

## 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.]

### OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT.—Miss Augusta Slipp, Hampstead, Queens Co.  
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 TREASURER.—Mrs. D. McLeod Vince, Woodstock, N. B.

### How can we increase the Power of Our Societies.

#### A PRAYER.

To stretch my hand and touch Him,  
 Though he be far away;  
 To raise my eyes and see Him  
 Through darkness as through day;  
 To lift my voice and call him—  
 This is to pray!

To feel a hand extended  
 By One who standeth near;  
 To view the love that shineth  
 In eyes serene and clear;  
 To know that he is calling—  
 This is to hear!

Is there any danger than in our zealous delight over the Study of Missions we may neglect the devotional portions of our auxiliary meetings? This is a question, not an assertion. . . . It is so easy to let the ten-or-fifteen-minute paper run over its allotted time, that thoughtful minds suspect such a danger.

It is not so essential that we speak to each other, though it be in a way most interesting or upon the most fascinating of themes, as that we should listen to what God says to us, and that we should in turn speak to him. Insist that papers be kept within the specified time, provide for fewer of them, or put one over until the next meeting; do anything rather than encroach upon the little time we may spend wholly with God.

Will you listen for a moment to what might be called an ideal of prayer in connection with our auxiliary meetings?—prayer offered at home for the gathering, not only by those who expect to attend it, but also by those who are detained from the service. Let the prayer be from the heart. The Lord's prayer is the ideal prayer, and there is a place for it in every service, but the voicing of one's own feelings and aspirations will bring a soul nearer to God than the repetition of any form can do.

The employment of sentence prayer will help women to a confidence in offering public prayer which they could hardly gain in any other way.

Moreover, let us be patient and uncritical when we hear prayers offered in much trembling or in ungrammatical language, or, perchance, when we cannot hear them at all. God can hear, and he knows the thought of the heart even if it be couched in ungraceful form; such a prayer may mean more to him than one which is full of rare expression, or clothed in the most graceful language. Probably the prayer of the publican did not seem of much account to the Pharisee, but it did to God.

Another suggestion: let us make our offering a sacrament, and in more than the usual way. The prayer of consecra-

tion when the money is brought together and dedicated to the service of the Lord is most beautiful and appropriate, but let us do more than that. As we drop our individual gift upon the plate, let us make our own little prayer of consecration, even if it be but the breathing of the words, "O God, bless these pennies and the work they do." We may not be able to give much, but the blessing of God can multiply the little as the loaves and fishes were multiplied on the hillside long ago.

Every member of the auxiliary can bring an influence to bear in the right direction by her attitude in the matter.

Every woman can pray by herself, and prayer is the most important part of our missionary work.

If we could but once realize what a mighty power prayer is, what forces can be set in motion by its use, how much more we can individually accomplish through its agency than by all our busy work without it, we should certainly place more dependence upon it than we do—practically as well as theoretically. Mrs. Howard Taylor says something like this: "We think we are busy women; we fill every hour and every moment of the day with our activities, but we wonder that we accomplish so little. Do you know why it is? It is because we are trying to do our work in our own strength without the partnership of God. Do not attempt even to write a letter without asking God's help in doing it."

Prayer is like a mighty cathedral organ, with all its possibilities of interpretation, from the whispering of the water running softly up the pebbly beach to its *vox humana*, or to the crash of the elements in a storm; and, dear friends, we are like little children picking out with a single finger some simple tune, knowing nothing of the use of the powerful stops close at hand.

Oh, the possibilities of prayer! It may be that the new revival for which Christian hearts have looked and longed so earnestly may come in a new realization of this mighty power.

"Let us pray! Pray ourselves into lives of walking with God; pray the work with which we are connected into more abundant usefulness; pray money into the coffers, power into the agencies, and consecration into the workers; pray missions into existence, souls into the kingdom, till everywhere the kingdom come, and the King himself be on the throne,—looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God!"—Mrs. B. L. Hazen, in *Life and Light*.

JAPANESE MAPS.—In the preparation of their new war maps the Japanese make them on a small scale, showing a large field of operations; then smaller maps show more in detail sections of the larger. Still smaller sections are shown in still greater detail. A correspondent saw some maps they used in the campaign in China, and they were marvelous. Every bunch of trees and every hut, every turn of road, every change of elevation, was shown. The working maps, by which the column was guided, were only about two feet square, and the scale was so large that they showed but a small section of country.

## CHRISTMAS 1903.

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### ST. JOHN SOCIETY.

Dear Sisters—In a recent issue of the RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER our President reminds us that four months of the year have passed, with a very few of the column pledges being redeemed.

In regard to Waterloo St. Society I have to say that we hold our meetings on the first Tuesday evening of every month. Two of our members, Mrs. C. T. Phillips and Mrs. W. Fenwick, are not able to go out of their homes this winter, so for the last three months, by request, we have taken our meetings to them. Our greatest difficulty seems to be non-attendance of members, which we fear is too general. We hope and pray that it may soon be otherwise. We are glad for the promise given to the few that meet in His name. We have not taken up any special study as yet, but have a talk or short reading from *Helper*, or some missionary periodical, after the regular order of business is transacted. We have in connection with our society a Mission Band and Cradle Roll. Owing to the severe weather there is not very much being done by the children just now, but in the past they have done excellent work, which we hope to see again in the near future.

In the hands of the literature committee are constitutions, helps, and literature for societies, Mission Bands and Cradle Rolls, which we would be happy to supply to any who may apply to the undersigned.

Our hearts with yours have been saddened as we have learned of the faithful workers in the foreign field falling one by one. There seems to be a voice in it speaking loudly to us, "Be ye also ready." To be ready is to be faithful to the work assigned to us till the Master calls.

We are glad for the many good things that appear in our columns. We read with interest the letters from our missionary and his wife, which tell us of their whereabouts and success. We pray they may have the blessing of health throughout the year travelling from place to place through the cold and storms. May all hearts be open to receive them, is our desire.

Yours, in Christian work,

MRS. J. S. SMITH,  
 126 Waterloo St., St. John.

YEAR BOOK.—The Baptist Year Book, 1903, of the Maritime Provinces is just out. For a copy we are indebted to Dr. Creed, the Secretary of the Convention. It contains the records of the Convention held in August last, in St. John, the reports presented, a list of the ordained Baptist ministers in the Maritime Provinces and much other information. The secretary has added this year a general view of Baptist organization, institutions, publications, etc., in Canada.

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