

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

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Various

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FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING,

HELD IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, APRIL 8TH AND 9TH, 1875.

IN IMMANUEL CHURCH.

REPORT OF HOME SECRETARY.

We have pitched our Mission tent, to-day, a little farther to the north, yet we linger on the border of this blue lake. It reminds me of our First Missionary, journeying up and down the shores of that Judean sea, whose waves still bear to us the command, "*Go, work.*" Present duties lying all about us, even pressing hard against our lives, demanding immediate attention, forbid our lingering long at this delightful feast. The full record of labor accomplished, and opportunities wasted, must be hurriedly reviewed, so that these precious hours may be used in planning for the future.

Our society has been organized four years, and our working force consists of 275 Societies and Bands. Of these, 37 Societies and 29 Bands have been formed during the past twelve months. There are 1,600 Presbyterian churches in these six neighboring States, and we can claim only one missionary organization to every six churches. This is very strong proof of the necessity of home work. The greater part of the year it has been a serious question with us, how we could reach the uninterested. If they *knew* what our work really is, they would give a share of their time, strength and money to it. In February we sent out written circulars to the pastors in whose churches there

was no foreign missionary society, asking them to urge the ladies to make a beginning, and we have had several responses. All of these, and our smaller auxiliaries, must remember that the few dollars placed on the Annual Report do not denote all they have accomplished. We have felt, moreover, that the reading of our Magazine would enlighten all, and we hope every family will soon receive it. During the last year we have received about \$700 towards its expense in the Northwest. Hereafter it will be a monthly, at the same price, 60 cents per year, including postage. Adopting the suggestion of another, I would recommend to each auxiliary the election of a new officer to take charge of the subscription list of "*Woman's Work for Woman.*" Let her duty be to solicit subscribers; see that prompt payment is made in advance, and regulate all trouble in receiving the Magazine. The intellectual resources of many of the ladies have been brought out in connection with this pamphlet, and have added very much to its interest. Remember this department of the work, and frequently send us a *tithe* of your brain power.

We have been searching up and down the land for helpers to assist and rest the few missionaries who are already in the field. We have asked for your choicest daughters—the accomplished, amiable, devout ones, "polished after the similitude of a palace," "all glorious within." We wish every missionary to receive a testimony like that given the veteran Lindley, by the African convert. "His feet were indeed beautiful, for they always carried him safely; never have they been known to slip out of the way of truth, and the life of the man of God." Persia, China, Siam, India, all are *waiting* for you to send them the Bread of Life. *Waiting! waiting!* And while they hunger, they die. Who will go for us? A few days ago, Miss Sarah Bassett, of Crawfordsville, Indiana, said to us, "Send me," and in August she will go to Persia, in company with Mr. and Mrs. Labaree, who will return to the same field. Rev. Mr. Bassett and family, of Englewood, Illinois, went out to Persia four years ago, and Miss B. will join him (her uncle), and work

together in the new station at Teheran. Now where shall we look for another, and another?—for we must have them.

During the year we have assumed the support of Mrs. Holmes, of Persia, Mrs. Holt, of China, and Mrs. Wilson, of Laos, making our list for the coming year number 17 missionaries, 60 native pupils, 10 Bible women, 21 Persian schools, 17 pastors' wives, besides schools in Brazil and Mexico.

We are able to give out some new work to-day. To complete the mission houses, and for general work in Tabreeze, we ask for \$1,000; for schools and teachers in Teheran, \$2,200; for buildings in connection with Miss Downing's work, Chefoo, China, \$2,000. In regard to specific objects, I will quote from Dr. Jessup's book, "The Women of the Arabs:—"

"1. Let all contributions for Woman's Work, and the education of girls, be sent through the Women's Boards of Missions.

"2. If possible, allow your donation to be used for the general purposes of the station, without insisting that a special pupil or teacher be assigned to you. But if it be not possible to maintain the interest of your children and youth in a work so distant without some special object, then by all means,—

"3. Do not demand too much from your overtaxed sisters in the foreign field in the way of letters and reports. The labors of a teacher are arduous everywhere. But when instruction is given in a foreign language, in a foreign climate, and to children of a foreign nation, these labors are greatly increased. Add, then, to this toil, correspondence with the Board of Missions, the daily study of the language, the work of visiting among the people, and receiving their visits, and you can understand how the keeping up of correspondence with twenty or thirty Sabbath-schools and Societies is a burden which no woman should be called on to bear.

"4. Do not expect sensational letters from your friends abroad. Do not take for granted that the child of ten years of age you are supporting, will develop into a distinguished teacher or Bible-woman before the arrival of the next mail. Do not be discouraged if you have to wait and pray for years before you hear good tidings. Should any of the native children ever send you a letter (and they have about as clear an idea of who you are, and where you are, as they have of the satellites of Jupiter), do not expect from their youthful productions the elegance of Addison or the eloquence of Burke.

"5. Pray very earnestly for the conversion of the pupils in mission schools. This I regard as the great advantage of the system of having pupils supported by Christians in the home churches, and known to them by