

The Dayspring.

BY MRS. J. J. BAKER.

"Pray what of the night, watchman, what of the night?
We weary of looking so long for the light.
Hast thou seen a token of day?"

Behold! the morn cometh, the midnight is gone:
The eastern sky glows with the tints of the dawn,
The darkness is passing away.

The shadows grow lighter across the dark main,
And over the night-covered mountain and plain
Now widens the life-giving ray

O glorious dayspring! we hail thee on high,
Come nearer till earth, and the sea, and the sky
Shall glow in the full light of day

ADDRESS

Delivered by the President of the W. B. M. Union
of the Maritime Provinces, convened in
Charlottetown, P. E. I.

The prophet saw in vision many people going up to the mountain of the Lord, and saying, "Come ye, let us go up to the house of the God of Jacob, and He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths."

We have come to our annual feast, as of old the tribes went up to Jerusalem to give thanks unto the name of the Lord; to receive new strength and zeal to walk in His ways, and to catch new glimpses of His paths. We may well be joyful in our King, for He has done great things for us. He has crowned our year with goodness, and is beckoning us to larger plans and fuller consecration. Fields that only we can enter are opening to us, and we almost tremble at the responsibilities that crowd upon us. The great mission agencies of all evangelized denominations are looking to the *women's societies* to help them carry burdens that would otherwise crush them, and because of such reliance, are attempting greater things. Our own Foreign Mission Board record, from year to year, their grateful appreciation of our services.

Dr. Clark, of the American Board of Missions, said recently, "The chief advance that has been made, during the last three years, has been through the women's societies"; and more lately, the Secretary of the Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions said to the Women's Board: "Whatever else in our Missionary work may be doubtful or perplexing, we always find in this society a sure dependence and a strong support."

Dr. Ellinwood, a missionary burden-bearer of another section of the United States, in addressing a meeting, representing five women's boards, said "These societies are organically and geographically distinct, and yet the lines of their influence, stretching out over the nations, are intertwined with each other, like the life-currents and nerve tissues of one living body. They move hand in hand something like the rhythmic of the allegorical sisters in Guido's great fresco, with this difference, that it is the chariot of the Sun of Righteousness that these attend, and it is moral darkness upon which this dawn is breaking"—breaking so hopefully that we see the promise of the early day. We see Christian homes that are shedding forth their sacred light into the surrounding gloom; Christian schools sending out thousands of young men and women as messengers of hope, and Christian churches

from which righteousness goes forth, that is as brightness and salvation as a lamp that burneth. "The people that walked in darkness see great light."

What but such efforts as women's societies have made, could have carried such light into the prison houses of high-caste India, as to make possible the incidents of that wonderful *zenana-day* of Lucknow exhibition, that has been such an inspiration to mission workers and that seemed to mark an era in the history of the nation. Two thousand native women of the class that, twenty years ago, would have been closely shut in hopeless and inane seclusion—visited the exhibition during the day, manifesting great excitement and interest. What a breaking of the clouds does this indicate! Quite as inspiring was the appearance in Philadelphia, a few months ago, of Pundita Ramabai, a high-caste Hindu lady, who has, for two years, occupied the chair of Sanskrit in a woman's college in England. "She has braved the restrictions of caste and the prejudices of ages," and is now regarded as one of the most learned women of modern times. At the close of her lecture upon "Women of India," she made a fervent appeal for a more energetic carrying out of just such work as ours, and requested the audience to join with her in silent prayer that the emancipation of her countrywomen from ignorance and superstition might come soon, and with power. The truth is working! let us speed its way.

It has been given to Women's F. M. Societies, not only to stretch out a hand to rescue the perishing in heathen lands, but also to gather forces that break, even now, over our favored lands. Hearts that responded years ago to the cry of the prison-bound women of India, now go out towards those upon our own shores who need this same Jesus, and methods that have proved themselves effective for the one object, are being successfully applied to the other.

Every department of Christian effort feels the throb of a quickened life, and the sinning and suffering of every age, grade and class, are being helped and rescued. Equipped as we are for work, and inspired as we should be by success, shall we not take fresh courage and put on new strength!

Our missionary leaders tell us of a *crisis* that has come upon their work. A crisis, not such as Judson and Carey were called to meet of closed doors and bitter disappointments of years of trial uncheered by the first gleam of promise; but the crisis of grand opportunity! Walls that then shut out the messenger of life have been thrown down, gates that were closed are opened wide, and the Macedonian cry greets us on every hand. Superstition that have held human minds in bondage have lost their grasp, and are fleeing before the light of civilization, and we, with our "good tidings of great joy," with the truth that alone makes free, must enter these open doors, must get possession of these eager, newly awakened minds, of the waves of infidelity—far more disastrous than even the vanishing superstitions—will engulf the needy millions and make their last state worse than their first.

In view of the opportunities and responsibilities of the present, missionary societies are much extending their work. There is increased activity and advance all along the line. Our brethren of Ontario are sending out three new men, and venturing an added expenditure of \$2,000.

Our own fields call for reinforcements. Our brethren tell us of eager listeners, and already springing seed; but they tell us also of hundreds of thousands in these very fields whom they can never hope to reach with their present force. Oh, that we of this Union could say to our Foreign Mission Board, venture further, brethren, glad