Life and Light for Woman, Volume 22

#Woman's Board of Missions
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MADONNA OF THE LILY.—LEONARDO DA VINCI.
REJOICE, YE CHRISTIANS.

Rejoice, rejoice, ye Christians,
   With all your hearts this morn!
O hear the blessed tidings,
   "The Lord, the Christ is born!"
Come sing with holy gladness,
   High alleluias sing;
Uplift your loud hosannas
   To Jesus, Lord and King.

What great and mighty wonder
   This Christmas festal brings!
On earth a lowly infant,
   Behold the King of kings.
Since all he comes to ransom,
   By all be he adored.—
The Infant born in Bethlehem,
   The Saviour, and the Lord.

The Word is made incarnate,
   Descending from on high;
And cherubim sing anthems,
   To shepherds from the sky;
And we with them, triumphant,
   Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory,
   And peace on earth to men."

—Selected.
LIFE AND LIGHT.

We wish all our friends "A Happy New Year,"—happy in home life and all temporal surroundings; happy in earnest, successful work for God and man; happy each one in her personal share in the advancement of the kingdom of our Lord in the world; happy in spiritual growth, which, forgetting those things that are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ... press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Now let us open our calendars! Those who have not yet bought them will wish to secure them as soon as possible. We are hoping for good results through their stimulus for our missionary zeal. Through their influence we expect to have a special blessing in our Annual Meeting in Brooklyn, and upon other home work as well as in mission fields. In order that we may act intelligently, we propose to give, month by month, the changes that have occurred since the calendar was issued. For January, in the Zulu mission, Miss Bridgman has left Umzumbe and returned to this country; Miss Stillson and Miss Bigelow have probably just arrived in Umzumbe, to take charge of the girls' school, and Miss Phelps expects to set sail on her return to Inanda, January 16th. Miss Mary Pixley is teaching in Inanda Seminary, not at Adams.

At the woman's session held in connection with the meeting of the Home Missionary Meeting in Saratoga, it was voted to set apart Wednesday of the Week of Prayer as a day of prayer for woman's work in missions, both home and foreign. In accordance with this a continuous missionary prayer meeting is to be held in the chapel of Park Street Church, Boston, on this day, January 6th, from ten till four. Six leaders have been promised, each for one hour, from the home and foreign societies of the Methodist, Baptist, and Congregational denominations. Among those already appointed are Mrs. Grace Gilberth Gale, Mrs. Alice Merriam Coleman, and Mrs. C. L. Goodell. It promises to be a rare occasion, and we trust many of the friends of our Board will be present. At the usual Friday morning meeting at the W. B. M. rooms during the Week of Prayer, topics will be presented in accordance with a programme prepared by some of our English friends for a meeting to be held on that day in Exeter Hall, London. It is pleasant to feel that so many are bound together in the best of bonds during that week.

Moffat mentions three requisites for successful missionary work in Africa, and they are, "Patience, Patience, Patience."
AND now they have student volunteers in Africa! There were two of them in Inanda Seminary, and they have been at work some months in their mission field with Miss Jones in East Africa. Their names are Grace Goba and Selina Malima.

Mrs. Edwards writes:—

How glad I was to see Selina arise when I asked for some one to accompany Miss Jones. Then when I went to my room I found Grace awaiting me, and she greeted me with, "Why didn't you ask me?" "Do you wish to go?" "Yes, very much." "I am so glad, Grace. You and Miss Jones and Selina go to the laundry and ask your mother." Soon they all returned with the mother, looking very happy. They all went to ask Grace’s father, and to their surprise he consented at once. Then the oldest brother must be asked. They succeeded in this mission, and with the increased company went to Selina’s home. All were ready to say yes. Maude, Grace’s mother, said it was marvelous that the business was done so quickly, and to my surprise not a person asked, "How much pay will they get?"

This was Wednesday, and the steamer left on Saturday of the same week. They went to Durban on Friday. We had a farewell meeting at the chapel on Thursday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Ransom and the young ladies decorated the pulpit with palm leaves and flowers. The addresses of the fathers were touching and earnest. Such a change! When I came here, in 1868, Mr. Lindly was teaching the alphabet to a kraal man, a polygamist with a "ring" on his head, and a shirt his only civilized article of dress. That man was Maziyan, the father of Selina, our chaplain, an earnest, conscientious follower of the meek and lowly Man of sorrows, now giving a cheerful God-speed to his child going to the land of fever. . . . I want to record the praise due to God for the readiness of the people to give their consent for the girls to go. Prayer had been offered for some light on Miss Jones’ pathway, and while the girls were gone to ask the consent of their friends, prayer was going up for help. Almost before we asked He heard and answered. All the praise must be given to him.

Mrs. Bunker, who with her husband is remaining for awhile in the Zulu Mission, on her way to East Central Africa, writes of some of her experiences there as follows:—

For several weeks I have had a class of twelve boys,—Belshazzar, Samuel, Joel, Meshach, Lutellus, William, Lincoln, Jonathan, and others. Many of the Old Testament worthies (and unworthies, too), are represented here. I have reason to believe that six of these at least are making a determined stand for the right. I am especially interested in two of them, probably because I know their cases better, for they would not be considered among the attractive boys,—Meshach and Elijah. A week ago Meshach said in prayer
meeting that he was all in the dark. After the meeting I called him, and
found that he was much troubled in spirit. He was not afraid of the other
boys, as some are, but realized that he must give up lying, swearing, fighting,
and licentiousness. (What an array of habits for a young boy of fifteen!
Do you wonder that he stood somewhat appalled?) "I want to, Inkosizana,
but it is too hard," he said. He promised to decide in a day or two and tell me.
But the days slipped by, and he seemed shy of me. I could only wait in hope
and faith. And how I prayed! No more earnest prayers ever went up for
my dear boys left in America than for this dark-skinned lad. At last, Saturday,
he promised me that he would surely tell me the next day. Yesterday,
after Sunday school, he came to my room and told me that his decision was
made, and that for Christ. And the praise is all to the dear Lord who has
constrained this one to come to him; another trophy of his power to save,
and another jewel won for his crown. The boy's very reluctance is the
strongest proof of his sincerity, for often the boys will quickly promise
these things and as quickly forget that promise. Will you not often remember
Meshach in prayer that his life may be a power for good?

Mr. and Mrs. Fay arrived at Kamondongo after a pleasant and prosperous journey,
August 19th. It will be remembered that they were accompanied by Miss Carter, who
was afterwards married to Mr. Lee, a missionary stationed at Chisamba. A recent
letter from Mrs. Fay describes the wedding as follows:

Mr. Lee and Miss Carter were married the day we arrived, and a more
novel wedding I never witnessed. First we had a great time getting baggage
out of the custom house, for, of course, the bride wanted her wedding dress
at least. We arrived at Benguella at 11 A.M., and at 3 P.M. the bride was
arrayed for the occasion, looking very sweet in white muslin and orange
blossoms. We all went to the Governor's house, and he performed the
ceremony according to the Portuguese law. He read a few articles out of a
big book, asking Mr. Sanders to interpret as he read, which Mr. Sanders
did. None of us knew whether this was the ceremony, or whether he was
explaining what the ceremony was to be. Mr. Sanders thinking that per-
haps it was the ceremony, motioned Miss Carter, who was seated on the
lounge, to stand, which she did; Mr. Lee was already standing. The
Governor immediately motioned her to be seated again, so we all concluded
it was not the ceremony after all. But after more reading out of the big
book the Governor informed us that the ceremony was over. Of course we
all smiled, some of us audibly, but none of us could yet realize that Miss
Carter had been transformed into Mrs. Lee. All that remained was for the
bride and groom to sign their names in a book giving the names of their
parents and grandparents. The Governor then invited us all into his music