

Miss Rachel Smith

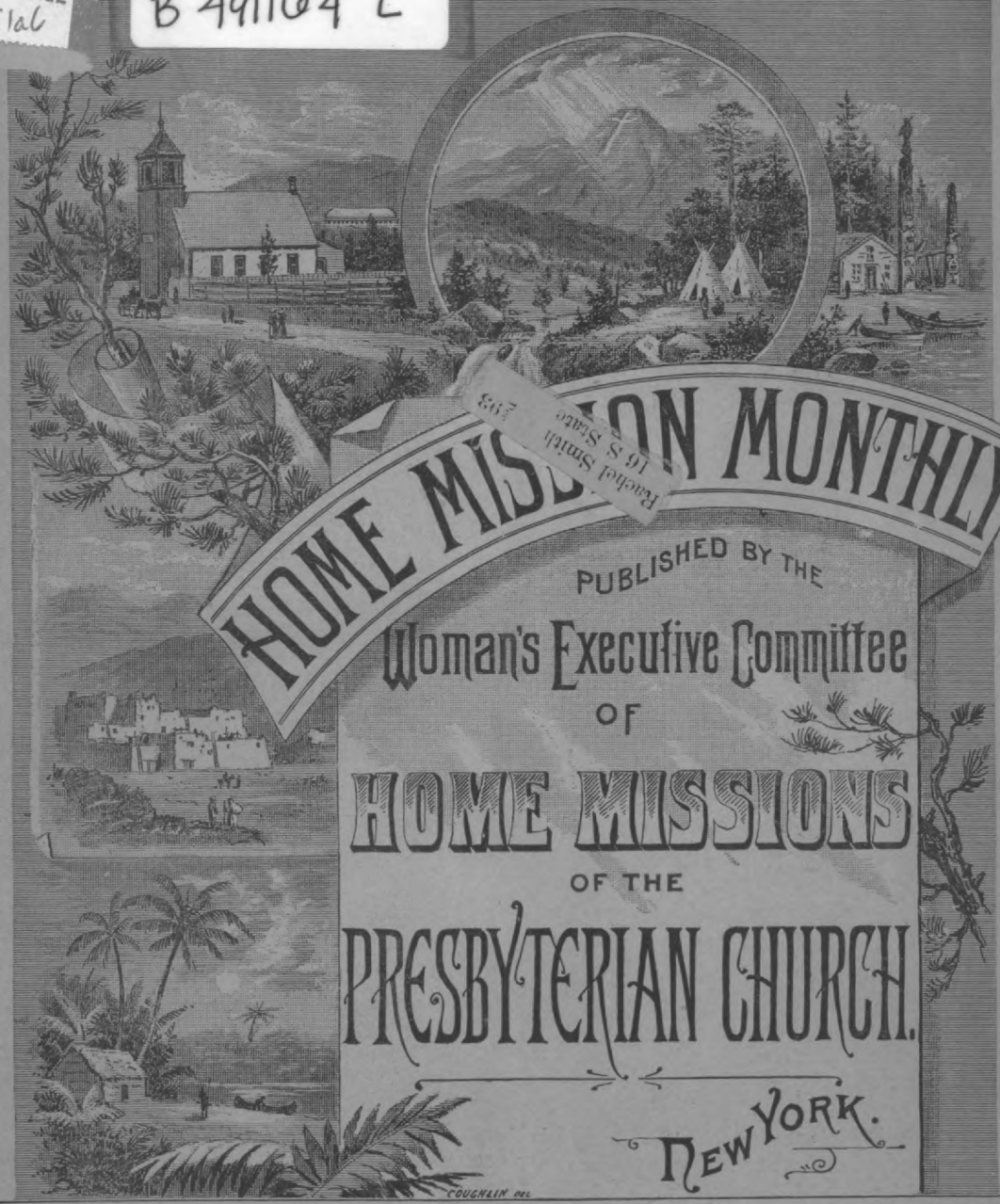
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HOME MISSION MONTHLY

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“OUR LAND FOR CHRIST.”



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EDITORIAL NOTES.



GIVE THANKS! A hard year has it been? Less than usual to be thankful for? Well, then, let us give a hasty glance at common mercies: Eyes to see with, ears to hear with, lungs to breathe with, feet to walk with—but why go on with the list; it is too interminable. St. Chrysostom, after recounting the goodness of God in creating us, in caring for us awake and asleep, in causing the earth, the air, the water, to contribute to our subsistence and welfare, and in providing for our soul's salvation as well as our bodily needs, concludes by saying that "if any one attempts to recount particularly, every one of these things, he will then perceive for how many inconceivably good things he stands indebted to God."

"O favors old, yet ever new!
O blessings with the sunshine sent!
The bounty overruns our due,
The fullness shames our discontent.

"We shut our eyes, the flowers bloom on;
We murmur, but the corn-ears fill;
We choose the shadow, but the sun
That casts it shines behind us still."

A NEW Bible! That is what we often feel like saying when we hear that a translation of the blessed word of God has been made into a new tongue. A new book, indeed, yet the same precious old Bible wherein are revealed the marvelous yet simple truths which make the salvation of every sinful soul possible.

Among the five civilized tribes in Indian Territory are the Creek Indians. Having translated the New Testament into the Creek language, that veteran

missionary, Mrs. Robertson, has been giving her time to the Old Testament. She writes from Muscogee, Ind. Ter.:

"The first hundred copies of Genesis in Creek reached me not long after sending my last report, and, excepting three copies which I reserved, have been scattered among the people, though not all yet paid for. It has been pleasant to hear of the interest with which the book has been read, and one of the native ministers to whom I sent some copies for sale, in sending the money and asking for more said, 'They go like hot cakes.'

"I have lately received the second hundred from the Bible Society, and hope soon to have opportunity of sending some where they will reach more of the people than I meet in this place.

"I am also glad to say that I finished my translation of the Psalms some weeks ago."

Do NOT make the mistake of depending on the Lord to do for you that which you can readily do for yourself. Do not expect Him to answer your prayers when you have the ability to answer them yourself. Mr. Moody is said to have been present at a prayer meeting when a wealthy man arose and feelingly told of a certain good object, which could be accomplished if only three or four hundred dollars could be raised, and concluded by asking that earnest prayer be offered that the Lord would provide the funds. Whereupon Mr. Moody sprang to his feet exclaiming, "Brother, I wouldn't trouble the Lord with a little thing like that; I would do it myself."

SANTA FÉ MISSION BOARDING SCHOOL.

THE beginning of a school year, while pupils are coming in and we are in an unsettled condition, is not the very best time to tell of our work, but we may make it a mile-stone from which we can look back over the way we have come, and also consider the outlook for the coming year. If twelve years ago I could have seen with prophetic sight our school as it stands to-day, I should have been well-satisfied to spend these years (full as they were of plodding work and disappointment, often with heart and hand so tired that I was tempted to think it was labor in vain), just as they were spent. To day I am thankful that I have had the privilege of being in the Santa Fé mission.

I have seen a great advancement in this educational work. Twelve years ago it required much persuasion to get Mexican girls into our schools. Now I am unable, for want of room to accommodate them, to receive half the number who would gladly come. Our beautiful building which stands as a memorial of the Christ-like love of New York's Presbyterian women, enables us to care for and instruct from fifty to fifty-five girls, and the number of pupils is only limited by the room. We could double this number any day, and it is the great desire of our hearts to enlarge the school.

This house has been filled to overflowing each year, with bright Mexican girls who are just as eager to learn as any other children are, and who have been learning just as many useful lessons as we could crowd into daylight hours. Considering that these children have a new language to acquire, and that our ways and customs are strange to them, we ought not to expect them to make as rapid progress as children of our own nationality and language, and yet we who understand the difficulties in the way are not only well satisfied with their advancement but are often surprised at their keen insight into things that we might think difficult for them.

One hindrance to our work has been that the girls marry very young. The parents are largely responsible for this, for they make the contract and the girls are expected to obey in this matter, as they do in all other things. Still, even

though their stay with us is sometimes short, we know they carry out with them new ideas, and that better homes are being made in consequence. Failing to keep these older girls long enough to fit them to be teachers among their own people (I mean any large number of them, for we have given a few teachers to our public schools), I have taken about thirty little girls, whose parents have given me legal possession of them for certain periods of time varying from three to ten years. These, I think, will be capable of filling responsible positions when they have finished a course of study here.

Year by year we see the pupils coming back from their homes neater and cleaner, with better fitting clothes and brighter and happier faces. In the school-room the girls are so interested in their studies, that if left to their own way they would not take the necessary recreation, preferring to study rather than play.

Last year our hearts were gladdened by thirteen girls publicly professing their faith in Christ and uniting with our church. There was much opposition from parents and friends, but they thoughtfully and calmly decided to give up home and friends for Christ's sake, if necessary. One child who wrote to her mother asking her permission to join our church, was told that our religion was a "hard religion." This little girl, who was about thirteen years old, replied as follows: "The rules are very hard when we want to do evil, and not do what God wants us to do. But when I go home I will read you what God says in His book, and I will tell you about Him. I am very happy in this school and I thank God for showing you the way to bring me to this school."

Four new girls were received to-day for five years. They came a five days' journey by wagon. This evening they evidently ate their first meal sitting at a table. They did not know the use of a plate, but took their food on their laps, and brushed the crumbs on to the floor. A friend told me of stopping over night with a Mexican family a short time ago. They were a newly married couple, and had but one room in their house, and had not a chair,

table, or bed, or furniture of any kind, nor any cooking utensils, save one piece of Indian pottery in which they cooked their supper, and then rolling themselves in blankets they lay down on the earth floor to sleep. A minister told me of being entertained at a meeting of Presbytery where eight persons slept in one small room, and where they had their choice of either using a small milk pan, or the acequia for their morning ablutions. These things I mention not as any discredit to the people, but to show the necessity of educating the children in our schools where the things that tend to elevate are taught.

It is not always because they are so poor that the people live in this rude and often indecent way, but because they have always been accustomed to it and see no

reason for change. Mission work has changed many homes in this territory. Business men and lawyers whose business takes them all over the territory and to remote homes, have frequently noted this.

A Roman Catholic occupying a territorial office, said to me the other day, "This Santa Fé school is doing a grand work, and I wish you had another building where you could accommodate as many more girls. When you have a vacancy please let me know for I have some little friends I want to place in your school."

May the present school year bring fresh courage to the Woman's Executive Committee, to missionary societies and to mission teachers in other fields, as well as in New Mexico.

M. L. ALLISON.

FROM THE FIELD.

WE have reason to be encouraged over the outlook in New Mexico. Many of the old teachers have returned to their posts of duty, and some new ones have entered the field.

At Santa Fé, the first boarding school for girls to be established among the Mexicans, only a few changes have been made. Miss Donizetta Jones, who was teacher at Good Will, South Dakota, will have charge of the school room, in place of Miss Young, who retires from the work. Miss Jones was very successful while connected with the mission at Good Will, but owing to the severe climate in South Dakota a change was desirable. Miss Manning, who has conducted the sewing department so successfully, will not be connected with the school this year, much to our regret. Miss Turner, who has filled another position in the school with acceptance, will take the place vacated by Miss Manning. We are pleased to learn that the efficient superintendent, Miss M. L. Allison, has entirely recovered from a recent serious illness. It may not be generally known that a successful day school is in operation at Santa Fé, under the careful supervision of Miss Fleming.

The boarding school for girls at Las Vegas begins another year with a full corps of teachers and other workers. The

superintendent, Miss M. Beekman, has been providentially detained in New York by illness, but during her absence the home will be cared for by Miss McNair, who has been connected with this school for two years past as matron. Two new teachers go to this point, the Misses Laura and Ella Moore, who come to us from Bozeman, Montana, having been connected with the Academy at that place. Miss Laura Case has been transferred from Las Vegas to Del Norte, Colorado, to take the place of Miss Wyllie. The latter requested a change on account of health, and her friends may hereafter address her at Richfield, Utah, where she will occupy the position of principal of a large day school.

We urge upon the friends of the Mexican work the need for the new building at Las Vegas, for which an appropriation of \$10,000 has been made; you cannot too quickly send on your gift for this object. The old adobe building must be replaced at once. Precious memories cluster around this old building, which has sheltered our teachers and pupils for ten years, and we rejoice that these memories may remain with us when we enter into our new and more commodious surroundings.

We welcome a new worker at Mora, Mrs. Winston, from Hanover, Indiana.