

good. You can see that the money subscribed by cards for the Home Mission Fund in your parish is faithfully collected in, and not allow the subscriptions to go by default for want of collectors willing to follow up the results of the sermons preached in the cause. Do not think that you are expected to do a great work. Remember that every little helps. As a Toronto W. A. member said, if only a parish read missionary information, made a patchwork quilt in the year, and sent it away they would receive the blessing of those who give. A dollar or two from each branch towards our Missionary Fund would soon make a considerable sum. Or you could introduce our mite boxes into the various homes in your parish, and devote the proceeds to some missionary object. In this way children, and grown people too, are encouraged to acts of self-denial, so that the mite may be dropped into the box and make it heavier. And when some day you can pack a bale of clothing contributed among yourselves, and some simple garments made by your own hands, how happy you will be to ship it off to some lonely missionary working among the Indians, and when his letters come telling you of the delight and gratitude of the poor people, how your hearts will glow, and how eager you will be to repeat the kind deed the next year. In one reserve, which is called our "Baby Indian Mission," the Valley River, a noble work is being done. A faithful teacher, himself an Indian from St. Peter's, has gone among them. Where not long ago all were heathen: now, if you peeped into the tepees at night you would see the children kneeling in prayer before lying down, the result of the training they are getting in the school. Many of the parents are still heathen, but they are being brought in, and each time the nearest missionary (75 miles distant) visits them he finds a band of seven or eight ready to be baptized, confessing their faith. This teacher receives the totally inadequate salary of \$200, and has to depend upon the kindness of neighboring missions and friends elsewhere for sufficient to meet the absolute necessities of himself and family. Is not here scope for our generosity right at our very door? Many of our Indians on Rainy River are still heathen. Shall we not uphold the hands of those who, under great difficulties, are trying to carry the gospel to them? While we sympathize greatly with foreign missions, and desire to show our practical interest by including them in our gifts and prayers, we must never lose sight of the fact that we are an auxiliary to our own Diocese, and that the parent societies at home are withdrawing their grants, one-twentieth a year from us, and that, unless we step in and fill the gap, many of our existing missions will have to be closed, and no new ones opened.

I would like to say a word about the funds. The 10 cents that we ask from each member as an affiliation fee forms a fund for expenses, such as printing annual reports, cards, constitutions, etc. These we distribute gratis, so you really get the worth of your money back. Then we have what we call our Missionary fund, which is kept entirely separate from the expense fund. This is made up of donations, voluntary offerings, and the contents of the mite boxes. To-morrow you will be called upon to vote the money gathered in this fund to certain missionary objects that have been brought

before our notice during the past winter. One is to assist in paying the expense incurred in sending out Miss McKnight, who went from our W. A. to Peace River to take charge of the little motherless children of Rev. Mr. Robinson. She is doing noble work under great difficulties and isolation. Another object is to assist in the rebuilding of the Neepawa church, which was lately burned to the ground—a sad catastrophe, and most disheartening to its people. Another suggestion has been to assist Rev. Geo. Gill in building two churches, one at Binscarth, another at Balmerino. He has 14 mission stations, and only four churches as yet.

With regard to the foreign field, some of our members earnestly desire that we should support a child, left an orphan from the ravages of the famine in India. This can be done at a cost of \$17 per annum. Others suggest that we should support a child in Rev. Cooper Robinson's Industrial School in Japan at a cost of \$25. We think perhaps our juniors may be inclined to take up one of these children, when they vote upon their mite boxes to-morrow. Of course, it remains to be seen what funds we have at our disposal. I am just giving you an idea of the many channels for usefulness open before us.

You will also be called upon to-morrow to pass the new Diocesan Constitution. The enlargement of our work required a careful revision of the old constitution drawn up some years ago. It was too meagre and inadequate for our present organization. Much time and pains have been spent over this revision; it has passed the executive committee of the W. A., and has also received the sanction of the Archbishop and our Advisory Board. Therefore, I am sure you will not hesitate to allow it to pass this board, in order that it may be printed and circulated without further delay. You will be glad to learn that the Archbishop desires to be patron of our Auxiliary, and also requests that we send our report annually to the Synod to be read before that body, giving us thereby a status in the Diocese we have never before enjoyed.

A new feature introduced this year, and which we find is working very well, is the appointment of a lady resident in the city to represent a country branch at the monthly board meetings. She corresponds with its officers, keeps it in touch with what is going on at the centre, records its vote on any matter of importance, and altogether acts as a link between us here in the city and our scattered sisters throughout the Diocese. We would urge every branch to have its representative. Some delegates have kindly, at expense, and perhaps inconvenience to themselves, travelled to Winnipeg to be with us to-day. We appreciate their presence most highly, and give them a hearty welcome. Other branches have sent their reports to be read by their representatives, so we hope to have a word from each one one before this meeting closes. We do hope and pray that the outcome of this meeting may be the formation of many new branches. Miss Millidge will be only too delighted to supply constitutions and cards, and any information desired. We have just received from the East 25 copies of an excellent pamphlet entitled "Short Practical Papers on the Duties of Parochial