

The Woman's Missionary Society.

[This Department is in the interests of the W. M. Society. All communications for it should be addressed to Mrs. Jos. McLeod, Fredericton.]

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THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

(The following is the address of Miss Slipp, President of the W. M. Society, delivered at the annual meeting of the Society):

As I look over this audience, I must say I scarcely feel equal to the occasion, and I am sure I could not stand before you to-day, as president of this society, if I did not believe that I was being upheld in this work by His almighty arm. I am glad to be with you in this annual meeting, and to be again permitted to greet you in the name of our Free Baptist Missionary Society, and I trust that our coming together at this time may be fraught with great blessing to ourselves and the work which we represent.

In looking forward to this public meeting, I was impressed this year more deeply than ever with the solemn import and responsibility of such an opportunity to speak for the Master, and the earnest desire of my heart was, that I might be given a worthy message suited to the occasion. We are to-day standing upon the threshold of our twenty-ninth year as a society, with a prospect before us as bright as the promises of God. Through all these years His loving kindness and tender mercies have been with us, enabling us to lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes in our home and foreign work.

We look to this church—the Millstream church—as the mother church of our society. It was here that twenty-eight years ago Mrs. Phillips, wife of the sainted Dr. Phillips, organized our Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society.

The women who gathered at that first meeting were deeply in earnest in their prayers; that God would further the work, and to-day we see that prayer wonderfully answered—even beyond their asking. They trusted not in their own strength nor wisdom, but looked to the Divine Spirit for guidance. They were enabled to overcome many difficulties, and to lay the foundation of the organization broad and deep, as they watched over its interests, and bore the burden, in the early years of our history. Many of these have heard the Master's voice saying, "Come up higher," and have exchanged the earthly service for the heavenly. We cannot but feel that they are with us in spirit to-day, though gone forever from our mortal sight. Some are still with us, and still giving of their best in ripe experience and counsel to the work.

If it should be asked, What trophies the society can show for its twenty-eight years' work? the reply must be made, That God has signally honored the work of His people in connection with this Society; but the progress of the kingdom of God can never be set forth in figures, for the kingdom cometh not with observation. The inner results we cannot estimate, the growth in grace, and the truer loyalty to Him, which must be the result of engaging earnestly and sincerely in the Master's work, will only be known in that day when all secrets are revealed. "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name be all the glory."

Sisters, may we show the reality of our gratitude for the years of success that have passed by greater usefulness in the Master's work. God's kingdom will come just in proportion as we put forth effort to bring it. Let this effort be a noble one. Let us seek to bring all the women of our churches into sympathy with missions, not foreign work alone would we advocate, but rather the spirit of missions. The hand of God is beckoning us forward. No society has a right to live in its past, however great that past may be. Great possibilities, great opportunities lie before us; let us grasp them as they come.

New methods of work may be adopted from time to time, but the main business of every mission must still be as it has always been—the simple preaching of the gospel. In every land "It is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth," without distinction as to race, color or tongue; but in every nation he that feareth God and worketh righteousness is accepted of Him.

As the Lord said unto Mary, "Go tell my brethren," so He is speaking to the women of to-day. Go tell them of Jesus and His love. Go, for Jesus' sake, and in His name, and let us remember that beautiful promise, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Woman's work for Christ is not a modern thing by any means. Women helped missions long before there were any organized missionary societies, and in Christ's own lifetime on earth there was a band of women who followed and helped Him.

When God wanted to emancipate His people from the degrading thralldom of Philistia, He put Deborah at the head of the army; when He wanted to rule in righteousness the greatest nation of ancient or modern days, He put our late beloved Queen—"Victoria the Good"—upon the throne. We believe it is our duty and privilege, as it is the duty and privilege of our fathers and brothers, to do all we can to advance the cause and kingdom of our Lord at home and abroad. That principle declared it to be the design of this Society, to send to the heathen the glorious gospel of the blessed Lord.

Then woman's missions fill a need that men cannot meet, because of the peculiar conditions in which women are placed in heathen lands. No such need exists for separate organizations in connection with any other part of the church's work. Through faith in our precious Saviour we are bound together in the bonds of love, and the enjoyment of the priceless blessings of hope and peace. Our Lord says unto us, "Fear not." "It is the good pleasure of the Father to give you the kingdom." "Our Redeemer is strong, the Lord of Hosts is His name."

The great commission of Christ, given by Him in the upper room in Jerusalem on the night after the resurrection, again a little later on a mountain in Galilee, and yet again a little later on the Mount of Olives, clearly expresses our obligation to make Christ known to all men. That command was not intended for the apostles alone, but for the instruction of after ages. As Christ's disciples, we are to be witnesses, testifying to what we have felt, and known of the gospel as the power of God unto salvation.

No Christian is exempt from the injunction to go quickly and tell; but we are not all called to the same field or required to preach the gospel in the same way. Comparatively few are qualified or called to carry the gospel to foreign lands, and comparatively few are given the commission in home fields. But, Christian friends, there is a place

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for all. A place in the filling of which depends the success of this great work of redeeming the world for Christ. It is at the mercy-seat, the throne of grace. Prayer supplies the means by which the needs of our missionary work may be met. Yes, prayer meets needs in connection with missionary work which can meet in no other way. Prayer puts God first. It reminds us that He is the Supreme worker.

Many may never cross the thresholds of their own homes; yet they can yield a mighty influence. That mother in her home with her little children, moulding and training their lives for service in the Master's vineyard, is surely within the circle of mission work.

My dear sisters, the important question for each of us is: Are we to-day filling our places in this work? Are we filling the places God would have us fill?

Is ours the honor and privilege of going forth to sow beside all waters, or are we of those who remain at home? Then the privilege and honor is ours of holding up the hands of our workers by our sympathy, prayers and gifts; of keeping in touch with the work, at the same time doing all we can in throwing out the life-line in the waters round about us; not fearing to ask too great a blessing. "Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it." "Unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or think."

Mrs. Isabella Bishop says, in traveling in heathen lands: "Wherever I have gone, I have seen sin and sorrow." The women of India present the saddest contrast to those of Christian America—creatures without soul, without education, forty millions without God, and without hope in the world, wandering in darkness and the shadow of death. My dear sisters, may we be moved to ask, What shall we render unto the Lord for all His benefits.

The gospel is the only remedy. Jesus Christ the only Saviour. He has no rivals—no peers. He that cometh from above, is above all; and He said unto them, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." He has opened the door of faith to all nations. His word is suited to all peoples. It is the promise of God unto salvation.

By sacrifice and suffering the divine kingdom was inaugurated; and if needs be by sacrifice and suffering, it must be carried to its final sway. Let us lean upon God, His purpose and His ability to carry out. He who hath led, will lead. "Let us lift up our eyes unto the Lord, from whence our help cometh."

Now just a few words as to our home work. During the past year we have made the largest advance over any previous year in our history. It is encouraging to know that so many of the little ones are being drawn into the Mission Bands, and take a manifest delight in the work. In many respects this de-

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