

**FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE WOMAN'S PRESBYTERIAN
BOARD OF MISSIONS OF THE
NORTH-WEST**

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Fifth Annual Report of the Woman's Presbyterian Board of Missions of the North-West by
Various

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1876.

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING,

HELD IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, APRIL 12TH AND 13TH, 1876,

IN FIRST CHURCH.

REPORT OF HOME SECRETARY.

The fifth annual convocation of the mission workers of this region must be a jubilee in this Centennial year of our nation. The first tree *planted* years ago, in this new country, was *the cross*. In all seasons it has budded, blossomed, and borne rich fruit. Millions of people have eaten of this fruit, and grown strong in righteousness, thereby becoming fit representatives for Him who died upon that tree, that all men through that death might have eternal life. We believe we have partaken of that healing food, and we are permitted to carry or send it to others. Can any honor be greater, or joy deeper than ours? Have we improved our privileges? I dare not answer, for I remember the Israelitish king was reproved for numbering his army. His glory was not in numbers of soldiers, but in work done; in victories won. So our honor will be only in souls won from sin.

The past year we have formed 127 new Societies and Bands. These have assisted us in assuming the support of 7 new missionaries, 21 new schools, 27 new pupils, and 7 Bible readers.

Once more I must ask you to make an effort to spread the circulation of our Magazine, *Woman's Work for Woman*, and our new Magazine for the young, *Children's Work for Children*. When these and similar publications, which are within the reach of every society, are thoroughly read, your missionary meetings will be more fully attended, for every one will have something to tell, and your members will not expect the machinery to run of itself.

You remember last year you voted to raise a special fund, as our celebration for this Centennial year. Hundreds of dollars have followed the pledge. But the year has twelve months, and before it closes these hundreds should be thousands, for the gold and silver belong to our Lord. Is there not, in every society, some member who can do no other work, who would be willing, by personal invitation, to collect these dollar pledges? Do you realize why we constantly ask for *money, money*? Scores of men and women have said, we are desirous to teach the heathen about the atonement of Jesus Christ, but "how can we teach, except we are sent?" And we have been made ashamed, that you forced us to reply, "We cannot send you this year, because we have no money." Pitiful reply, for it wounds our Saviour. Will you, can you, treat Him so another year?

The reports of the auxiliary societies have seemed to me like Autumn leaves, falling to give place another year to a richer growth. I have woven them into a wreath for you to-day. I find some reflect the brightness of the rays of the Sun of Righteousness with which they were painted. Some are only dotted with gold. Some are a dull brown. These last were not satisfied with the gentle dew each night, and the mild sunshine each day. They asked, in order to perfect their growth, a long summer and a great shower, which never came, and so they languished. This, in human language, means, "If we could only have a missionary to talk to us, we should work well."

Some of you have had such a pleasure in the past, but after a little while you grew lukewarm. Such magnetism is neither necessary nor lasting. You all have at hand means of information, if you will take time to read and study. If the heathen asked as much to keep them in the right way after they have found it, we could *never* find workers enough to spread the Gospel, and we might better abandon the idea. Each one of you has talents, and you must use them and become self-reliant. Shall we try to raise others, and seek any strength ourselves except our common Redeemer? The missionary comes home to rest, so that in due time he may go again to the work he loves best. We ought not to ask much of them here. Mr. Coan and Mr. Corbett have visited us, and cheered many hearts, but their time was limited. May their reward be, strength to work in Persia and China rather than in America. The Everlasting Arms will be underneath them and ourselves always, and at last lift us all with the ransomed heathen into everlasting rest. That rest will be intensified by the work done here. Are you thoroughly *consecrated, Christian women?* If not, imbibe the spirit of the Master in this meeting, and return to your homes willing "to spend and be spent" in His service.

REPORT OF FOREIGN SECRETARY.

It was very early in the morning—a spring morning in Judea,—and Mary Magdalen stood by an open, empty sepulchre. Two angels in white told her that Christ was risen, and bade her proclaim it to His disciples; and she hastened to do so. A little later, as she waited again before the tomb, and wept for her Lord, lo! He appeared and called her Mary, and she answered Him, Rabboni! and He bade her go tell His brethren, I ascend unto my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God.

So to woman, sorrowful, “forgiven much” and “loving much,” was the command first given to preach a risen Savior.

Eighteen hundred and seventy-six years have passed since then, and all the while the Marys have been telling by life and by words, “Christ is risen, is risen indeed.”

And now in the one-hundredth year of our Republic and the sixth of our organization, we gather to read and to hear a few entries from the records written by Presbyterian women of the Northwest, of woman’s work for woman, knowing well that by far the most and by far the best of these records are written where God only reads them.

AMERICAN INDIANS.

During the past year our interest in the Creek nation has been greatly deepened by correspondence with Mrs. Robertson, who devotes herself with rare enthusiasm to the translation of the Bible into the Creek language. The society in Denver, Col., have given generous aid to her, and the Westminster Band,

Detroit, continue their donations to this mission. But it is pitiful not to be able to offer the \$100 needed to continue publishing the one newspaper for the Creeks.

Miss Calhoun reports decided improvement in the discipline of her school among the Dacotahs. Her pupils seem to have learned more the value of their opportunities. It is with both regret and pleasure that we bid her God-speed in her new work as the wife of one of the missionaries of the A. B. C. F. M., four hundred miles further into the land of the red men.

Miss Dougherty continues her work at Odanah with cheerful zeal and with renewed tokens of God's blessing. She writes that on New Year's day they spent an hour of morning service in the church, "consecrating the new year to Him to whom it belongs." Oh! that the churches could go out, like Samson, and shake themselves free from their apathy toward Indians, and learn to believe that God can save them!

MEXICO.

Last summer we assumed half the expense of the school in Zacatecas, and the same amount toward the school in Cos. Mrs. Thompson's lack of health has obliged her to return to this country, and the school at Zacatecas is closed. We have paid our share of expense for the school at Cos, and we trust that the intense interest of the religious movement in Mexico will aid our societies in patient giving and praying for this school, during the long and to us unavoidable delay in direct communication with it.

BRAZIL.

In Brazil we wished for work and it has been given us. We have there three schools—at Rio Novo, Brotas, and Gomez; all these are assumed by auxiliaries, whose prayers, as well as