other forms of Church work; but with most of them this is an extra gift, their very best, laid on the altar of the

Lord, and the results show that it has been accepted and blessed of God in carrying forward his work.

It will be noticed that but few large gifts or bequests have enriched the treasury—one bequest of \$2,000, one of \$1,500, and three of \$1,000 each. Thankfully have smaller sums been added to the regular lines of collections. Some generous givers have annually given sums that, if paid all at once, would have made a large sum. Mr. and Mrs. E. Savage, Mr. Edward Sargent, Rev. B. Green, Mrs. P. P. Mast, Mrs. V. T. Hills, Mrs. Sanborn, Mrs. W. B. Davis, Rev. Wesley Webster, and others, in smaller gifts, have joyfully set apart a fixed sum for each year.

The suggestion is not only made, but strongly urged, that the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society be remembered in bequests and gifts by the Lord's stewards who have some of his money intrusted to them. It is an investment that will bring rich returns. All the other Branches have had much help in this way. There has been a healthy growth in the Cincinnati Branch in the regular line of work, climbing up each year from \$2,844 in 1870 to over \$40,000 in the last year.

The Cincinnati Branch has sent out 41 missionaries, and furnished 8 for other Branches; 28 are still on the roll; 6 have married missionaries and are still on the field; 6 have left the work for ill-health or other reasons; 1—Florence Nickerson—sleeps beneath the blue ocean waves; but the memory of work accomplished and love called forth, "many waters can not quench nor floods drown." The ag-

gregate of years of service on the field by the missionaries of the Cincinnati Branch amount to 242 years.

Any report of the Cincinnati Branch would be incomplete that did not mention the beautiful Christian spirit that has made united work a blessing. Peace and harmony have reigned within the Branch borders. In union of purpose, thought, and work, there has been strength, and, best of all, "God has been with his servants," and blessed have been the years of service. But let us follow our contributions across the seas, and see if in the dark night of heathenism there is any promise of the coming day. In twelve foreign Conferences and Missions the representatives of the Cincinnati Branch are at work. Eighty-six Bible women are daily carrying the bread of life to those who are ready to perish. Besides the twenty-eight missionaries and seventeen assistants, sixty-three teachers in boarding-schools and fifty-three in day-schools are supported by this Branch—three training-schools for Bible women—and we are responsible for the education of over three hundred girls in orphanages and boarding-schools. Evangelistic work in cities and villages reaches thousands of hungry souls anxious for the bread of life, and last year five thousand of these new converts were under regular instruction. In buildings, orphanages, hospitals, and schools, the Cincinnati Branch has shared largely. These schools have been fruitful vineyards from which have gone out teachers and Bible readers. Little children have been cared for, and the poor have had the gospel carried to them. From the hospitals

have gone out numbers trained to cure the sick body and comfort the sick soul, besides ministering to thousands of suffering ones. Into many a darkened soul a great light has shone, and the "signs of promise" multiply on every hand.

Has this work been in vain—this labor that which profiteth not? Shall God's handmaidens lay down their sickles when the fields are white to the harvest; rest in inglorious ease when the victor's crown is to be won? A thousand times, no. While souls are perishing, this mission remains. The world for Christ, and Christ for all the world! What shall the next quarter of a century bring? The one that writes that story will have wonderful things to tell. This woman's work for woman in its reflex influence has touched many hearts, and never have the loyal women of Methodism been so earnest in pressing forward the work that has been so signally blessed of God as now. So with the story of the past as an earnest of future successes in the same direction, these servants whom God hath called will press on in trusting obedience to every command to "go forward," humbly relying on Him without whose help all labor is vain, and without whose grace all wisdom is folly.

MISSIONARIES  
OF THE  
CINCINNATI BRANCH.



ISABELLA THOBURN.

It was the privilege of the Cincinnati Branch to furnish the first missionary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the person of Miss Isabella Thoburn. She was born near St. Clairsville, Ohio, March 29, 1840. In a happy Christian home, where God was honored and his commandments obeyed, her early years were spent, and the lessons there learned were shown in the work of after years. She graduated from Wheeling College, West Virginia, and spent some time in art studies in the Academy of Design in Cincinnati. For some years afterwards she taught in various schools, winning the hearts of her pupils as well as the approval of her employers. A year or two previous to the formation of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society she wrote to the Secretary of the General Missionary Society, asking if there was a place for her in the foreign field, but was told there was no work in connection with our missions for a single woman. She then entered into correspondence with Mrs. Doremus with a view to being sent out by the Woman's

Union Missionary Society, and had it not been for the visit of Mrs. Parker to Ohio in 1868, would doubtless have been accepted by that Society. Mrs. Parker found she could get the missionary candidate, if the Society to send her forth was only organized.

The story of her appointment and departure is well known. It was a significant fact, showing how on faith the corner-stone was laid, that the first missionary was appointed and preparations for her journey begun before the money was raised to send her. She sailed November 3, 1869, and reached Lucknow and began her work early in January. From that day until her return home, eleven years later, the story of her life and the work in Lucknow were one. The school had grown to be a recognized power, and the influences for good going out from there were widespread. In 1876 a school for English-speaking girls was opened in Cawnpore, forty miles distant, under Miss Thoburn's superintendence. She had also the large boarding-school at Lucknow.

Miss Easton, her successor, wrote: "She began the Cawnpore school with nothing but her hands full of other work. For two years, in heat almost intolerable, she made her weekly trips to and from Lucknow; and when the school gets, through her labors, a local habitation, a comfortable furnishing, and fifty pupils, she freely hands it over to another, and only hopes from her heart of hearts that the new superintendent will do better than she did."

She reached home in May, 1880, and remained here until the fall of 1881, when she returned to

India. After four busy years she was stricken with congestion of the brain when on the mountains, was carried to Almora and lay there for weeks with fever, tenderly nursed by Miss Harvey, and earnestly prayed for by the whole mission. Her slow convalescence and return home followed.

Just before leaving India the idea of the Lucknow College first came to her, and held her in its sway until it was an accomplished fact. She reached home in April, 1886. In the fall she went to Chicago, though still far from well, and spent the year in the Training-school and Deaconess Home, helping to train others to do the work she was no longer able to perform. In October, 1888, she came to Cincinnati, and assumed the superintendency of the Elizabeth Gamble Deaconess Home while waiting for health to return to India. She did this with the understanding that one hand be left free to work for India, and during the years she spent here, carried on a large correspondence, collecting money for Lucknow College, though her duties in the Home were not neglected. When she returned to India in November, 1890, she reported \$15,500 in the Lucknow College fund, \$6,000 of which came from the Cincinnati Branch. Since then, in many ways, her hands and heart have been employed, the college building making a very heavy tax upon her energies in addition to other duties. Miss Thornburn was a pioneer in a number of cases: the first missionary; one of the very first to begin Sunday-school work in India, also in schools among English-speaking people, and she suggested and fostered the project of the first woman's college in Asia.

## SARAH F. LEMING-SHEPHERD.

MISS LEMING was born near Cincinnati, O., November 12, 1845. Her childhood and early youth were surrounded with Christian influences in a quiet country home. She was a great granddaughter of Rev. Philip Gatch, one of the first Methodist preachers in the State of Ohio. After her conversion, anxious to fit herself for whatever work God had for her to do, she entered the Cincinnati Wesleyan College, from which she graduated with honor. Mrs. Bishop Clark wrote of her at this time: "It was remarkable how she developed spiritually and intellectually." She offered herself as a missionary candidate, was accepted and appointed to Bareilly, India, sailing soon after her graduation. She had greatly overtaxed her strength by close application to her studies, and left with health shaken, but thought, as did her physician, that the change of travel would restore her, but instead she grew worse, and reached India an invalid. She made a brave struggle, but grew worse, and after a year-of waiting in increased weakness, was advised to return home, and saying sadly, "Thy will be done," she left the work her heart longed to do, and came back to the home land. This disappointment was a strange providence to her as well as the Cincinnati Branch, that hoped so much from her labors. She afterwards married Mr. M. Shepherd, and is now living in Minnesota.

## SUSAN M. WARNER-DENSMORE.

MISS WARNER was born in Groton, Tompkins County, N. Y., and educated in Milwaukee Female College. After educating herself, and spending several years in providing for her mother, she was at last able to realize a long cherished plan of engaging in missionary work. She was teaching in New Orleans when the way opened for her, and she was accepted as a missionary and sent by the Cincinnati Branch to Pachuca, Mexico. She sailed from New York, January 8, 1884, in company with Miss Hastings, and they were pioneers, the first representatives of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in Mexico. She opened school in Pacluca, beginning with children of English residents. At the opening of the second year she organized a class of Mexican scholars, which grew rapidly, until she was transferred to Mexico City to care for the Orphanage. Most conscientiously and heartily she fulfilled her allotted task until, prostrated by fever and worn by overwork, she was obliged to return home in 1878 for rest and recuperation.

Returning in November, 1879, she relieved Miss Hastings from the care of the Pachuca school, so she could return home for rest. This school numbered 108, and the year's work was faithfully done. On Miss Hastings's return, Miss Warner was sent to open work in Puebla. This was in 1881, a day of small beginnings. With a few scholars in the upper part of a rented house, under most trying circumstances, she held to her post and conquered the difficulties; moving into larger quarters then, in our

own building, until the school in numbers, discipline, and reputation as an educational center, was known and recognized throughout Mexico. Miss Warner came home for a short rest, leaving Miss Swaney in charge. In November, 1885, she returned to her field of labor, and had the satisfaction to see the little school in the upper room, now largely increased, still prosper under her fostering care. In 1890, she came home, leaving school property valued at \$26,000, and a monument in the Puebla Normal School that will be more durable than marble. One hundred and fifty girls are in training there, and it is known all over Mexico for its high standard and success. In 1891 she was married to Mr. D. Densmore, of Red Wing, Minn., and after giving seventeen years' service in Mexico, is entitled to the rest and security of a home.

#### LETITIA MASON-QUINE.

MISS MASON was the first medical missionary sent out by the Cincinnati Branch, and the third sent to China by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. She was born in Ogle County, Illinois, was educated in the Bloomington University, graduated from the Woman's College in Chicago, and practiced in the hospital the following winter. She was accepted as a missionary candidate, and appointed to Kiukiang, China, sailing from San Francisco, October 5, 1874. Mrs. Bishop Clark wrote of her: "We looked upon Miss Mason as one thoroughly furnished. She attended one of our meetings held in Columbus. I shall never forget her as she stood by me on the platform, in the bloom of health, of

beauty, her eyes full of tears and her heart aglow with love and a desire to help bring nigh those who were afar off." The Society never felt more hopeful in regard to the success and endurance of any of its candidates. The story of her failure in health, her long struggle against disease and pain, and her final submission to the inevitable in her return home to save her life, is one of the mysteries we must wait to understand. Mrs. Ingham, writing of the deep regret felt by the Branch, said: "It is as bitter a disappointment to her as to our Branch, who had hoped for so much from the medical work in Kiukiang. These pioneers in this department in Asia seem to be laying down their lives for its sake. How often it is that some work even to death, and others enter into their labors!" Miss Mason, after some years, married Mr. W. E. Quine, and is living in Chicago.

#### HENRIETTA C. OGDEN.

MISS OGDEN was born in Springfield, Ohio, April 1, 1837. Her father was an English gentleman of wealth and refinement. His library was a good one, and his children had the benefit of the best educational and religious advantages. She was converted when ten years of age. After a happy girlhood spent in a Christian home circle, trial and sorrow came, her father died, financial reverses followed, and she had need of the grace so freely given. She felt called to work for others, organized a country Sabbath-school, and had the joy of seeing her whole class converted. Then, when the temperance wave passed over the State, she threw herself into the Crusade with all her energy and enthusiasm, render-

ing valuable service. She offered herself as a missionary candidate, and was accepted and appointed as a helper to Miss Warner. She sailed for Pachuca, Mexico, in 1876, and gave two years of faithful, efficient work, being greatly loved by her pupils. She returned home in 1878 to recuperate. In 1886 she was sent to Puebla by the Minneapolis Branch, and remained there three years, helping in the kindergarten and evangelistic work. During her stay there the first real revival in Mexico occurred in the Puebla schools, and Miss Ogden gave valuable assistance in the meetings. She returned home in 1889, much broken in health, and has been quietly resting at her home near Springfield, Ohio.

#### MARY J. HOLBROOK-CHAPPLE.

MISS HOLBROOK was born in England, on Christmas-day, 1852. Her father was a minister, and, emigrating with his family to America, he joined the Wyoming Conference, of which he continues an honored member. She early showed a love of learning and a literary ability of no mean order. She graduated with honor from the Wyoming Seminary, showing the greatest persistency and self-denial in securing this end. Then by teaching, she helped her sisters to the advantages that had cost her so dear, and assisted her father largely in securing a home. She taught in places of trust, and gave entire satisfaction to her employers. She was formally accepted as a missionary in 1878, and appointed to Tokyo, and her support and traveling expenses transferred to the Cincinnati Branch. She sailed, in company with Miss Spencer,

October 1st of the same year. Two years later, the beautiful new home and school building in Tokyo was destroyed by fire, the missionaries and pupils only escaping with their lives. Not waiting to bemoan personal losses, or complain of personal discomfort, the brave women rented a house, gathered the children together, and the work went on. Gifts were joyfully sent from the Branch to replenish Miss Holbrook's losses, and a better house was built, and great prosperity followed.

Miss Holbrook came home for a year in January, 1885, and was most cordially welcomed by the members of the Cincinnati Branch, who saw her for the first time.

On her return to Japan, she was given the charge of Bible-women's work in Yokohama. After a year spent here, she was offered a place in the empress's school for girls—a school for the daughters of the nobility, under the patronage of the empress. It was thought best for her to accept the opportunity to sow the seed of the kingdom, even secretly, in this unexpected field. She only taught three hours a day, so the rest of her time was given to evangelistic work, and her salary, now paid by the school, left that money for the support of a new missionary. She also conducted the women's department in the *Christian Advocate*, published in Tokyo. Had Miss Holbrook devoted herself to literature she would have gained a reputation in that direction, as she is especially gifted in composition. In 1890, Miss Holbrook was married to the Rev. Benjamin Chapple, of the Japan Mission, and since that time has had the supervision

of Bible-woman's work, supported by the Cincinnati Branch.

#### SALINA ALCESTA EASTON.

MISS EASTON was born in Middlesex, Yates County, N. Y. She was converted when sixteen years of age, and early began to impress her friends as one who would have a strong influence for good on those connected with her. After spending two years in the Lima Seminary, she went to the Wesleyan Female College, in Cincinnati, from which she graduated in 1854. She remained there some time as a teacher, and from there went to an academy in Perry, N. Y. From this school she was chosen as teacher of mathematics and English literature in the Wesleyan College at Wilmington, Del. She remained here for seventeen years, part of the time as preceptress. For two years before her appointment to India she taught in the Mt. Vernon Seminary, in Washington, D. C. She was sent to India in the autumn of 1878 to take charge of the Normal School in Cawnpore, India—a school for the English-speaking people. It had been opened two years before by Miss Thoburn, as Miss Easton wrote, "with nothing but her hands full of other work." For two years it had been superintended by one who had another school forty miles away, and weekly trips had to be made; but there was a building, and fifty girls in the school, and Miss Easton's administrative abilities had a fine field for operation. After eight years of most successful work, Miss Easton came home for greatly-needed rest, spoke at the Branch quarterly and an-

nual meetings, and in other places strongly pleaded for the English schools in connection with the mission work in India. She returned to her chosen field in November, 1887. She was sent to Naini Tal, where the English school had been opened some years before by Miss Knowles without money sufficient to carry it successfully, with a heavy debt on the property. There had been heroic work done, and plenty more to be done. For eight years Miss Easton has remained at her post without a vacation. For the last six years she has made the school pay all expenses, and has cleared the property of debt. One hundred girls are in the school, and the standard of scholarship is a very high one, and few girls will go out from under her care without impressions for good that will be lasting as eternity.

#### ELIZABETH RUSSELL.

THE Cincinnati Branch has done much pioneer work in various places, and the opening of women's work in Southern Japan had as one of the leaders Miss E. Russell. She was born in Wheeling, W. Va., October 19, 1840, graduated from the public schools, then from the Women's College at Washington, Pa., was a very thorough student, and kept up the habit of study ever after leaving school, taking up a language or science, and enjoying the exercise. She taught in various places, edited a temperance paper, was first District, then Conference Secretary, an active organizer of Auxiliaries for foreign work, and a temperance worker in the home land. In 1889 she offered herself as a missionary. She had been ready to do this ten

years before, when her mother's death left home duties she felt she could not leave. Now the way was open, and she gladly asked for a place to serve. She was accepted, and sent to Nagasaki, Japan, in October, 1889, in company with Miss Gheer, sent out by the New York Branch. They opened school with two scholars, December 3d. The record of that school, its trials and triumphs, the other schools going out from this center, the streams of influence reaching all through Southern Japan, are too well known in the Cincinnati Branch to need repeating. Miss Russell came home in 1889, after ten years' absence, with a plea for a college in Southern Japan that she pressed with vigor and enthusiasm. Miss Russell remained at home nearly two years, returning to Japan in November, 1890, and once more took charge of the Nagasaki school, which had so increased that it was impossible to carry on the work without additional room. This was furnished in 1895 in new dormitories and chapel, which was dedicated by Bishop Walden on his recent visit to Nagasaki. This greatly adds to the efficiency of the work. Miss Russell has a keen insight into character, as well as the movements of Church and State, and has used this in planning and prosecuting her work, so that she is generally a little in advance of public sentiment. Her work in Kiu-shiu will compare favorably with other efforts any place, and will show greater results with each passing year.

ANNIE B. SEARS.

MISS SEARS was born in Bucyrus, O. Her ambition for a thorough education was one that

was daunted at no difficulty, and she persevered until she had completed the full course in Mount Union College. Conscientious, painstaking, and thorough, her record was above the average as a student. She taught in various schools with much acceptance. When teaching in Kent, O., she offered herself to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society as a missionary candidate, was accepted, and appointed to Tientsin, China, where the Cincinnati Branch was under pledge to send a missionary. In correspondence with the Secretary she said, while willing to go anywhere, she preferred any other field to China; but when the case was presented to her, her reply was characteristic: "The call from Tientsin is a Macedonian cry; I will go there." A few months later she sailed, but, by a strange series of providences, when she reached China, was needed most in Peking Boarding-school, and there she spent the next seven years, superintending the school, acting as treasurer—in itself a heavy responsibility—and helping on the work in many ways. She came home for a rest in 1888. In April, 1890, she returned to Peking, and gave most effective service until a serious attack of fever left her in a state that made a return absolutely necessary. She reached home August, 1895.

#### FLORENCE NICKERSON.

MISS NICKERSON was being educated for a gay and worldly life when God met her at Lakeside Camp-meeting. She was deeply convicted and triumphantly converted. She went away with her life plans changed, and a new song in her mouth.

That year she spent in teaching, returning to Lakeside the following summer. There she received a baptism of the Holy Spirit, and with it a call to missionary work. Possessed of a sensitive, loving nature, clinging with tender affection to every earthly tie, it required the grace promised to those who "forsake all for Jesus' sake" to carry her through the ordeal. She was accepted by the General Executive Committee in May, 1880, and sailed for India the following autumn. She was appointed to the Lucknow Boarding-school, to assist Miss Gibson. On Miss Thoburn's return a year later, Miss Nickerson was made superintendent of the zenana work, where she spent two years of earnest work, her tender heart often torn with sympathy for the sad-faced women she met in the zenanas. At the next Conference it was found that no one could be spared from the Parent Society for the far-off station in Pithoragarh, and that the schools and evangelistic work would have to be left in the hands of inexperienced native workers. It appealed to Miss Nickerson, and she asked to be sent there. Her offer was gladly accepted, and she went to a place five days' journey from any white faces, yet feeling upheld by the thought that it was God that sent her, and, as she wrote, "When He putteth forth his sheep, He goeth before." The work was varied, and she was really "preacher in charge." She remained there two years, and was then sent back to Lucknow to zenana work. Her health was broken, but she hoped to hold out until help should be sent from home, and held on until completely prostrated. She had then to be sent under care of Miss Rowe,

and when her friends were anxiously waiting her coming, the news came that God had called his weary child home. She had "fallen on sleep" in the Gulf of Aden, and her body was committed to the deep. It was the first death in the ranks of the Cincinnati Branch missionaries, and that, with the peculiar circumstances, made it like a personal bereavement. Many knew and loved her for her own sake, others for her work's sake. A little memorial of her, written by Miss Thoburn, was published, and the money went to build a little home for Bible women in Lucknow, a project she was anxious to carry out had she lived. Her death stirred up renewed consecration in many hearts, and while her loss was felt, it was remembered that one of her last messages was, "God never makes mistakes," and that, as was sung of the martyrs of old, it could be of her:

"Flung on the heedless winds,  
Or on the waters cast,  
The precious ashes watched by Him  
Shall gathered be at last.  
And from that scattered dust,  
Around us and abroad,  
Shall spring a plenteous seed  
Of witnesses for God."

#### ELLEN WARNER-FOX.

IN 1881, when a search was being made for some one to go and open work in Rangoon, the call reached Miss Warner, Professor of Mathematics in Berea University, in what seemed an accidental way, but as she felt by God's appointed plan: so she obeyed the Spirit's call, and her name was presented

to the General Executive Committee meeting and accepted for this pioneer work. The only drawback was the means to send her. In August, Miss Thoburn attended the Lakeside Camp-meeting, and told the story of the need and supply, if they could be brought together by some money now in the hands of the Lord's stewards. Miss Warner was well known in that locality, and the story touched many hearts. One preacher, none too well supplied with this world's goods, rose and, with tears in his eyes, said: "I know Miss Warner. She was my classmate in college. I know there is not a college in Ohio that would not be glad to have her services, and if she can stoop from work where she is honored to such a place as this, it must be God's call. I want to give \$25 for her passage money." In a few minutes \$430 was gathered up. She sailed with Misses Thoburn and Hoy in October, and reached Rangoon in December. She opened her school, and soon gained such a place in the estimation of the people that two years later nine building-lots, valued at \$9,000—\$5,000 in cash, and \$450 for furniture—were donated to our work by the Government of British Burma. Writing a little later, Dr. Thoburn said: "The last time I was in Rangoon, I walked through wind and rain with Brother Robinson, over vacant sites for buildings, till we were weary with the task of making bricks without straw. A school was needed, but we had no teachers, no buildings, and no money. Now all is changed. A noble site has been secured, a spacious building erected, a superior lady superintendent is on the spot, an efficient staff of teachers are at work,

ninety pupils are in attendance, and these good moneyless people have an unincumbered property worth 50,000 rupees, with one or two exceptions the best school property in all India. No debt rests upon it, and from the first it has been kept from all incumbrance." Miss Warner remained five years in Rangoon, then was married to Rev. D. O. Fox, of the South India Conference, and went with him to Poona, where, for nine years, she has had charge of woman's work, giving most efficient service. The Cincinnati Branch has supported all the work under her care—schools, Bible women, etc.—and is glad to have her still in touch with old friends and associations.

#### ISETTA ELLEN HOY-LAWSON.

Miss HOY offered herself for foreign work in the spring of 1881. She was younger than the prescribed age, but in her eager enthusiasm, her freedom from home ties, and her fitness for the work needed in the Cawnpore School, being a graduate of the Normal University, at Lebanon, Ohio, she was accepted, and went out in company with Misses Thoburn and Warner, in October of the same year. She proved a most valuable assistant to Miss Easton, and her services in the school-room were recognized and appreciated. In her third year she was married to Rev. J. C. Lawson, of the General Missionary Society, and went with him to Seetapore, where, for seven years, she had charge of the Girls' Boarding-school, day-schools, and zenana work, rendering most valuable service. She returned home with her husband and four chil-

dren in 1891, remaining in this country one year. On their return to India the Conference was divided, and they were sent to Aligarh, in the Northwest Conference. There Mrs. Lawson had to assume very heavy responsibilities in connection with the woman's work. In 1895 a lady missionary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was sent to Aligarh, which greatly relieved her, and gave her time for other duties which hitherto she had been unable to perform.

#### ESTHER DE VINE-WILLIAMS.

MISS DE VINE was born on the 26th of February, 1855,; her early home was near Marietta, Ohio. When but a child, she was impressed that she must be a missionary, and the thought was always connected with all her plans for the future. She made every effort to acquire an education, teaching in country schools, and studying when possible. When, in 1879, Dr. D. H. Moore, then President of Cincinnati Wesleyan College, made an offer to educate some one for missionary work, Miss De Vine applied for the place, and was selected from a number of candidates. She remained there until Dr. Moore left the institution, then went to Delaware for two years, sailing for India in November, 1882. She was appointed to the Moradabad Boarding-school, and served there most acceptably until the illness and home-coming of Miss Thoburn led to her being transferred to Lucknow, and put in charge of the large school interests there. She filled the place to the entire satisfaction of all, and, with exceptionally good health, was enabled to give

constant service for nine years. She returned home in April, 1891, and a month afterwards was married to the Rev. George Williams, a Presbyterian minister, with a charge in Chicago, where they now live.

#### MARY REED.

MISS REED was born on the 4th of December, 1857. Her home was at Becketts, on the banks of the beautiful Muskingum, and her beauty-loving nature found rich enjoyment in her surroundings. She was educated in the Worthington Seminary, and afterwards taught five years before offering herself as a missionary candidate. She was teaching in the public schools in Kenton, O., when her call came. Her parents were deeply religious, and she had been trained in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord," and had given her heart to God, but a deeper work of grace resulted in her missionary call. She was accepted, and sent to India in October, 1884. She was given zenana work in Cawnpore, but suffered severely from climatic influence, and it was feared would have to return home, but bravely held on, while unable to work, applying herself to the study of the language, and the next two years was filled with work in the zenanas, meeting with great success. In 1888, she was put in charge of the Boarding-school at Gonda, and rejoiced in its growth and development, though she suffered most of the time from ill-health, and in March, 1890, she reached home. The following winter she spent in Christ's Hospital, in Cincinnati. In March, 1891, while recovering from a severe surgical operation, she found indications of leprosy. It came to

her that the pain she had felt in her finger was due to this terrible disease. Almost as if from an audible voice came the conviction, and with the fact she said she saw the distant asylum on the Himalayas, where she has since made her home. Her physicians were unwilling to agree with her, but later investigation and consultation convinced them that she was right. She was quietly sent to an expert in New York, a doctor who had seen many cases of leprosy, and he confirmed their decision. Miss Reed bore up wonderfully under this disclosure. It had to be kept even from her own family, while preparations for her departure were hurried forward, her mother not understanding why her daughter *must* go, while still far from well. To the few who knew the true state of the case, it seemed as though Miss Reed was the sympathizer, they the victims, so wonderfully was she upheld. She felt from the first that it was a mission given her from God to carry the bread of life to His stricken ones, and that took away the sting. She sailed from New York in July. In London, she stopped to see Sir Joseph Fayrer, the most eminent authority on Indian diseases in the world. He treated her with the greatest kindness, but agreed with the American physicians. He gave her remedies, and some monographs on the subject of leprosy that have been of value to her. When she reached Bombay she wrote to her mother, telling her the story for the first time. As she said, "It was the hardest task I ever performed." From there she went at once to Pithoragarh, where is an asylum for lepers, and there, in her own little home within the walls, she ministers to them in spiritual

things and cares for their temporal wants. There are many cases of this disease among the mountain passes near, and she makes little journeys to seek and try to help them. Nothing ever stirred the Cincinnati Branch like this, and it stirred many, especially among our young people, to a deeper consecration. This has been a source of unalloyed pleasure to Miss Reed. Letters, boxes of gifts of all kinds, messages of love and sympathy, have been sent to her, and prayers go up daily for her in many homes. For nearly four years she has been busy and happy in her far-off home. Her disease, if not cured, is "strangely holden." She is stronger and better than when she left home. She rejoices that she was honored with the mission to Christ's afflicted ones, whom "He is not willing that they should perish." Bishop Thoburn, writing of Miss Reed, says: "It is a treasure to any mission to have an afflicted disciple like Miss Reed thus commissioned among its workers, and in the world to come it will no doubt be seen that, though a weary sufferer and practically banished from society, she has through all these years been beating out a more than golden crown, which will shine with resplendent glory when the stars above us shall have ceased to shine forever."

#### HESTER V. MANSELL-MONROE.

MISS MANSELL was born in India—a missionary's daughter. And in this atmosphere her first recollections were connected with missionary work. She and her brother held prayer-meetings with native children, and felt they had a part in their

father's work. On the occasion of her mother's death she came with her brother and sister to her grandmother, in Newark, O., spending some years there. She graduated from the high school with honor, and, in 1880, entered the Ohio Wesleyan University, at Delaware. She completed [the classical course in June, 1884, and, three months later, sailed for India, having been accepted by the Executive Committee the year previous. She was sent to Naini Tal, the first year as assistant to Miss Knowles in the Girls' High School. The second year she was moved to Lucknow and put in charge of the college class. In her second year on the plains a severe attack of typhoid fever left her in such a state of weakness that the doctor ordered her immediate return to America as the only means of saving her life. She was sent home under care of Dr. D. W. Thomas, and in company with Rev. Thompson and family. She began to regain strength as soon as the journey commenced. When in the Mediterranean Sea near the island of Corsica, the ship struck a rock, and lay there a wreck, with the waves dashing over it. It was early in the morning, and the passengers were roused from their sleep by the shock, which was followed immediately by the water rushing into their staterooms. Many escaped only in their night clothes. Miss Mansell, fortunately, was sleeping in a flannel wrapper. She caught up her slippers and a little satchel containing her money and tickets. They were rescued one at a time, and, fortunately, all reached land, four miles away, in safety, but found it a barren coast, and were obliged to walk eight

miles before finding any inhabitants. They were sheltered the first night in a sheepfold, but finally found the simple-hearted islanders, like those in Paul's time, under like circumstances, who "showed them no little kindness." Strange to say, this exposure and fatigue did not hurt Miss Mansell, and when the party finally reached America she was looking like her old self. She remained at home a year and a half, went back to India, and was employed in the Calcutta Girls' School for a year, then transferred to the North India Conference and put in charge of the Girls' Boarding-school at Moradabad. The following year she was married to the Rev. D. H. Monroe, and went with him to Seetapore. There she had charge of the Boarding-school, which has always been under the care of the Cincinnati Branch. In 1895 they were transferred to the Northwest India Conference and stationed at Agra.

#### CARRIE I. JEWELL.

MISS JEWELL was born in Harmar, Ohio. She was one of a large and happy family group, blessed with Christian home influences and teaching. She was educated in the public school, graduating in high school, and afterwards taking special normal instruction. She taught successfully both in her own State and in Michigan; offered herself as a missionary candidate in May, 1884, was accepted, and sent to Foochow the following September, in company with Miss Lizzie Fisher. She was assigned work in the Girls' Boarding-school, and held

that position until she came home, five years later. She came by the Eastern route, and landed in New York in January, 1890. Returning to China in November, 1890, she resumed her old place in the Boarding-school. The supervision of the new building, added to other duties that could not be set aside, was a severe tax on Miss Jewell's time and strength. While suffering under a broken-down nervous system, she had a severe fall, breaking her arm, and so adding to her suffering that a return home was imperative, hard as it was to leave the work she loved so well. She reached home in August, 1894, and is slowly regaining her health and vigor, hoping some time to return to her work in China.

#### MARY J. ELLIOTT.

MISS ELLIOTT'S father is a member of the East Ohio Conference, and she was brought up in touch with all forms of Church work. She was educated in the public schools and a normal academy, had a fair knowledge of music, and had taught with much success in various schools. She was accepted, and sent to Nagasaki, Japan, in October, 1885. She suffered very much from seasickness, and was so weak she had to be carried off the steamer at Yokohama. She acquired the language readily, taught with the enthusiasm that seemed to be part of her nature, but suffered much of the time from sickness. She came home in 1890, much broken in health, spent quite a time at Clifton Springs, N. Y., under treatment, and, in 1892, married a gentleman from Canada, and is now residing there.

## JULIA WISNER.

MISS WISNER'S home was in Berea, Ohio. She was born October 6, 1862, and her early years were surrounded with the influences found in a Christian home. She graduated from the Berea University with honor, and filled various positions in teaching with eminent success. With a converted heart and consecrated life she felt impelled to go after the sheep that had never heard the Shepherd's voice, and win them to Him; offered herself, and was accepted and sent to Rangoon to the assistance of Miss Warner, also from Berea. She sailed in October, 1885, and at once, on her arrival, took up responsible work. On Miss Warner's marriage and removal to another Conference, she took charge of the school, which had grown to be a power both in numbers and influence, and has managed it with great ability. She returned home on health leave in 1890, returning to Rangoon in November, 1891. During her visit at home she took special lessons in kindergarten work, and was able to introduce it in the Rangoon school on her return, and carry it on most successfully. There has, perhaps, not been one mission under charge of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society where so much work has been accomplished with the same amount of money as in this Rangoon school. Miss Wisner has, it is hoped, many years of usefulness before her.

## HARRIETT L. AYRES.

MISS AYRES was born near Hillsboro, Ohio. She was brought up in a Christian home, and early led to Christ, and all her early associations were helpful

to Christian growth. She was educated first in the public schools, then in Hillsboro College, from which she graduated in 1886. Her call to mission work was a very decided one, but was resisted, until, her peace of mind gone, she crept back to the Savior's feet, and said, "I will." She offered herself for missionary work, was accepted, and sent to Mexico City, to assist Miss Loyd, in October, 1886. She entered on her work with the intense enthusiasm that is part of her nature, and has given most valuable service, both as a teacher and soul-winner. The altitude of Mexico City and her propensity to over-work has made much of her labor a suffering, yet she has not spared herself. She came home for a few months in 1890, and again in November, 1893, the last time spending a year. She returned to Mexico in October, 1894, much improved in health, but had not been there long until the old weakness returned. Some months afterwards, while praying to be fitted for her work by the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit, she felt, with that gift, there came also bodily healing, and she continues her work with strength for each day, and help for each trial, and gives God all the glory.

#### ORIEL MILLER.

MISS MILLER's father was one of the preachers in the Central Ohio Conference, and her early life was spent in the changing scenes of itinerant life. When attending the Ohio Wesleyan University she offered herself as a missionary candidate, was accepted and sent out in 1886, shortly after her graduation. She was appointed to assist Miss Harvey

at Cawnpore, and spent the first year there. The following Conference she was removed to Naini Tal, and assisted Miss Easton two years. She returned home in 1889, and her connection with the Cincinnati Branch ceased.

#### LOUISA C. ROTHWEILER.

IN answer to earnest prayer for a missionary for Korea, Miss Rothweiler offered herself, and was accepted. She was well fitted for the place, where not only a teacher was wanted, but one qualified for pioneer work. She was a graduate of Berea University, a teacher of experience and ability, and a woman of deep piety. Her father's position as a leading minister in the German Methodist Church opened for her a wide circle of deeply-interested friends. She was their first missionary, and at the farewell services held in Newport, Ky., every German Conference in this country and Germany was represented in person or by letter. She went out followed by their prayers, her way paid by their gifts, and has proved worthy of their trust. She sailed in September, 1887. During the first year there were hostile demonstrations against the missionaries and their work, lives were threatened, and property in danger. Much anxiety was felt, but she and Mrs. Scranton also were unflinching in courage and faith that God would care for his own. During the next three years she endured many trials, but the work grew rapidly. An attack of smallpox weakened her eyes, and made a trip to Peking to an oculist necessary. In 1891, Mrs. Scranton was obliged to return home for a year, leaving

heavy responsibilities, which were successfully borne by Miss Rothweiler.

The following year it became necessary for Miss Rothweiler to return to America, as her health was much broken. She returned to Korea in March, 1894, and was there during the war troubles, sharing the dangers and upholding the courage of the native Christians. Miss Rothweiler has, since her return, been in charge of woman's work and evangelistic services, which she faithfully performs. She is peculiarly fitted for translating and literary work, has compiled a catechism in the Korean language for use in schools, and should have time for more of this kind of work, as every help in education and spiritual teaching has to be furnished. There is nothing in the Korean language that will make their teaching understood, and text-books of all kinds are needed.

#### MISS BELLE J. ALLEN.

MISS ALLEN was born in Bellefontaine, Ohio. She was first educated in the public schools of Bellefontaine, then sent to Ohio Wesleyan University, at Delaware, where she graduated. She was a proficient in music and a good student. After her conversion her thoughts turned toward work for her Master, and she went to Chicago and spent a year in the Training-school as additional preparation for her life-work. She was accepted and sent to Japan, sailing September 8, 1888. She was appointed to Tokyo, but on her arrival was sent to Kiusliu, first to Fukuoka, and then to Nagasaki, where she remained three years, then was moved

by the Conference to Tokyo, and appointed to Aoyama. She has worked under the strain of weakness and pain, but would not leave her work. In February, 1893, she came home with a sick missionary, but would only stay for a few weeks, hurrying back to help those more heavily burdened. Her health failed, and she was ordered home, but tried instead three months at Vladivostock, Siberia. She returned to Japan entirely well, and was able to go to her new appointment at Yonezawa, and endure hardships and trials without a relapse. She was appointed to Sendai by the Conference of 1895.

#### ANNA V. BING.

MISS BING was born in McArthur, Ohio. Her father was a traveling preacher, and she was early initiated into the changing scenes of the itinerancy. As her mother was one of the early workers in the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, it was not strange that her eldest daughter should have her thoughts turned in the same direction. She was thoroughly educated, not only in music, in which she was proficient, but also in other branches. She spent some time in Miss Peabody's school at Oxford, and took a full course in the Ohio Wesleyan, at Delaware, graduating also in the musical department, after which she graduated in the Boston Conservatory of Music. The strong bent toward missionary work that had begun in early life deepened with the years, and, though there were other fields for her ambition, she turned resolutely from them all, and offered her "best for the Master's use." She was accepted in 1887, sent to Nagasaki the fol-

lowing September, and soon demonstrated the fact that the Japanese can learn music.

At the end of five years she had a music department which enrolled fifty-nine students, twenty on the piano and thirty-nine on the organ, besides three large chorus classes, and a daily drill in English singing. The Library of Music had 150 compositions, all belonging to the course of study. All this was a sore tax on the teacher's strength, but when she left, in 1893, at the close of the school year, she had the satisfaction of knowing that out of the graduating class she had two assistants for the coming year, and they have carried on the work since, but have reached the limit of their instruction, and some one must go to the rescue or they will lose the vantage-ground already gained. Miss Bing is not yet well enough to return to Japan.

#### KATE A. BLAIR.

MISS BLAIR'S home was in Painesville, Ohio, and she is a graduate of the seminary there, which is on the same grade and system of the celebrated Mt. Holyoke Seminary. Miss Blair was accepted as a missionary candidate in 1888, and sent to Calcutta. She went as a deaconess to an uncertain position, with only the promise of her support, and has given six years of continuous service; has had charge of schools and Bible women among the Bengalese; has been editor of India's *Young Folks*, and the Bengali edition of the zenana paper. She comes home for a year of rest, and hopes to return with added strength for many years of labor.

## IZILLAH ERNSBERGER, M. D.

MISS ERNSBERGER was born June 16, 1860. Her home was near Delphos, Ohio. She gave her heart to God when young, and later, when a deeper spiritual life was reached, her heart turned to the far-off heathen world as the place God would have her work. Her efforts to get an education, first literary and then medical, required a great deal of perseverance and self-denial, all of which she met bravely, and came through conqueror. Her name was presented, and she was accepted in 1887, but she did not go to India until the fall of 1888. She had taught successfully, was a graduate of Chicago Woman's College, and had hospital practice. With her deep religious character and perfect health, she was a very promising worker for a new field. Her appointment was not made until she reached India. Then she was sent to Camp Baroda, to open medical work there. The work was very heavy. Crowds came for treatment, and with meager assistance and new conditions the work pressed upon her, allowing neither rest nor vacation. Through her work the missionaries found entrance into many new villages. Patients came from long distances, and carried home the story of the medical woman and her new doctrine, as her dispensary sent out religious tracts and Scripture texts with all the medicine given. After five years of incessant work, Miss Ernsberger broke down completely, and had to return home—many feared never to return to India. She reached home in November, 1893, and

after six months' absolute rest was so entirely recovered as to undertake most trying itineraries, speaking to Auxiliaries and organizing new Bands of workers. She met with great success, and stirred up enthusiasm wherever she went. When it was determined to open medical work in connection with our "Mary J. Clark Memorial Mission," the second thought was, "This is just the place for Dr. Ernsberger," and she was appointed once more to go as a pioneer into a new country to be possessed for our King. She sailed for India August 10, 1895, and many prayers will follow her to her far-off home.

#### JULIA BONAFIELD.

MISS BONAFIELD was born near Tunnelton, West Virginia. Her parents were religious, and she was early taught the way to God. When, in her girlhood, after her conversion, she felt the missionary call pressing on her heart, and went to her parents with her request, she was told that it had been her mother's earnest desire, when young, to become a missionary, but her way never opened, and now it seemed the hopes she had cherished were to be fulfilled through her daughter. Miss Bonafield had a fair education in public and normal schools, and had some experience as a teacher. Now, anxious to secure the best equipment for her work, she went to Delaware, and spent three years in the university. She was accepted as a missionary, and appointed to Foochow, sailing in September, 1886. She was employed in the Boarding-school, and also did much evangelistic work, traveling in her vacations from village to village in the

country districts, oftentimes not seeing a white face for days. She had good health, and carried a happy heart, and her work was a joy as well as a success. In 1895, after over six years' continuous work, it was decided by the Conference that she should return home, as her strength was failing and she needed a change. Returning with Miss Trimble, *via* the Eastern route, stopping three weeks to visit Palestine, she reached home in May, thoroughly restored by the long sea-voyage, and anxious to return as soon as thought best.

#### MARY KETRING.

IN January, 1888, an earnest call for some one to go to Peking and relieve the stress of work under which our missionaries were laboring, resulted in the offer of Miss Mary Ketring, of Napoleon, Ohio, to go as the representative of the Cincinnati Branch. She was given an opportunity to meet Dr. and Mrs. Lowry, then at home, and shortly after, having been accepted and appointed, left with them for China. She had been a successful teacher in Napoleon for several years, and had many of the needed qualifications. She began work in the Boarding-school on her arrival, where she remained three years; then, on account of broken health, was sent to Tsun Hua, and given evangelistic work, which she most successfully carried on. In 1893 she returned home, still troubled with the sickness that had prostrated her in China. Family cares have prevented her return, but her heart turns to China with unutterable longing to be at work there. Her

knowledge of the language is unusually advanced, and she is very proficient, for a foreigner, in the colloquial.

#### LUCY SULLIVAN.

MISS SULLIVAN was born in Dayton, Ohio. She was educated at the Cincinnati Wesleyan, and though anxious to find "a place to serve," she yet held back from foreign missionary work. In 1887 she went to the Chicago Training-school, taking a full course there, and when God's voice called "yet again," she said: "Here am I." She was accepted, and sent out as a deaconess in 1888; was put in charge of the Home for Homeless Women in Lucknow, and also had charge of the zenana and evangelistic work in the city of Lucknow—a very responsible position, but one she filled most efficiently. The Home, under her management, was a "home indeed" to many a poor wanderer, who found it the gateway leading to the home above. Year after year, rescued women, trained for usefulness, went out, with new purposes to live honest, upright lives, and from it also, others worn with sickness, with souls redeemed, went home to heaven. Miss Sullivan came home in January, 1895, and returned to India in the following autumn, to take charge of the training-school at Muttra.

#### FRANCES SCOTT.

MISS SCOTT was the first deaconess sent out by the Branch. For a long time she kept her desire to do foreign missionary work to herself, throwing her energies into Church work of all kinds, but no peace came to her until she gave up the contest. She

spent some time in the Lebanon Normal, preparing for service, and the last year at home was given to work among the poor in Cincinnati, in connection with the Deaconess Home. She was one of the first to enter that Home, and her year there was very helpful to her in after years. She was accepted, and sent out to Rangoon in the fall of 1889. She went as a deaconess, on half salary, leaving home with Miss Sellers, bound for Naini Tal. On reaching Liverpool they found, by fault of the company furnishing tickets, that there would be a delay of nearly three weeks. Miss Scott waited on the officials, and representing their case, received a sum sufficient to pay their expenses during their stay. With this they went to London, and, by economy and foresight, were enabled to enjoy the sights of the metropolis without costing the Society a dollar extra for the delay. She remained in charge of the orphanage for nearly three years, then, on account of broken health, was transferred to North India Conference, where she has entirely recovered, and has had charge of the Seetapore Boarding-school for three years.

#### RUE SELLERS.

MISS SELLERS was born at New Matamoras, Ohio; was educated first in the public schools, and afterwards in the Normal School in Ada, Ohio, from which she graduated. She taught with success in the public school, was brought up in the Church, and gave her heart to God in her youth. She felt called to missionary work, and, after her acceptance as a candidate, went to the Chicago Training-school for fuller preparation; was sent to Naini Tal, India,

in 1889, sailing with Miss Scott in October. For six years she has been Miss Easton's valued assistant. This school takes high rank, and Miss Easton wrote that "to Miss Sellers, more than any one else, we owe our educational advance," and year after year the Government Inspector passes high encomiums on the work she has done. Her health has been excellent throughout the six years of service.

#### MARGARET BENGEL-JONES.

WHEN the call for a helper for Miss Rothweiler in Korea reached the Cincinnati Branch, it appealed in an especial manner to the German Methodists who had sent their first missionary there, and who, following her with their gifts and prayers, felt a family interest in finding a new recruit. And when, from another German Church, Miss Bengel came in answer to the call, there was great rejoicing. She was educated in the public schools, graduating from the Pomeroy High School, and afterwards teaching there with much acceptance. She was accepted and sent forward, reaching Korea at a time when her help was greatly needed. In 1893, three years after her appointment, she was married to the Rev. Heber Jones, of the Korean Mission, and since then has ably assisted in woman's work wherever she is placed. The money for her outfit and passage was refunded, and another missionary sent out with it.

#### LEONORA H. SEEDS.

MISS SEEDS was born on Christmas eve; was converted very young; was baptized and received into the Church when she was thirteen. At the

age of fourteen, on the Lancaster Camp-ground, she received a special call to missionary work. She left the high school to enter the Ohio Wesleyan University one year before finishing the course. She graduated from the university in 1889. In 1890 she offered herself for foreign work, was accepted, and sent to Fukuoka, Japan. She has been a very happy missionary. Though she and Miss Tucker are shut off from much companionship, and must sorely feel their isolation at times, there is nothing but good cheer in their reports. The work has prospered in their hands, and they thank Him with full hearts. Miss Seeds has been unusually well most of the time, but will probably need a change before very long, though she has not asked for it.

#### CECELIA M. FREY.

MISS FREY was born in Bucyrus, Ohio. She gave her heart to God in early life, and faithfully performed every service required of her—playing the organ, teaching in the Sabbath-school, being the one always called upon to finish neglected work, or fill a gap caused by the absence of others. With a good education and artistic tastes, with opportunities for work, one of a happy family group, she yet felt called to leave it all for His sake whose voice she heard calling to her to seek those in the “uttermost parts of the earth.” She offered herself for work in China, was accepted, and sailed for Peking in 1891. Though able to do much acceptable work in the Girls’ School, yet her health was such that it was a constant struggle against pain and weakness, until, in December, 1894, she was obliged to

return home. A sister missionary wrote: "No one but God knew what it cost her to give up, but she did it with such sweet resignation that I can not think of it without tears coming to my eyes. Her stay in China, though so much shorter than she hoped, has borne fruit, and will still bear fruit to the Master's praise. Upon some of these girls she has left indelible impressions." Miss Frey is hoping and praying for health to return to her loved work.

REBECCA J. HAMMOND.

MISS HAMMOND'S home was at Blue Bell, Guernsey County, Ohio. She was educated at Mount Union College, and left with Bishop Taylor for South America immediately after her graduation. She labored effectively in school-work for four years, and when the war in Chili made it impossible for her to go on with her work, she returned to the United States for the change her health required, but would not have taken except for this opportunity. She remained at home for several years, waiting for a way to open to return to her old place. Failing in that, she offered herself to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, was accepted, and appointed to Montevideo in August, 1892. Going by way of England, the usual line of travel, her steamer touched at one point in France when the cholera was in Hamburg, and, in consequence, was quarantined before being allowed to land in South America. Miss Hammond was treated most rudely, and much of her clothing ruined by fluids poured over them by officials to prevent contagion. She remained two years in school work in Montevideo,

then a sudden emergency in Asuncion, Paraguay, where there had been a school under the General Missionary Society for some time, made it necessary to remove the teacher, and Dr. Drees transferred Miss Hammond to that place. She succeeded in restoring order and placing the school on a surer foundation. Her first year was spent entirely alone, except with native helpers, but her faith and courage upheld her. In 1895, Dr. and Mrs. Craver, of the Mexican Mission, have been transferred to South America, and appointed to Asuncion. So she will have companionship and sympathy, and, doubtless, is relieved of a heavy burden of responsibility.

#### ELIZABETH HOGE.

MISS HOGE was born in St. Clairsville, Ohio, on the 12th day of August, 1866. She was a high-school graduate, and afterwards taught several years in the public schools with much success. When she first felt the call to foreign missionary work, she tried to make a compromise by taking up deaconess work. She went to Cincinnati and entered the Home there, throwing herself into the work with great earnestness. But the voice would not be stifled, and she gave herself into God's hands for service anywhere. She took a full course in kindergarten work, as that was called for in India particularly, and in October, 1892, sailed for India, in company with Mrs. Bishop Thoburn and little Grace. She began her work in Lucknow, and is still in charge of this work there, though she has been called to Calcutta and other points to give

some normal training to teachers for kindergarten work, which seems specially adapted to India. Miss Hoge went out as a deaconess.

#### ANNA C. KEELER.

MISS KEELER is the daughter of a Methodist preacher, and her education was carried on in different schools, owing to the itinerant system. After completing the high-school course, she went to Mount Union College, where she graduated in 1890, and then spent a year in the Chicago Training-school, giving special attention to nursing, as well as other helps to missionary work. She had offered herself as a candidate two years before, and was accepted, but her departure was delayed until November, 1892. She went out with a large party, her destination being Rangoon. She has been employed ever since in the large school there, and her heart is bound up in its interests. She wants, she says, years of opportunity in her chosen field, and strength to enter every open door.

#### MARY W. HARRIS.

MISS HARRIS was born near Delaware, Ohio; was led to Christ in her youth, and ever after followed him with unflinching steps. Feeling called to missionary work, she was obliged to make many sacrifices to acquire an education, but her perseverance was untiring, and she was enabled to graduate from the Ohio Wesleyan University in 1890. She spent part of the following year in the Deaconess Home in Cincinnati, taking practical lessons in nursing and evangelistic work. While pursuing her

studies, she was obliged to teach, and was regarded as an unusually faithful, painstaking teacher. She was accepted in 1892, and the following year sent to Korea. She has been well and very happy in her work. She has been associated with Miss Rothweiler in evangelistic work, and wins the hearts of the natives as well as the love of her fellow-workers.

#### NELLIE HARRIS.

MISS HARRIS was born in Calcutta, and came to this country with Miss Hedrick in 1890, to attend school and prepare for missionary work. She was at Albion College one year, and a year in Berea; from there went to Chattanooga, and took a full course in kindergarten work, which she was specially anxious to introduce in India. She returned to Calcutta in 1893, and at once began the work for which she had worked so hard to prepare herself.

#### LULU E. FREY.

MISS FREY was born in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Early in life she identified herself with the Church and with all its interests—Sunday-school and Young People's work. Wherever she could aid she gave willing service. Educated in the public schools of Bellefontaine, she went to Delaware, where she graduated from the university in 1892. Five years before she heard the call of the Spirit, and was "not disobedient to the heavenly vision." With a single eye to foreign work, she spent the years of preparation. After her graduation she went to the Chicago Training-school for some months. In 1893, with Miss Harris, she sailed for Korea, where she has been

employed in the Girls' School as teacher in connection with Miss Payne. In the vacation month, just as hostilities were beginning, she went to Japan for a vacation trip, and was not allowed to return for some months, but, as soon as the door was opened, hurried back to what she *calls* and *feels to be* home.

#### LOLA MAY KIDWELL.

MISS KIDWELL was born near Columbus, Ohio. She was converted when fourteen years of age, and in a complete consecration of herself to God that followed, the missionary field was presented as the place the Lord called her to work. Her father's death and the removal of the family to Kansas, led her into a deeply spiritual Church, and her Christian life broadened and deepened. Her anxiety to make the most of her abilities led her to utilize everything that would lead to that end. She attended Baker University, Iowa, for a year, then came to Ohio, and entered the Ohio Wesleyan, where she graduated in 1893 in the classical course; was accepted as a missionary candidate, and sailed from Vancouver for Japan in October, 1894. She is engaged in teaching in the Nagasaki school, is making progress with the language, and hopes for years of work for her Master in her chosen field.

#### JULIA MAUDE DONAHUE, M. D.

DR. DONAHUE has only a short experience in the mission field, having sailed for China in December, 1894. She was converted after she had grown to womanhood, and with her conversion came a strong desire to make the most of the powers God

had given her for His service. She went to Delaware University, and spent two years; then began the study of medicine, which she prosecuted under trials that would have broken down a less resolute spirit, and graduated from the Woman's Medical College, of Chicago, in 1892. The following year was spent as an interne in the Hospital for Women and Children, in Chicago. She spent the early months of 1894 in private nursing. She was sent to Hing Hwa, China, to open medical work, and has begun it with enthusiasm, and an earnest desire to use it as a means to win souls for her Master.

## MISSIONARIES

BELONGING TO THE CINCINNATI BRANCH SENT  
OUT BY OTHER BRANCHES.

### JENNIE TINSLEY-WAUGH.

MISS TINSLEY was the daughter of Irish Wesleyans, and had the missionary interest early implanted in her heart. She gave her heart to God in early life, and in every practicable way tried to advance His kingdom. She had cultured tastes and an eager desire for improvement. She graduated from the Cincinnati Wesleyan, and devoted much time and study to art. She was a member of the Mt. Auburn Auxiliary, the first organization in Cincinnati, and threw herself into the new movement with characteristic enthusiasm, organizing a number of Auxiliaries. She had gone to Indianapolis as teacher of art in the public schools when the call for foreign work reached her heart. She resigned

her place, was accepted, and sent out by the Northwestern Branch in 1871, the fourth missionary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. After five years of effective service, Miss Tinsley was married to Rev. Dr. Waugh, of the North India Conference, and, with the exception of one home-visit in 1881, has been in missionary work until the beginning of the present year, when she returned with Dr. Waugh, bringing their two children, to complete their education in this country.

#### MARY DE FOREST LOYD.

MISS LOYD is the daughter of Rev. J. F. Loyd, of the Cincinnati Conference. Her mother is one of the most faithful of the Conference Secretaries in the Branch. Miss Loyd was born in Harrison, Ohio, was educated in the Cincinnati Wesleyan, and taught for some years most acceptably in the Hillsboro College. She offered herself, and was accepted in 1884, and was sent to Mexico by the Philadelphia Branch, in November of that year. She has been at home twice in the nine years, had one very severe illness, but is now fully restored. She is Treasurer for Mexico, as well as Superintendent of the Orphanage and school in Mexico City, and her works do praise her.

#### ANNIE GALLIMORE.

MISS GALLIMORE was born in England, but was brought to this country when a child. She spent two years at Delaware after her call to foreign work, but did not graduate; was accepted, and sent to India by the Baltimore Branch, in 1887; was

placed in charge of the Gonda work, and spent five years there. The school prospered, and she was especially successful in evangelistic work. She came home in broken health early in 1893, but soon recovered her health, and entered Delaware University again, graduating in June 1895, and returned to India in October of the same year.

#### MARGARET C. HEDRICK-MILES.

MISS HEDRICK graduated from Delaware College, and afterwards took special instruction in literature, making it a specialty. She taught in various places before going to India; was sent to Calcutta, by the New York Branch, in 1884, and for five years superintended the Calcutta Girls' School. She raised its standard of scholarship, and left it in better condition, financially, and in every other way. She returned in 1890. She was preceptress at Chattanooga a year, and Financial Agent of Kansas City Deaconess Home for a time. In June, 1884, she was married to Mr. Miles, of Leavenworth, Kansas.

#### ELIZABETH FISHER-BREWSTER.

MISS FISHER was a preacher's daughter, a high-school graduate, a teacher in the public school of London, Ohio, and an earnest Christian worker. She was accepted in 1884, and sent to Foochow, by the Baltimore Branch, in the same year. She, with Miss Jewell, did much hard work in those early days. Miss Fisher was obliged to come home on account of ill-health, in 1888. She remained at home over a year. Sometime after her return she was married

to Rev. W. B. Brewster, and they were stationed in the Hing Hwa District, where their work is so well known to the Church.

#### MAUDE E. SIMONS.

MISS SIMONS was born in Fredericktown, Ohio, graduated at the Ohio Wesleyan, at Delaware, was converted when in school, and while waiting to know God's will for her future life, she went to Chicago, and spent a year in the training-school. The result was that, in 1889, she offered herself as a missionary candidate, was accepted, and sent by the Baltimore Branch to Nagasaki, Japan. Miss Simons has more than ordinary ability in the artistic line, and during the three years spent in Nagasaki, her classes in drawing and wood-carving attracted much attention. In 1893 she was sent to Yokohama, where she is now at work.

#### RUTH MARIE SITES.

THIS missionary daughter was born in China, but both her parents were from Ohio. She graduated from the Ohio Wesleyan University in 1890, and was sent by the Baltimore Branch back to China, where she has been actively engaged in missionary work ever since. In school-work in the city of Foochow, in country trips with her father—now waiting for her in the upper country—and in many other ways, she has filled the years of service.

#### MARY C. CUTLER, M. D.

THE call for a physician for Korea in 1892 was answered by Dr. Cutler, of Pomeroy, Ohio.

She was a graduate of Michigan University, and a physician in good practice in her home city. She was accepted, and sent to Korea in January, 1893, the Cincinnati Branch supplying money for outfit and passage, but the New York Branch claimed the support of the medical work, so she passed over to their list of missionaries. She has won her way to the hearts of fellow-workers and patients, and the Cincinnati Branch is proud of a share in her.

#### MARY FLETCHER SCRANTON.

MRS. SCRANTON was living within the bounds of the Cincinnati Branch when accepted for Korea. The New York and New England Branches claimed a prior right to her support, but, as in the case of Dr. Cutler, the passage money was furnished by the Cincinnati Branch, and she lives in the hearts of the members of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society as one of our "very own."

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"Go, ye messengers of God;  
Like the beams of morning, fly;  
Take the wonder-working rod;  
Wave the banner-cross on high.

"Where the golden gates of day  
Open on the palmy East,  
High the bleeding cross display;  
Spread the gospel's richest feast.

"Bear the tidings round the ball,  
Visit every soil and sea;  
Preach the cross of Christ to all,  
Christ, whose love is full and free."

## OUR FIRST PRESIDENT.

Mrs. Bishop Clark.

AN Angel came and touched her as she slept,  
And she awoke in wondering surprise  
To see the fair land of her lifelong dreams  
Unfolding all its beauty to her eyes;

To see dear faces she had missed so long,  
Gazing with shining eyes into her own;  
And knowing well, amid the angel throng,  
Voices that welcomed in familiar tone,

And the dear Christ, the longed-for most of all,—  
The sight of all the glory left her face  
Illumined with the light that never was  
On land or sea, or any earthly place.

And so we say she died, yet far more lived  
The beautiful, true life for evermore;  
One hour worth more than all this earth could give,  
Though she had owned it all from shore to shore.

—*Emily Bugbee Johnson.*

## Memorial.

BY MRS. K. C. MULLIKIN.

MARY JOHNSON REDMAN, the oldest child of Jesse and Frances Rutledge Redman, was born in New York City, October 4, 1817. Her parents reached the prime of life while she was yet a little child. This fact, combined with the Quaker element in her father, and a certain sternness of appearance and

bearing in her mother, made an unusual atmosphere for the growth of child-life, and she and her only sister may be said to have grown up amid old people, and the repressive influences that we are accustomed to associate with venerable years. Mrs. Redman's ideals were exalted, her feeling for cultured intellect amounting almost to worship. This led her to yield to the importunities of her daughter, and send her away to boarding-school, an action that exposed her in that day to the charge of too great liberality of view.

Mrs. Clark received her advanced education in Amenia Seminary, Dutchess County, New York, the fame of which institution had reached their quiet home in Trenton. Amenia Seminary was a school for both sexes. At the time Mrs. Clark entered the seminary, Rev. Frederick Merrick was principal. The professor of mathematics was Rev. Davis W. Clark. To him, in 1838, after completing what in those days was considered an advanced course of study, Mary Redman was married. They remained five years in Amenia, where Mr. Clark succeeded Dr. Merrick as principal of the seminary. From the time of their marriage until death claimed her husband, Mrs. Clark stood nobly at his side—his inspiration, adviser, and helper in every work to which he was called.

During their stay at Amenia Seminary, of the one thousand young men and women under their charge, two hundred were happily converted, thirty entered the ministry, and over eighty the other learned professions.

From the field of educational work in our

Church her husband entered the itinerant ministry, and for the years that followed, Mrs. Clark knew, from actual experience, the toils and privations of a pastor's wife, their first salary in the little town of Winsted, Connecticut, being but \$350 a year. Severe as were these early experiences, with straitened means, inconveniences, and even hardships, Mrs. Clark has many times said she would gladly live them over again, so great and full were the joys and triumphs that attended this distinctive work for the salvation of souls.

In 1852, her husband having been elected editor of the *Ladies' Repository*, they removed to Cincinnati, and from that time Mrs. Clark has been identified with all the Methodist interests and other benevolent work of the city.

For sixteen years Mrs. Clark was president of the Ladies' Home Missionary Society—a local interest of our Church that, during its existence, accomplished untold good for the cause of Christ and humanity in this city.

Mrs. Clark was for twenty-three years President of the Cincinnati Branch of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, which includes the States of Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee, and numbers nearly twenty-two thousand members. To the vast work involved in this charge she gave such tireless energy, judgment, and singleness of purpose, that the Branch at once assumed front rank. This proud place it has held ever since, largely through her remarkable executive ability. At the annual meeting held one year ago in the city of Cleveland, having passed her seventy-fifth birth-

day, she resigned her charge, laying the burden on younger shoulders. From the words of resignation, which fell with touching pathos upon her hearers, we extract the closing paragraphs:

“Beloved fellow-workers, many of whose faces I have not known, and yet with whom I have communed in unity of purpose, I do not expect to cease work. I will work, but not in a position of responsibility. I will pray, as I have ever done, and yet with increasing fervor, for God’s continued approval on the work of the Branch.

“The prayer of the Psalmist shall be mine: ‘Let thy works appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto thy children; and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yea, to the work of our hands give thou success.’”

To the younger workers of the Branch she spoke from the fullness of her own experience—words that remain as an inspiration to all hearts: “Would you know a joy that shall not cease making melody in your hearts, though you pass, as I have, threescore years and ten? You will find it in the assurance that you have withheld nothing from God; that time, talent, money, voice, every ability, has been freely given to Him.”

To the words of exhortation she added this precious testimony of personal experience: “I praise the name of our common Lord and Master for the years he has given me to labor for him. My heart is filled with an adoring love, and I lift my eyes to him, and claim to the utmost his precious promises. He whose power so long has kept me, still will lead me on. Be the years many or few I wait

‘His precious will to prove,  
All sanctified by spotless love.’”

The competence with which Mrs. Clark's later years were blessed, enabled her to gratify her benevolent and charitable desires. Being one of the Lord's stewards, she used well her consecrated trust; never losing sight of the supreme joy of giving, because always giving to the Lord.

This outlined sketch of a beautiful life can be but fragmentary, as we touch briefly on the tender grace of her wifely devotion, the exquisite affection of motherhood, the home that she adorned and filled with the spell and perfume of unselfish love.

"The heart of her husband safely trusted in her." The central force of her character and her life was faith. This shone through all her natural powers, and in every circumstance of trial and responsibility.

How shall I tell of the crowned motherhood? Mrs. Clark's children knew no other than Christian training, influence, and example. This was the atmosphere of their home.

Possessed of a sensitive conscience, she raised her children with profound convictions of Christian truth and duty. She taught them, by precept and example, to look upon religion as a vital part of themselves, and to carry it into every concern of life. A nice balance of faculties, excellent judgment, courage, and cheerfulness, the ability to speak inspiring and helpful words, the penetrating spirituality of one who talks much with God, a piety rooted in the very depths of her being,—these are the qualities that enshrined her in the hearts of children and grandchildren, and made her influence strong and enduring.

Many times has she said: "Better than historic pedigree, I can trace back what Dr. Bethune called 'a stream of sanctified blood;'" and now her children—heirs through many generations to the covenanted grace of God—rise up and bless the name of their mother.

On Tuesday of this week, an all-day meeting of a section of the Missionary Society, with which Mrs. Clark was so long identified, was held in Clifton Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. Clark was present at the morning session, receiving the affectionate greetings of her co-laborers, and greatly enjoying the missionary program.

Overcome by sudden suffering, she retired at the noon hour to her home at her daughter's residence near by. She hoped, after resting, to be able to attend the remaining exercises, when it had been in the presiding officer's thought to specially mention her services to the Society in words of gratulation and esteem; and it had been hoped that Mrs. Clark might have strength to respond. These pleasures were denied her in God's providence, as she was unable to return. After some hours of suffering—not sufficient, however, to quench the cheerful, bright spirit within her, as she sat in the midst of children and grandchildren, an object of tenderest solicitude—she rallied. Entirely relieved from pain, her mind clear and vigorous as ever, she attended to some necessary business matters in the evening, and then retired to rest as usual.

Sometime, we know not just when, in the silent watches of the night, came the swift summons.

Painlessly, gently, the promise of His love and presence fulfilled, the spirit parted from its frail tenement of clay, and rose exultant to be

“Forever with the Lord.”

Her bark was wafted to the strand

“By breath divine,”

and on the helm rested the guiding hand of Him to whom all her life had been confided.

How glorious the eternity upon which she has entered; the presence forever of the Father and the adorable Redeemer; the blissful reunions with the husband, who so long preceded her; the gifted daughter, whose name yet yields the precious fragrance of a consecrated life; the little children, who, doubtless, came down to meet her as she crossed the flood; the grandsons and granddaughters; the beloved son-in-law!

O, thank God for the hopes of the future that sustain the agonies of the present! How, as the years go on, will the children who linger yet a little longer, yearn for the unfailing interest that followed their every effort; the hopeful, encouraging words; the tender, stimulating criticism; the loving commendation; the prayers that bore them up with wings, as eagles!

O vanished hand, still beckon to us from the eternal heights! O voice that is still, speak to us from the shining shore!

“Still let thy mild rebuking stand  
Between us and the wrong,  
And thy dear memory seem to make  
Our faith in goodness strong.”





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