

A Chosen Cup-Bearer.

BY HENRIETTA L. MACCALLUM.

"THE missionary work of the Methodist Church in Canada having advanced beyond the power of the existing society to keep pace with it, a proposal for the organization of a woman's missionary society was presented at the General Conference held in 1878. The Conference, while favoring the suggestion, referred it to the Central Missionary Board, which in 1879 instructed the General Secretary, the Rev. Alexander Sutherland, D.D., to bring the matter before the women of the Church and endeavor to promote the organization of branch societies, as a preparatory step to the formation of a society for the whole Church." With this in view, the Rev. General Secretary convened a meeting in the parlors of the Centenary Church, Hamilton, June, 1880, when the first auxiliary was formed. Some months afterward, at the earnest entreaty of a young girl, a second auxiliary was organized at Uxbridge, under

Woman's Missionary Society stands an organization of nine Conference branches; 621 auxiliaries, with a membership of 13,925; 290 mission circles and bands, with 6,532 members; having sent out nearly fifty missionaries, thirty-four of whom are now on active duty, and with an income for the past year of \$40,379.36, which will be expended during the current year, as the society is in the enviable position of being able to allocate and pay out its funds at the same time. This income represents receipts from annual fees, life-membership fees, receipts from mission bands, Epworth Leagues, mite-boxes, the annual Easter thank-offering, donations, bequests, and government aid, and has never lessened that of the General Society.

The Woman's Society has always managed its own finances and transmitted all moneys direct.

Article VIII. of the constitution reads:

RELATION TO THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Section 1: This society shall work in harmony with the authorities of the Missionary Society of the Methodist



MRS. STRACHAN, Corresponding Secretary.

MRS. GOODERHAM, President.

the leadership of Mrs. Bascom, now well known in connection with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union; but the Church was slow to catch the flame, and it soon became apparent that if anything of moment was to be accomplished a broader basis of organization was absolutely necessary; that a connexional society should be formed, through which the combined efforts and resources of the branches might be brought to bear upon the great mission field.

This conviction took practical shape at a meeting of the Hamilton society, held in April, 1881, and on the 8th of November of the same year, in the Ladies' College, Hamilton, the Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church of Canada unfurled its banner, and with the world for its parish went forth to do battle for the Lord.

There was much to learn in matters of administration and government, but wisdom was given in the hour of need, and, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the infant society waxed strong. To-day, in its fifteenth year, the

Church, and be subject to their approval, in the employment and remuneration of missionaries or other agents, the designation of the fields of labor, and in the general plans and designs of the work.

Section 2: All missionaries or other agents supported or aided by this society shall be approved, before appointment, by the constituted authorities of the Methodist Church, and shall be subject to the same rules and regulations as other missionaries or agents of the said Church.

Yet, as in all households where love, in its broadest sense, reigns supreme, many of these restrictions exist only in name. The administration of the Board of Management is but seldom questioned.

The Board of Management is the legislature of the society. Its membership consists of the society's officers, the corresponding secretary of each branch, the editor of department in *The Missionary Outlook*, secretary-treasurer of the literature and publication department, and delegates from each branch in the proportion of one to every four