Woman's Missionary Society

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"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

. They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."—Isa. lxv. 17, 23, 24.

THE missionary work of to-day presents many phases of interest. That which is most encouraging is the wonderful awakening it has developed among all classes of thinkers and workers. Missions and missionary work are to-day household words. The subjects meets you not only in the church and Sundayschool, on the platform and in the Church paper, but the daily secular press, as well as the weekly, appear to vie with the missionary periodicals in attracting attention to it. The discussion, from so many standpoints, has been most beneficial. Religion, personal, individual religion, has taken on a broader aspect. It is no longer the idea of being saved yourself, simply to escape hell and gain heaven. It is rather being saved so as to help to save others; being saved so as to live for the purpose of fulfilling in yourself, and toward others, all the conditions of that noble, pure and spiritual life which Christ came to purchase.

Among the many movements which have quickened the missionary pulse, the wide world over, we believe the higher education of women has not been the least significant. Though, in common with many other reforms touching the status of woman, it met foolish opposition, yet, it has proved its God-given inspiration, if by no other result than the great success attending woman's medical work in those lands where none but woman may minister to woman. The record of medical work accomplished by women in those old Oriental lands is one of unremitting toil, unflagging zeal, and patient self-denial, a record of which our whole race

may be proud. And there, in the field of heathenism, because of prejudice, women have specially vindicated their right, to the fullest equipment as physicians, which, in our Christian lands, because of prejudice, it cost them reproach and scoffing to obtain. Prejudice whether in the heathen or the Christian mind, is a mighty obstructor. But let us thank God, who is mightier, that the time is fast approaching when His call to any of His children to any field of duty, shall not be silenced because of sex.

Dr. A. S. Pierson, in the *Missionary Review* for January, enumerates, under the title, "Is there to be a new departure in Christian Missions?"—the following signs of the times:

- 1. The infusion of a new spirit of enterprise into missionary work.
- 2. The unparalleled uprising of our young men and women.
- 3. A marked tendency to establish a more direct tie between the churches and the missionaries.
- 4. The undeniable tendency to independent effort on missionary fields.
- 5. The demand for a shorter course of preparation for missionary fields.
- 6. The tendency to the critical investigation of the actual work of missions and mission Boards.

In the discussion of this article many most pertinent and searching inquiries are formulated, and methods are suggested whose adoption would certainly involve "new departures." But what of that, if thus more aggressive, successful work might be accomplished? The evangelization of the world is the present fixed purpose of the Church of God. The question is forever removed from the region of experiment. It is now one of means and methods; and the sooner Christians realize their individual, personal responsibility, the sooner denominations realize that it is Christ first, and not denominational aggrandisement, the sooner we shall reach the wisest and truest conclusions. We advise our readers to read Dr. Pierson's article for themselves.

We hope the readers in our Woman's Missionary Society have not overlooked the thrilling and suggestive story of Edward Eves' letter from Norway House, continued in our last two numbers. The Dominion is certainly a Christian country, and we have heard it stated on public platforms that in this country every one "who will" may know Christ and hear His Gospel. But the strongest advocate of "foreign missions" who may read the letter referred to, will certainly acknowledge that in our own land the worst practices of barbaric heathenism exist. When from the scene of such dense