

Woman's Work.

THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—President, Mrs. S. M. Brown, Warton; Corresponding Secretary, Miss L. V. Rioch, 225 Maria street, Hamilton; Treas., Mrs. John Campbell, Erie Mills, St. Thomas.

This department is conducted by a committee, composed of Mrs. A. E. Trout, Owen Sound; Miss M. Oliphant, 365 King street, London; and Mrs. George Munro, North Barton Hall, Hamilton.

All contributions for the Woman's Missionary Society are to be sent to Miss L. V. Rioch, Cor. Sec., 225 Maria St., Hamilton, Ont.

Thanksgiving.

MRS. M. E. SMITH.

Thanksgiving Day is now a national institution. It is peculiarly American in its origin and history, as well as in character. Together with the annual recurring cause for thankfulness, there are gathering about this many associations which tend to hallow it. There are all the wonderful providences which our ancestors experienced and were thankful for appealing to our gratitude not less powerfully than later blessings, which we are to share, not with the past, but with the future. The day associates itself closely with the history of the country, and it does this largely through the history of individuals and families. It is shown to be of home origin. Its keeping is largely under the ancestral roof-tree, about the domestic hearth and family board. It is completely unsectarian, and appeals to all except the thoroughgoing fatalist. Its value to the individual and to the public depends upon the spirit in which it is kept and upon the manner of its observance. We have great reason to rejoice on account of our spiritual blessings, but we ought not to be indifferent to our daily temporal blessings, which also come from the hand of God. Let us spend a short time then in considering the nature and grounds of the joy to which the prophet refers, not forgetting, before we close, the higher joy which it typifies:

1st. The nature of this thanksgiving. Thanksgiving in harvest is a reasonable thanksgiving. The prosperity of a nation depends very largely upon the character of the harvests, and therefore it is most natural that when the harvest is plentiful our praise should ascend to God the Father, from whom this, even more directly than many blessings, has surely come. We have been taught to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." If we thus recognize our dependence on God, is it not fitting that we should thank Him when he answers our prayers?

2nd. Thanksgiving in harvest is a universal thanksgiving, a thanksgiving in which all sections of the Christian church, all classes of the community, all nations and races may unite to-

gether. We constantly complain of the want of unity that exists between Christian people, but there is a platform upon which all may unite. However much we may differ in doctrine or in politics, we are all agreed upon the necessity of having bread to eat.

Thanksgiving in harvest, then, is a Catholic thanksgiving. We are so apt to forget sometimes how much we really owe to God. How seldom do we hear the voice of thanksgiving lifted up in acknowledgment of mercies in our church prayer-meetings. Our good brethren seem to adopt too literal an idea of their gathering together. They never tire of presenting petitions of every nature; but how seldom do we hear the heart expressing its joy and gladness and breaking out into a glad song of praise. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits" is as much a Christian injunction as "casting all your cares upon Him, for he careth for you." Can it be possible that in all our many meetings for prayer there is no soul filled with the joyous emotions? We much doubt this. Are we always to appear before God as beggars, and never tender him our thanks? Must he constantly be lavishing good upon us, defend us from harm and rescue us from danger, and yet be unworthy of our praise? Look into your own heart and review your past life, Christian friend, and see if there is not occasion to

"Lift up to God the voice of praise,
Whose goodness passing thought
Loads every minute as it flies
With benefits unsought."

And, if so, then "lift it up; be not afraid." Rest assured God delights to see the thankful soul as well as the one who is constantly pleading the promises and praying to be delivered from the evil. While it is true that we shall always be dependent upon Him for all spiritual growth and grace, still it is equally true that we should continually praise Him for what He has wrought in us. O, how much we have to thank God for! From what depths of sin He delivered us! Let us cultivate then a spirit of lofty praise, of holy gladness, and we shall find prayer more refreshing.

Benevolent Work.

At this season of the year we must think of helping the needy of our congregations, and very often we do not do it in the best and wisest way, for lack of systematic planning.

The following report, which was read by the President at the annual meeting in October, will show the plan the church in Owen Sound has adopted:

"The work of the Benevolent Society received its inspiration from the sending out of Christmas bundles of toys, candies, etc., by the S. S. children, which was of necessity supervised by the S. S. teachers and others of the congregation. Last Christmas those bundles included such clothing as was at the disposal of the workers. It was then apparent that by a little systematic effort the church might be made the centre of a benevolent work, which, however small in its beginning, could be limited only by the blessing of God, whose Son, our Saviour, bids us 'let our light so shine before men, that they seeing our good works may glorify our Father who is in heaven.' With the conviction pressed home upon us, a meeting of the sisters of the church was held at the home of Mrs. W. A. Stephens last March, with a view to organizing for future work. The meeting was a large one, and after engaging in earnest prayer and in reading of the Scriptures, plans were discussed, and finally a president, secretary, treasurer, and 'cutting out committee' were appointed. It was decided to ask for contributions of cast-off clothing from members of the congregation and to meet the first Friday of every month, for the purpose of making and mending garments for children, and so to lay by a supply for distribution when winter came round again. Mrs. Jordan's invitation to meet regularly at her house was gratefully accepted. The regular meetings have not been so largely attended as the inaugural one, but a few sisters have been very faithful in this respect, notably our aged Sister Pearce, whose cheery presence and willing hands we miss greatly. Others have sent substantial tokens of their interest in the shape of clothing and money.

"This is a work in which every member of the church can take a part—those who have money, those who have clothing, those who have time, can each give as lies in their power; and all can give their prayers—prayers that we may be endowed with wisdom and prudence in giving of our small store, that they may receive who truly are in greatest need; prayers, that we may have that love towards those we help, without which, 'though we give all our goods to feed the poor, it profiteth us nothing,' prayers that through the influence of this Christ-given work, other hearts may be turned to Him whom we serve, and be brought under the teaching of His holy word.

"Before closing I would say that the officers of this society will be glad to receive donations of whatever nature. Let all take a share in this department of church work. 'Freely ye have received, freely give.'"

"Should Spend His Last Dollar."

Rev. Chas. T. Cocking, returned missionary from Japan: "I consider K. D. C. worth its weight in gold. Any one suffering from dyspepsia, if he has a dollar left, should buy it, and try the truth of what I say. 'They who give it a trial will continue to take it, I am sure.'"

Treasurer's Report.

ST. THOMAS, Dec 11, 1895.—Please acknowledge in the Disciple the receipt of the following money.

Lobo Auxiliary\$ 7.00
Winger (Wainfleet) Aux.....11.00
Junior Endeavors, St. Thomas... 8.00
Foreign Missions, Warton Aux... 200

MRS. JOHN CAMPBELL,
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