

Jehovah to bless the village and to honor what had been done in His name. Before leaving we gave them money to repair the temple and make it fit for a chapel or schoolroom; the larger portions of Rama we threw into the well, and took the remainder away with us."—*Missionary Herald*.

## THE RELATION OF OUR YOUNG MOTHERS TO THE MISSION CAUSE.

(AN ADDRESS BEFORE THE HAMILTON ASSOCIATION.)

Perhaps the first and most apparent connection between mothers and the mission cause, is that the youthful minds we are constantly dealing with, and daily moulding, are soon to determine the future of our church and nation. And in regard to missions we may intelligently quote that much hackneyed saying, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." Still, few of us realize the responsibility laid upon us when God gives the wee lives into our care and keeping. Very many are the sins of ignorance in bringing up a family; but we mothers who profess to have given ourselves to God, to further the interests of His cause and kingdom, should heed the word,—"If any man lacketh wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth freely and upbraideth not." Let us look backward a moment, we all know how for ages woman was loth to step out in any of the great philanthropic or Christian movements of her day, and that only a few of the more superior and highly cultured disregarding public opinion, chose their own life's work, bound themselves indissolubly for life and for death, to the cause which they espoused. Among such we find the names of Florence Nightingale, Catherine Marsh and others. But as a rule woman seemed to look on and recognize man as the powers that be. But as man was incomplete at the beginning of time without his counterpart woman, so was he incomplete in the Christian work, without her who was to be his help meet, his glory. But it was not until the church of God aroused to her mission—that of evangelizing the lost and heathen world—that woman began to realize that the command "Go ye" meant her as well as her intelligent and noble brother.

But since the error has been corrected, it seems to us now very plain that woman is especially equipped for mission work. Her powers of endurance, her capabilities to love, her quick instincts, and above all her ability for forgetting self, amid the woes of others; all these seem to brand her as a missionary.

You ask "why is woman endowed with such gifts?" We can only answer. Back of it all in the depths of eternal mystery, by the eye of faith we discern the hand of Him, the Almighty, invisible eternal God. And who can say of woman with this God-given equipment, but that for such a time as this she has come into the kingdom? And no woman should be so zealous, whole souled and ardent in regard to missions, as she who is a mother, and who sees developing about her boys and girls of hope and promise. For Mission Bands and Sunday schools with all their hallowed influences, cannot do for our children what we mothers can do—we, who have known them with their varied inclinations and temperaments, from the cradle up. It is yours to hear their joys and sorrows day by day, yours to study their individual natures, to mark, where they lack and where they abound in talent, in short it is yours to draw their mind into almost any channel you desire it to go.

We have no thought of introducing new ways of training the youth, but simply to more firmly impress the old ones, and still keep pace with this age of activity. Then as we mothers hold sacred Christ's command,—"Preach the Gospel to every creature!" it is our duty to make the training of our families the central aim of our lives. And if we mean what we say and believe in what we do, can we consistently do else than make that training a missionary one? Then let us make a daily study of our families marking their aptitudes and inclinations; should we have a boy a noted talker, impress on him that he would be just the one in a few years time to preach the gospel, and draw crowds from among the Telugus. If another proves musical, impress him with the blessing the gift of song may bring in those dark regions; or if a child is of a mercenary turn, show him that no other investment will yield such lasting rewards as the mission investment; or if another is somewhat of a spendthrift turn, remember a generous kindly heart is the impelling force in such a nature; and tell him pathetically of the wants and needs of the heathen child, and he will soon begin to save for the cause. But avoid making a child give his every penny, or he will begin to look on the mission cause as a sort of grinding machine naturally, with the children about the work. Show him the need of being prompt in action. Don't mount yourself on mission stilts when you wish to interest them but make your matter just what they can grasp. "Only an hour with the children, lovingly, cheerfully given, Yet seed was sown in that hour alone that brought fruit to heaven."

We would urge you to educate your children; give them every advantage your means will command. In this age when every thing seems to be striding and gliding along at the most electrified speed possible, we cannot afford to neglect either the religious or secular education of our families. And as some very attractive forms of infidelity are making fast march among the educated and philosophical classes, those doctrines which seem almost to lift men to Heaven's gate, but alas! can only leave them still outside, then it seems very necessary that we begin early to root and ground our children in sound doctrine. And now if we mothers would wish our boys and girls to run the race of life wisely and well, we must consecrate ourselves, keeping a constant watch over our lives, knowing that to our children we are epistles known and read. We must attend to the activities of life, trusting God with the results. And while our work may seem decidedly trivial at times, yet if done with an eye single to God's glory each act is given a new dignity, and none may weigh or measure the blessings of the little things of life. Dr. Gordon in one of his missionary addresses on Money, Ministers and Mothers, speaks of one who said, "a child's missionary education should begin a hundred years before its birth." While this may be so yet if we do our duty toward the children in this our day and generation, it will be ours to hear the plaudits—"She hath done what she could." And in closing we believe the link between mother and missions is such, if once we secure the hearty co-operation and consecration of the mothers the ministers and money will naturally follow.

And now we believe it is a thought sufficiently solemn for each of us as mothers, that the mission work of the future is to be largely what we, through our children under God's blessing, make it. N. C. R.