

exercises she would take up some missionary magazines, leisurely look them over, and select items for herself or the secretary to read. Of course these were all good, but they lacked connection, and Mrs. Meek, our secretary, had such a modest, and retiring voice, that only those next to her could distinguish any words. Mrs. Pompous used often to declaim about the 'scholarly manner' in which the secretary's reports were written. I suppose she was correct. At all events we *could* not criticise what we never *heard*."

"Our minister's wife used to worry about the small attendance and the lack of interest, and would try to suggest improvements. Doubtless had she been able to devote her time to it she might have effected many changes, but she had small children and rarely any servants. You know her husband's salary was not large, and seldom promptly paid. She did her very best, however, and, but for her personal influence among the ladies, we could never have kept together as well as we did."

"Why in the world didn't you choose new officers and see if that wouldn't help things?" asked practical Aunt Martha.

"For two reasons, I think. One being that Mrs. Pompous had been in office several years, had a good social position, and we had become so accustomed to her methods, that we had grown apathetic. Besides, we were, to a certain extent, rather proud of her elegant dress and dignified appearance when she represented us in the annual meetings of our county branch or the General Board. The other reason was that she herself gave us very little opportunity. When our ladies met to elect officers at our annual meeting she would always say:—"Ladies! it is now in order to appoint the officers for the coming year. There is no necessity for the formality of a ballot, and, as no one has resigned, I will put the vote thus:— All in favor of re-electing the present board of officers will signify it in the usual way?" two or three hands would be slowly raised, and, without calling for