

THE  
JAFFNA COLLEGE  
AND  
MEDICAL MISSIONS  
IN  
NORTH CEYLON.

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OCCASIONAL LETTER, No. 8,

FROM THE  
**MISSSES LEITCH,**

JANUARY 19TH, 1895.

Colombo:

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## Occasional Letter.

No. 8.

FROM THE MISSES LEITCH.

*Motto for the New Year.*—“AS GOD WILL.”

“That ye may know what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”—Rom. xii. 2.

“No service in itself is small,  
None great though earth it fill;  
But that is *small* which seeks its own,  
And *great* which seeks God’s will.”

*Jaffna, Ceylon, January 19th, 1895.*

DEAR FRIENDS;—We send to you from Ceylon’s Isle loving Christian greetings.

You will be glad to hear that the past year has been one of encouragement, and that there has been much blessing on many departments of the work here.

In this Province over two hundred persons have joined the different Mission Churches during the past twelve months, on profession of faith in Christ, and a large number of others are on the list of inquirers, and are receiving regular instruction in Christian truth.

### MISSION SCHOOLS.

There are in the Mission Schools of the Province 14,868 children, of whom 6,405 are in Mission Sunday Schools.

### THE JAFFNA COLLEGE.

The work of the Jaffna College continues steadily to advance. There are now 160 Students in the College proper and 391 in the High School which is a preparatory School to the College. Of the pupils in the College 122 are preparing for matriculation, 32 for the F.A. degree and 6 for the B.A. degree.

In this College all the professors and teachers are Christians, the Scripture lessons are taught daily in every class, the students are all required to be boarders within the institution, and are thus separated from heathen influences and brought under strong Christian influences. They are required to refrain from wearing the idolatrous marks, to attend the regular Sabbath services and the weekly prayer-meetings, to be present daily at morning and evening prayers, and to study the prescribed Scripture lessons.

One wish which we have long cherished has now been realized, in that a special Evangelist has just been appointed to work among the students of the College. He is one of the ablest and most earnest young native pastors of the Province. As there are, within the Mission premises, (*i.e.*, in the College, High

School, and two day schools) 800 students, he will have, in working among these, a great opportunity, and we earnestly hope and pray that he may have the presence and help of the Holy Spirit in this work, and may prove a great spiritual power among these young people.

The Jaffna College has, during the past year, received a Charter from the Ceylon Government. The Trustees of the College having, under this Charter, become an incorporated body, the funds of the institution are thus legally safeguarded.

#### **THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE COLLEGE.**

The Christian young men of the College Y.M.C.A. have been very active in their work among the non-Christian students of the College, and also in connection with the Sunday Schools which are under their care. They also continue, as a part of their Mission work, to support a day school on the island of Eluvative.

#### **WORK OF FORMER STUDENTS.**

Many of the former students of the College are now doing good Christian work, not only in Ceylon, but also in India, Burmah, the Straits Settlement, and elsewhere; and one, Mr. S. C. Kanagaratnam, B.A., who was for some time a student of the Jaffna College, is now in Great Britain, doing earnest work

in connection with the Anti-Opium movement, addressing large meetings in conjunction with Rev. A. W. Prantch, who was one of the Missionaries unjustly imprisoned in Bombay for exposing official fraud in connection with opium dens. Many friends in Great Britain have given donations to aid the Jaffna College, and now a former student returns to Great Britain to aid the lovers of Righteousness in their efforts to oppose this great evil, the opium traffic.

#### THE GENERAL MEDICAL MISSION.

This Medical work is under the care of the Rev. T. B. Scott, M.A., M.D., and Mrs. Scott, M.D. Since opening their work they have treated 2,510 patients in the Dispensary, 64 in the Hospital and 50 private patients.

They have as native assistants two doctors, one interpreter, one clerk, one orderly, one male and one female evangelist and one nurse.

Their work is much appreciated by the people, as may be seen from the fact that they have received, from fees and from sales of medicines, etc., the sum of RI,800.

By means of this medical work not only the patients, who attend the Dispensary or are treated in the Hospital, but also many of their friends and relatives, who accompany or visit them, hear the Gospel message from the lips of the doctors and evangelists, and,

through the sympathy and kind treatment given them, they have presented to them an object lesson of the very spirit of Him who came not to be ministered unto but to minister.

In addition to the work in the Dispensary and Hospital the doctors are often called to treat private patients in their homes; and while Mrs. Dr. Scott may be seen, in the early morning, going in one direction in her light American carriage drawn by native runners, Dr. Scott may be seen on his bicycle spinning along in another direction, over the level macadamised roads of this province, which are in many places shaded by coconut and palmyrah palms, mahogany, tamarind, jak and other beautiful trees.

Some months ago a little baby boy came to gladden their home, and the native people all about are delighted at his arrival, and call him "the little doctor."

Both Dr. and Mrs. Dr. Scott have acquired a good working knowledge of the Tamil language, and they are not only good doctors, having much success in their cases, but they are good Missionaries, and take an active part in helping on the educational and evangelistic work in their district.

#### MISS L. H. GRIEVE, M.D.

The work of Dr. and Mrs. Dr. Scott has grown to such an extent that, on the arrival of Miss Dr. Grieve in the Island, the last of

November, they were glad to welcome her, and to invite her to help them in their work. She is now with them at Manippay, devoting a portion of her time to the study of the Tamil language and the remainder of her time to medical work.

### ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

The following is an address of welcome read to Miss Dr. Grieve, and translations of the hymns of welcome sung on the occasion:—

*A translation of two Tamil songs sung at the Reception of Miss Dr. L. H. Grieve at Chavakacheri, on December 7th, 1894.*

*Chorus.*—Let us rejoice and be happy at being permitted by God to see Miss Dr. Grieve who is here today.

1. She has left her parents, relations and friends and is come to Jaffna, after crossing large oceans.—*Chorus.*
2. O our good and able lady doctor, may the Lord Jesus who is in heaven bless you abundantly.—*Chorus.*
3. In answer to our earnest prayers to God, you have come for curing diseases common to the women of this land.—*Chorus.*
4. We will ever love you as our dear sister. We have had the pleasure of seeing your face. We heartily welcome you.—*Chorus.*
5. Thousands were the women who perished for want of proper medical aid. The time has come for the relief of such. Why should they be sorry any more?—*Chorus.*
6. It is reasonable that we daily remember in prayer our benefactor and kind-hearted doctor.—*Chorus.*



*Second Song of Welcome.*

1. Dear Jesus come and grant Thy blessing upon  
Miss Doctor Grieve, out of Thy great love.
2. Bless the mother who is separated from her  
loving daughter.
3. Preserve, O Lord, this excellent lady in per-  
fect happiness all her days.
4. Grant her skill to cure diseases and give also  
a compassionate heart.
5. Give her health to be doing good in this country  
until she becomes gray-haired.
6. Let the Medical Mission prosper and the  
Misses Leitch be happy at its prosperity.

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*Address of Welcome to Miss Dr. Grieve.*

MISS L. H. GRIEVE, M.D.

DEAR MADAM,—We the people of the “far off Ceylon’s Isle” bid you welcome. We bid you a joyful hearty welcome. We have been long expecting your arrival, and we have been long needing your help.

Immense relief has been afforded to our people by the coming in of the European doctor with his advanced knowledge of medicine, together with his many wonderful instruments for operations. However, the females of the land who suffer most under the curse pronounced upon the erring Eve, have not participated much in those blessings, because they were dispensed by the hand of the male doctor. In the East where seclusion is considered an honor and bashfulness a grace to the female sex, it is no wonder that a young woman often prefers death to the treatment by the hands of the male physician. This being the case, when announcement was made that lady doctors were coming to Jaffna, our hearts leaped for joy, and when it was told that a training school for nurses in connection with

a female hospital was to be established, our joy knew no bounds. This will not only perpetuate the blessings desired, but will multiply them tenfold, reaching the very corners of Ceylon and South India. The people living in North Ceylon and South India form one race, speak one language, and are separated by slender boundary lines. Therefore, dear Dr. Grieve, we welcome you today not only as a doctor rendering relief in times of our distress, but as one who will help in training some of our sisters to perpetuate the benign work you have come to do to us, and thus bless this land long and long after you are called up for your Heavenly reward.

This is the way the late Dr. S. F. Green was doing these many years, by the hands of the students whom he trained while yet living. Though dead he is still speaking. His students, and the students of his students are to be found not only in several parts of Ceylon and South India, but as far East as the Straits Settlements, Borneo, Sumatra, &c. May the Lord grant you and your co-workers long life and a good purpose to do the same.

We take this occasion of expressing publicly again our great indebtedness to you, the Misses Leitch, for all your self-denying labours to build up the Jaffna College, for the establishment of the General Medical Mission, and for opening a Female Hospital. May the Lord preserve your precious lives, and those of your equally devoted brothers who are working behind you, and enable you to see the consummation of all your good wishes for this people. And we express the hope that you may be able in due time to establish a branch hospital for women at this station of Chavakachcheri also.

It will not be in our power to make any recompense to you, Miss Dr. Grieve, or to you,

Misses Leitch, or to the many loving patrons in England and America, but that God who will say in the last day, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these ye have done it unto me," will reward you abundantly.

In behalf of the Women of Jaffna, we beg to remain yours sincerely,

(Signed by a large number of Native Christians.)

### **THE LADY HAVELOCK HOSPITAL.**

The amount secured in cash toward the erection of this Woman's Hospital in Colombo, in which work we acted as honorary collectors, now amounts to R44,000.

The foundation-stone has just been laid by His Excellency Sir Arthur Havelock, G.C.M.G., and it is expected that the work of erection will be completed within the year. This Hospital will be supported by Government, and will be a Government institution; but it will be open to Christian influence, as the ladies of the Committee of the Lady Havelock Hospital, among whom are missionary ladies representing the different Missionary Societies in Colombo, as well as other Christian ladies of the community, will be free to visit the Hospital and to read to and speak with the patients.

Miss Dr. Leslie, to fill a gap, acted for some months as a temporary head to the Woman's Medical Work under Government in Colombo. She was very much liked by the people of Colombo, and was asked to fill the post permanently. She has now resigned

her connection with Mission work, with a view to permanently entering Government service, and is now filling this post under Government in Colombo. She has been asked, by the Zenana Bible and Medical Mission, to refund to them the amount (over £650), which they had drawn from the "Ceylon Fund" of that Society, and had expended upon her medical training, post graduate medical study, outfit passage, etc., etc.

As Miss Dr. Leslie is possessed of private means, and as she is now in the receipt of a large Government salary, and is also allowed the privilege of private practice, she will be in a position to return this sum at an early date.

#### **THE WOMAN'S MEDICAL MISSION, JAFFNA.**

We are now in communication with several lady doctors who have work in the foreign field in view, and we hope soon to secure the appointment, by the Committee of the Zenana Bible and Medical Mission, of a suitable lady doctor as a medical missionary, in place of Dr. Leslie, for the work in Jaffna.

#### **PURCHASE OF SITE.**

After very careful consideration and consultation with the Missionaries and leading native gentlemen of the Province, a site has been chosen for the Woman's Medical Mission at Erunvil, as that will be central for the 300,000 people of the Province, the majority

of whom are within a radius of 12 miles from this centre. It is about half-a-mile from Uduvil where the Uduvil Girl's Boarding School is located, and about two miles from Manippay where the General Medical Mission, which is under Dr. and Mrs. Dr. Scott, is located. It is also about two and a-half miles from the suburbs of Jaffna Town, which has a population of 40,000 people. The site purchased comprises 10 acres. The lot is a beautiful one, having 210 shade and fruit trees growing upon it. It has open cultivated fields on two sides. Pure air and quiet are thus insured. It has two deep wells of good water, the water in this vicinity being, it is said, the best in the Province. It is situated on the coach road which connects Jaffna Town and Kangasanturai, the two main ports of the Province.

Sir Arthur Havelock, G.C.M.G., the Governor of Ceylon, has kindly consented to allow the Government Engineer of the Province to superintend the erection of the buildings. We also had the kind assistance of Mr. Taffs, the chief Government Public Works Department Architect, in preparing plans and drawings of the buildings. The Government Engineer also assisted us in preparing estimates and specifications.

The work has been given to an experienced and able contractor, who was chosen from among the thirty or more applicants who

tendered for the work. The work of construction is going on rapidly, and, according to the legal contract, all the buildings are to be completed and ready for occupancy by the 15th of December this year.

The buildings to be erected, which will bear the name of the *McLeod Hospital, and the Maud and Alice Home*, are as follows:—(1) A Mission House for the residence of the Lady Doctors. (2) Nurse's Quarters. (3) Medical Ward. (4) Surgical Ward. (5) Dispensary. (6) Lying-in-Ward. (7) Isolation Ward. (8) Preaching and Waiting Bungalow. (9) Gate-Keeper's House. (10) Kitchens, Store rooms, etc., etc.

#### THE INSTITUTION WELCOMED.

We have been pleased to find that the whole community, Hindu as well as Christian, very warmly approves of the scheme for the establishing in their midst of a Woman's Medical Mission. Many influential Hindus have taken pains to come to us to express their very high appreciation of this effort, which they believe will prove an unspeakable boon to the women of the community.

#### FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF CEYLON BY LUCILLE LESLIE, L.R.C.S. & P.

*Nuwara Eliya, June 14th, 1894.*

DEAR FRIENDS,—As I know that you are interested in the Woman's Medical Mission here, I am writing a few lines to inclose in Miss Leitch's letter, to give you my impressions of the work.

We met with a very hearty reception on our arrival in Jaffná. As we landed on the quay, there were native gentlemen waiting to welcome us with flowers and limes. It is considered a token of good-will to present them to people whom one wishes to respect, so we were glad to accept them.

We next drove to our home, which is ten miles away from the jetty. As we neared our destination, we were startled by hearing guns fired. This was to salute us, and to announce our coming to the friends waiting for us. How astonished we were when we reached the house to find it beautifully decorated with flowers, and about two hundred native ladies and gentlemen assembled to greet us. A band of music played as we alighted, and preceded us to the large verandah where seats were arranged. Children threw flower petals on us, rose-water was sprinkled on us, garlands placed around our necks, songs specially composed for the occasion sung, an address read and speeches made. This hearty reception cheered us very much, and especially the bright faces of the women, as they came to us afterwards and kissed us as their sisters. Now every one we meet tells us, how glad they are we have come, and how greatly we are needed. No sooner had we unpacked our things, than patients began to come or send for us. I did ask the Lord very earnestly that I might cure the very first one



—and that it might be a double healing—body and soul. You will be glad to know that the Lord who hears and answers prayer granted my request as I believe. The patient was a heathen woman, and she was dying. Her native doctor said he could do nothing for her, and her friends at a distance had been sent for to attend her funeral. The poor husband was in great distress, and in his despair sent for me. I feared I was too late, but asking Christ to show me what to do, I brought her home, and my companion Missionary (Miss Clare Walker) nursed her. For many days she was in great danger, and while she was lying ill we spoke to her about Jesus. She seemed to understand, and one night, when we thought she would die, she told us she had no fears, she was sure Christ would receive her in heaven, and if He spared her she would henceforth be a Christian. God did spare her, and both she and her husband have publicly testified before their heathen friends their desire to follow Jesus. They are now both under instruction, and, we hear, attend the Christian meetings. We hope they will soon be received into the visible Church. I had a great many patients after this, so many that we were often busy night and day. Rich and poor alike came, and we helped them as far as we could. It is more difficult to reach the rich, but the hearts of some



of them have been softened, and many doors have been opened as a result of our work.

At last we had to come away to a quiet place to learn the language, for so many patients came, some from long distances whom we could not turn away, that there was no time to study,—but we long to go back to them, able to tell them something of the unsearchable riches of Christ, in their own tongue. God has helped us already both in our work and in our study. Will you remember us in your prayers as we do all our kind helpers.

Believe me,

Yours in the Master's service,

LUCILLE LESLIE.

#### JOURNAL LETTER BY MISS CLARE WALKER.

*Nuwara Eliya, June 19th, 1894.*

DEAR FRIENDS,—Leaving England in company with Miss Dr. Leslie on November 21, 1893, we arrived at Colombo on December 24th. Oh, it seemed so strange day after day on the steamer, to know we were drawing nearer and nearer to the long-thought-and-talked-of Eastern land, where we believe and trust God has work for us to do among many suffering ones. Prayer was most decidedly answered for me, especially in the matter of home-sickness! Our loving God saved me from any overwhelming sense of it,

and the blessed promise of Matt. xix. 29, which someone quoted in a letter received at Aden, seemed like a message of cheer from the Lord Himself.

We were able to have several little meetings of sailors, stewards, etc., on board. They used to enjoy the singing very much; one steward helped us by playing his violin, but not for long, as he said he wanted to sing so much, and could not use hands and voice at the same time! We had one pleasant companion and helper all the way in the person of a C.E.Z.M.S. lady going on to Calcutta.

It was very hot when we arrived at Colombo; we began to realize what a "tropical sun" meant! The Misses Leitch came out in a boat alongside our steamer. It was delightful to meet again and to make acquaintance with Mr. Thurvasagayam, our "munshi," and "Santhia," the Misses Leitch's dear Christian servant. We thought: "Well, if all Jaffna people have the same kind, bright faces as these two, it will be a very nice place to live in!"

As we landed on the shore of Ceylon, oh! how I prayed that every day spent there might indeed be for His glory and the good of others.

I wish I could describe properly the wonderful interest and strangeness of all we saw in Colombo; the palms and flowering trees, the crowds of natives in various dress and of different nationalities, the fancy little

"hackeries" drawn by patient bullocks, the comfortable, cool-looking bungalows of the foreign residents, the lake, the famous Cinnamon Gardens, etc., etc. It was so sad and strange to see real heathen for the first time, their foreheads marked with sacred ashes from the Hindu temples, and Buddhist priests in their yellow robes, always carrying a large fan.

A house was most kindly lent us at Mount Lavinia, a few miles out of Colombo, and there we spent a pleasant ten days; though I confess that first lessons in Tamil were not very pleasant! It seemed so difficult at first. We used to go for little walks in the cool of the evening, when Miss Leitch taught me my first Tamil text—John iii-16--and some short sentences.

One day we had a very pleasant little gathering of Jaffna young men, who came to welcome us. We were presented with a kind address of welcome. It was very encouraging to look at these fine, intelligent young men, (most of them in good positions as clerks etc. in Colombo,) and to hear Miss Leitch say that she remembered some of them as little, untaught village boys up in Jaffna. Several of them spoke in an interesting way about the Christian work they do in their spare time. One, in the course of his address, said to us, "You are here in answer to thousands of prayers."

Another day we paid a visit to the large Government Leper Hospital, also to the General Hospital in Colombo.

In early January we all came 'upcountry,' to the principal Hill Station of Ceylon. You come by train from Colombo to a place called Nanu Oya, and then drive up along a beautiful winding road to Nuwara Eliya. Here we are 6,200 ft. above sea level. It is a delightfully cool climate. We stayed in Nuwara Eliya for some weeks, very thankful for the opportunity of studying the language in coolness and quiet.

Then we went to Jaffna. It was most exciting arriving there and seeing our future home and sphere of work. There is no railway up to Jaffna; we had to go by the little steamer that goes round the Island at stated times. We were met on the quay—Jaffna Town—by several native Christians and welcomed very warmly. Then we drove to Tillipallai, almost 9 miles I think. As we approached the Mission House, we heard fireworks being let off: these were a part of our welcome! I wish I could draw a picture of the scene. They had erected a kind of arch, and we walked up to the Mission House from the gate under festoons of flowers and surrounded by a number of the dear native Christians. We were sprinkled with rose-water, and each given a garland of flowers; Dr. Leslie and I put ours on

and felt very conspicuous with our flowery necklaces! After being introduced to several native Pastors and others, we were all seated on the verandah, and Mrs. Strong, wife of a native doctor, read us a very interesting address of welcome; two young men sang a Tamil lyrie, specially composed for the occasion, then we all spoke a little, and after various other speeches the meeting broke up. We were glad to rest and unpack.

In a very few days patients began to come to be treated by Miss Dr. Leslie. One of our first cases was a woman bitten by a poisonous snake.

The need of Medical work especially for the women is most apparent. The foolish and superstitious practices are slow to disappear, and it is certain that death is very often accelerated and sometimes actually caused by wrong treatment.

With God's blessing we hope to train, in the Hospital, suitable young women as nurses. Even if they could only be taught the simplest rules of health in regard to cleanliness, ventilation, feeding, etc., they would be able to do a great deal of good when settled in their different villages. One of the chief proctors in Jaffna said to me that he felt almost the most important part of the Medical Mission would be the Nursing School.

It makes one's heart ache especially to think of the unnecessary suffering poor women undergo during confinement, owing to the rough and utterly unskilled treatment of the native midwives. One day Dr. Leslie and I were sent for to a case not far from the Mission House. In close attendance on the patient was a truly dreadful-looking old woman, who we were told was the midwife. She really reminded me of those pictures of witches one used to see in one's childhood in fairy-story books! She looked so fierce and unapproachable, that I felt a little nervous at first, in case she should try to prevent our helping the patient in the way the Doctor saw necessary; however, she was quite good and took her place quietly among the crowd of interested relations.

I will not take up more time now in describing the Medical work at Tillipallai. Our few weeks there made us feel how imperatively necessary it was for us both to give several months exclusively to the study of the language. It is so very difficult working through an interpreter, especially so in Medical work. So about the end of March we came up to the Hills again and have been working at Tamil ever since.

I had the pleasure of staying in Colombo on my way to Nuwara Eliya for about 10 days. It was just at the time of Revs. E.

H. Thwaites' and M. Hall's Mission, so I had the privilege of attending their meetings, also a very enthusiastic and interesting one conducted by Miss Annie Taylor, the well-known Tibetan Missionary, and her band of new Missionaries on their way to Tibet. Their steamer stayed in harbour 24 hours. It was a touching sight, all of them standing up together—English, Scotch, Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, and the little Tibetan servant of Miss Taylor,—singing “Anywhere with Jesus I will gladly go.”

It is the time of the South-west monsoon now, and there is continuous rain and very high wind. It is even too stormy for the coolies of this tea estate to come up to the house for the little meetings which we began. Poor little coolie children! they do look so wretchedly poor and uncared for. There is one little boy who has a most extraordinary appearance, part of his hair is cut and the rest in a dreadful condition, matted and tangled. It has never been touched—either washed or brushed—since his birth! nor will it be till he reaches manhood, when he will have to make the sacred pilgrimage to the top of Adam's Peak. There after various vows and ceremonies he will be allowed to shave. This is because he is devoted to a certain Hindu god.

Yours truly, “SISTER CLARE.”

## CHAVAKACHCHERI DISTRICT.

The Mission House at Chavakachcheri, which was enlarged and rebuilt, with funds secured by us from kind friends at home, and under the kind supervision of Rev. T. S. Smith, was completed at the end of June last, and from the 1st of July we have lived in it, finding it exceedingly commodious and very well fitted as a centre of work for this district. Now that the building is completed, we feel that the money which has been expended on it has been well applied, as this will be a home for Missionaries, and a beehive of Missionary activity for generations to come. Here the Y.P.S.C.E. meetings, the S.S. teachers' meetings, the choir practice, the mothers' meetings, the inquirer's class, and the children's meetings are held, and all day long men, women and children come freely to see us, and to speak of all they may have in their hearts. It is in a sense a *Home* to all the people of the district.

Seven persons of this district have joined the Church the past year on profession of faith, (four in the district and three in the Churches connected with the Boarding Schools where they are pupils), and ninety-five persons are in inquirer's classes and are being regularly instructed in Christian truth. We hope that a good many of these may be received into the Church in the new year. Several expressed a desire to be received



into the Church the past year, but it seemed better to the Committee of the Native Church and to us also that they should yet be more fully taught and tested.

The numbers of children attending our Day Schools, and especially our Sunday Schools have increased. The work of the Catechists, Bible-women and teachers has been systemised and made more effective. The plan for Moonlight Evangelistic Meetings to be held regularly month by month in all the villages has been perfected, and at many meetings held, at which the pictures of Christ's life were shown by aid of the Magic Lantern, large numbers of Hindus were brought under the sound of the Gospel. An active Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour has been formed among our Christian young people, and aggressive Y.P.S.C.E. methods of Bible and missionary study introduced, and the members of this Society conduct each Sabbath 16 village Sunday Schools, with a total attendance of 436 pupils.

Twenty-five of the most promising young people from this district are now studying in the College, High School, Training and Boarding Schools at the other Mission Stations, thus fitting themselves for lives of usefulness in the future.

We have been privileged through the kind help of friends at home to supply the funds for the erection, in different parts of this

Province, of four new Churches and preaching places, for the repairing of two Churches, for the purchase of land and the erection of eight teacher's and catechist's homes (these are in process of erection), and for the repair and refurnishing of a good number of village school buildings. We have also, by the help of home friends, been able to provide and pay over to the Rev. T. S. Smith the funds (£173) for the erection of a new building for the Industrial Department of the Tillipallai Training and Industrial School, and for the purchase of a steam engine for that school. A dear lady, Mrs. Alexander J. MacColl, over 80 years of age, contributed toward the above sum £100, which she herself had earned during the past two years by her own handiwork, (art painting), as a memorial to her late dear son, Hugh A. MacColl.

We wish to express our very grateful thanks to all the kind friends in Great Britain and America who, when we were in their midst, so generously responded to our appeals and contributed toward permanent scholarships in the Jaffna College and in the Uduvil Girls' Boarding School, and toward the establishing of the two Medical Missions, viz., the General Medical Mission and the Medical Mission for Women. And we also wish to thank all those who, since our return, have, by their gifts, enabled us to go on with the establishing

of the work of the Medical Missions, and who have also contributed toward the support of Catechists, Bible-women and teachers, and the support of boys and girls in the Mission Boarding Schools, and toward the erection of Churches, preaching places, and homes for Catechists and village school teachers.

“He which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.” . . . .

“God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. As it is written, he hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor; his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;” . . . .

“Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.” 2 Cor. ix. 6-10, 15.

#### **AID GIVEN BY OUR BROTHERS.**

The past year also, as for many years, our two dear brothers in the United States have rendered much financial help to us in the work we are carrying on here. They have delivered many lectures in different parts of the United States, illustrated by lime-light views of scenery and people in Ceylon and India, and, as half of the net receipts of the voluntary collection taken at

the close of their meetings goes toward the funds of the Missionary Society of the Church in which they lecture, they have been able not only to help us in our work here, but also to render substantial financial help to various Missionary Societies.

The Rev. T. S. Smith, Senior Missionary of the A. B. C. F. M. in Jaffna, who has the general supervision of the work of this district, with whom we have been able to co-operate in the most cordial manner, comes regularly to hold the Monthly Helper's Meetings, and is also present to conduct the Communion Services. Under his direction and working with us we have a noble band of native Christian workers, men and women, *i.e.*, 1 Pastor, 5 Catechists, 14 Bible-women and 35 Teachers, who have worked with good courage during the past year in the Day and Sunday schools, and at the various meetings held, and we believe the promise will be fulfilled "My Word shall not return unto me void."

We are well and strong and very happy in our work among the people whom we love, and we look forward with hope to the work of this new year, the one wish of our hearts being, "to do the will of God whatever that may be."

Yours very truly,

MARY & MARGARET W. LEITCH.

P.S.—We hope to send to all contributors another Occasional Letter within a few weeks, giving in it some further accounts of the work here, and also an audited statement of accounts from January 1st, 1893, to January 1st, 1895.

M. & M. W. L.







