

except the crowning virtue of womanhood. Another leading monthly had a clever serial discounting and disparaging Christian missions. Most of these magazines give special prominence to theatrical and sporting life, and treat with commendation questionable amusements of the times. One magazine specially recommended to the patronage of Methodists treats of fashionable life with approving descriptions of ball-room gaieties.

Is this the kind of reading by which Methodist parents wish their young people to be moulded in the most formative period of their history? Yet these magazines are largely supported by the patronage of Christian households, and such reading forms the mental aliment of large numbers in Methodist families. It is no use saying they must not read such books and magazines unless something attractive as well as instructive and religiously wholesome be given them instead.

As a substitute in some degree at least, for the reading so tinctured and tainted with moral contagion, this *MAGAZINE* has been established; and its successful career for a score of years has shown that it has to no small degree met a felt want. It is proposed to more fully meet this want and still more amply to provide sound, wholesome, attractive reading which shall improve the mind and give a moral and spiritual uplift. This *MAGAZINE* shall be in closest accord and sympathy with the great aims and objects of Methodism, its missions and evangelistic enterprises, with its religious spirit and its broad

philanthropies, and with all moral and social reforms.

The modern knight-errantry is that of missions. The age of chivalry is not past. Souls as brave as Sir Galahad or Bayard still ride abroad redressing human wrongs, and with a courage and a sacrifice beyond that of the peers or paladins of Charlemagne are devoting themselves to the uplifting of a fallen race. To the mission field, with its noble heroisms and sacrifices, its self-abnegations and consecrations, special attention will be given. Woman's work for her sister women, deaconess work in large towns and cities, home mission work, and that noble Christian altruism which with a passionate charity, a true Christ-like spirit, remembers the forgotten, visits the forsaken, and succours the desolate and the oppressed, shall find also a record of their achievements.

We acknowledge with heartiest thanks the kind co-operation of our patrons, and especially of the ministers on the circuits, who have greatly aided us in the past. We bespeak at this juncture their special sympathy and aid to enable us to more nearly realize our ideal in the creation of a periodical of which our Church and our country may be proud. This can be done only by doubling the circulation of the *MAGAZINE*. We earnestly request each reader to send promptly through the minister of his circuit his own renewal, and to seek also at least one additional subscription. We earnestly ask the ministers specially to kindly seek to secure this doubling of our list.

A LITTLE PARABLE.

I MADE the cross myself, whose weight
Was later laid on me.
This thought adds anguish as I toil
Up life's steep Calvary.
To think my own hands drove the nails!
I sang a merry song,
And chose the heaviest wood I had
To build it firm and strong.
If I had guessed—if I had dreamed
Its weight was meant for me,
I should have built a lighter cross
To bear up Calvary!