

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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MY PART IN MISSIONS.

You must believe in missions. You would not reject the gospel, would you? This is a late day even to hint at their propriety. The question is rather, What is my part in missions?

First, I must give myself. Nothing short of personal consecration can meet the demands of this great work. The Master gave himself. Shall we do less? Giving one's self means giving one's love, and that includes everything—person, thought, time, work, money. The last is the least, yet how sparingly, grudgingly this is given. The cheek reddens with shame when we think of the martyrs and Calvary! Let us give ourselves, whether we go into the pit or hold the rope.

Secondly, I must pray for missions. I am not interested unless I pray. I must pray that my poor heart may be kindled. The impulse that will send swift messengers around the world must come from hearts filled with the Holy Spirit. He is the power from on high before whom my selfishness will melt and heathenism will fall. I must pray for the awakening of the home church—for the substitutes in the field that God may guide them, for open doors among the Gentiles, and for strength for the converts. Everything must come from God, and we are only the instruments and vessels.

Thirdly, I must act sensibly in this matter. I ought not to act blindly. Faith is not blindness. I must study missions, as far as I can, by reading the Bible more and the church periodicals, and by buying a few books on the subject. I ought to know a little about the whole field, and everything about our own. I must keep in touch with missionaries. I must be loyal to our own work. It has been providentially assigned to us. If we neglect it, we deny the faith and are worse than infidels. If we do not care for it, who will? I must be reasonable in my expectation of results. I must not grow weary in well-doing.—Prof. J. A. Singmaster, D.D., in *Lutheran Observer*.

REACHING THE MOTHER'S HEART.

One day in 1897, during my first episcopal tour in Angola, Africa, as the hammock carriers bore me along the narrow path at the head of my caravan, I heard the cry of a woman. At my request the carrier stopped, and getting out of my hammock I saw in a little opening of the grass beside the path a native woman with her arms outstretched toward the heavens, crying as if her heart would break. Through an interpreter I asked what was the matter, and she told me this story: "My baby died last night. I don't know where it is, and I am afraid I shall never find it again." Ashes had been thrown upon her head and had fallen down upon her person, for among these natives there are some Jewish customs—among the rest, sackcloth or ashes

in time of sorrow. I told her about Jesus, who was born a baby and grew to be a man, and who was on earth, and who died to save her and her baby, and that her child was with him now, and that, if she would love Jesus and serve him, after a while she would go to her baby and never lose it again. She looked at me first with amazement and fear, but seeing the kind expression of my face, she fell upon her face before me and clasped my feet in her arms and wept as if her heart would break. I bade her arise. She had been selling some bananas and other native fruits to passers-by, that she might make a few pennies to pay the funeral expenses of her baby. I bought all that she had, paying several times the value, and then she said, "I must go quickly and tell my people of the white man from afar and what he has said about Jesus and about my finding my baby again." We were journeying along the hillside, and in the distance on the plains I could see several native towns, and as the woman made her way I praised God that I was permitted to preach the Gospel to her and to give her a word of comfort in the hour of her heart-sorrow.—Bishop Hartzell.

HOW CHINESE GIVE.

For sixteen years the members of a native Women's Christian Association in Tung-cho have supported a Biblewoman in Ceylon. Their church and everything of value was destroyed by the Boxers two years ago. The members were scattered in every direction, and were homeless and penniless. In July of this year (1902), these women sent their usual contribution to the denominational board rooms in America, with an apology for being so late in sending, as it was not easy to reach the scattered ones still alive after the terrible massacres, and expressing the hope "to do more in the years to come than in the past."

Mission Notes and News

—Many East Indian laborers are employed in railroad building in Africa. Some of them are Christians and are carrying the gospel with them.

—In 1902, accessions to all Christian churches in all foreign fields numbered nearly 100,000, at a cost per member on the part of missionary societies of about \$200.

—We have previously noted the fact that the cause of Protestant missions in Egypt has been left almost wholly with the United Presbyterian church. It has carried on its work most successfully, and now it appeals for 280 men and women to carry on the work. There can be no doubt that this mission of our American brethren is to play a most important part in the regeneration of the land and the race of the Pharaohs, especially if the church to which it belongs is able to respond to this appeal.

—Shintoism in Japan is much like Confucianism in China, in consisting largely of a worship of ancestors. It has been the most ancient religion of that country. Not long since, however, its chief officers send forth the statement that Shintoism was no longer to be regarded as a religion, but simply as "a mechanism for keeping generation in touch with generation and preserving the nation's veneration for its ancestors." The gov-

ernment have assented to this request. All this, however, is to be interpreted more as indifference to all religion than as directly favorable to Christianity.

—Some time since an article from a missionary to the Kaffirs appeared in an exchange which is fitted to revolutionize the ideas some of us have had of them. Instead of dying out, they are one of the most prolific of races. When they become Christians their devotion may well put to shame the indifference among Christians in more highly favored countries. They are said to be ready to make almost any sacrifice to make known the Gospel to their fellow-countrymen. They also have a passionate desire for education. This race, which has suffered so greatly from the cruelty and oppression of the Boers, will now, doubtless, enter upon a new era.

—It seems evident that India is on the verge of a great religious awakening. "We are looking," writes Dr. John McLaurin in the *Baptist Missionary Magazine*, "and longing and praying for a great awakening in India. In thirty-three years I have not seen or felt such a spirit of faith and prayer as there is here to-day. There is material ready for an immense conflagration. Missionaries, native pastors, teachers, native Christians, Eurasians, Anglo-Indians, and tens of thousands of educated Hindus who know enough of Christ to receive him as Saviour if the Spirit comes in power. The possibilities of the situation are such as should send the churches of Christ to their knees. I feel as if we could not, dare not, let this opportunity pass."

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