

recommended by our General Board of Missions, Woman's Missionary Society Board, Epworth League Board and Sunday School Board

- (4) The placing and using of a Missionary Library in the League, the securing subscriptions to missionary periodicals, and the formation and carrying on of a Missionary Study Class in the League.
- (5) Systematic giving of time and money to Missions.

After the above plan has been put before the Convention in as few words as possible, forty-five minutes at least should be spent in discussing methods of working the plan. At this point some one who knows (?) what the General Board, or Woman's Missionary Society Board, or Executive, or some one should do, takes about ten or fifteen minutes in discussing some thing which does not belong to the movement, but which belongs to the General Conference, or some high court of our Church. Then some other good brother answers him, taking up ten or fifteen minutes more. By this time the leading voices of the Convention have forgotten all about the fundamental principle of the movement, which consists in paying attention to the little things and enlisting everyone's help.

Some of the most helpful conventions which we have attended have lacked both orator and debater. And some of the most tiresome and unprofitable have been well supplied with the above important personages. We have seen delegates from Leagues with *trials* and *difficulties* who would go without their meals for the sake of the privilege of talking over their *perplexing* questions. Again, we have gained more inspiration and useful pointers from practical workers by conversation than by listening to addresses, although the addresses were well prepared and delivered with great force. Written papers cannot be too short if the discussion after is well conducted.

Missions in Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues.

ONE of the most interesting investigations any Sunday School worker can undertake is an inquiry into the different methods of Sunday School financing. There are almost as many methods as there are Sunday Schools. Some churches pay all the expenses of their Sunday Schools. Some Sunday Schools, by many and varied methods, pay part of the church expenses.

The financial relation of the Sunday School to missions is perhaps the most varied. Every conceivable relation seems to exist. Some Sunday Schools give all their contributions to the General Board of Missions, while the church supports the Sunday School.

Other Sunday Schools contribute to the Woman's Missionary Society of our Church; still others contribute to special objects, such as the support of native missionaries, or boys and girls in missionary institutes and schools. Some schools have even raised money for objects outside of our Church work, while a great many do not contribute anything from one year's end to another to the spread of the Gospel among the heathen. Surely this condition may be improved.

The lack of unity in financial effort is not as serious as the lack of unity in prayer for and study of missions. Although the Bible is God's great hand book on missions, where full directions regarding His plan and will concerning the salvation of the world is revealed, yet there seems to be no systematic united effort to get a grasp of His will

regarding missions. There is one consoling fact: the Sunday School work is in the hands of our most sacrificing and intelligent church members.

The Epworth League and Sunday School General Board, in a motion commending the Young People's Forward Movement for Missions, made the following statement

We . . . trust Sabbath School superintendents, officers and teachers will make effective in all our schools the spirit of the Forward Movement expressed in its motto of "Pray for Missions, Study Missions, and Give to Missions."

This is a reasonable expectation—the realization of which is more than fulfilled by some Sunday Schools and many classes in other Sunday Schools, which are already praying daily for missions, studying missions carefully and giving systematically to missions. What better body could the spirit of missions wish than the Sunday School—with the superintendent to choose a missionary lesson as often as possible and ask, say, three missionary questions each Sunday—one about the organization and management of the Missionary Department of our Church, and another about the great needy Christless lands, and a third on what God's Word teaches regarding His will and our duty and privilege in spreading the Gospel. The Sunday School secretary to keep careful record of money paid in and work done by the scholars, while the librarian can see that all the missionary literature available is circulated. This will greatly help the League Missionary Meeting, especially if the librarian notes the book read by the different members and informs the League Missionary Committee that these readers may be asked to take part in the missionary meetings.

What better method could be desired for gathering of the systematic gifts than that of the members of each class handing, in a small envelope, the amount to the teacher and the teacher to the Sunday School secretary-treasurer? The Sunday Schools of a district can and will raise money enough to support several missionaries each. Many of our districts could have a missionary in China and one in Japan, and one with our Indians, from whom letters might be received quarterly, and for whom they would pray daily.

To Our Missionary Campaigners.

KENOSHA, WIS., Aug. 15, 1898.

DEAR FELLOW-WORKERS,—Brother Stephenson desires me to send a brief message. My message is found in Isa. xlii. 4.

Think how the wealth, the learning, the religion, and the political power of the world were arrayed against Him, *but He was not discouraged.*

Think of His visible resources to-day. The wealth of the world is His, the learning is His, the one *living* religion is His, the political power is His, a mighty youthful army is His. "He shall not be discouraged."

The secret of this wonderful optimism was Calvary. "Follow me" means more than a walk to Gethsemane's gate. It means hours of awful agony; it means "Not my will but thine be done". it means Calvary; it means resurrection; it means *glory*.

"Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth alone, but if it die it bringeth forth much fruit."

Let us follow Him. Then we shall not be discouraged, for we know, "He shall sit in judgment in the earth and the isles shall wait for His law."

Yours in Christ,

S. EARL TAYLOR.