

Among The Circles

PHEBE

"A Succorer of Many"

To the Women of the Missionary Societies of America.

By Anne Wood Cantrall

She lives on that far corner there
In that grey house so homelike, where
The children play. Each day a round
Where petty, trying tasks abound.
"A narrow, weary lot," you say,
"To bake, cook, sew from day to day,
Hemmed in, held down, acts, thoughts and all,
Bound, measured by the foursquare wall
Of that small house she calls her home."
Aye, but beneath the sky's blue dome,
There's none so free as she you deem
Confined by walls that only seem,
And trying toil. For through the days
Her soul goes winging wondrous ways.
Where'er the children of the Cross
Have gone, nor counted gain or loss,
There she in loving fancy flees,
Each time she drops upon her knees.
And such is love's deep sympathy
She seems with them indeed to be—
Has faced with them each danger wild,
Wept with their tears and with them smiled
As o'er her baking board she bends,
To India's starving hordes she lends
Her thoughts, and prays they may be fed
The earthly and the Heavenly bread.
When busy with her home's sweet cheer
She thinks of heathen homes so drear,
And filled with pity, seeks her store
And gives till she can spare no more.
She knows no bounds of time or place,
No prejudice of hue or race,
But gives and prays and hopes for all,
Responsive to their need's sharp call.
Though routine tasks control the hand,
Her heart the Master's great command
Obeys. Her love as free and broad
As the horizons wide of God.
This then her life, a seeming moil
Of narrow duties, trying toil.
But oh, her vision of the love
And mercy of the God above!
The happy faith, the daily joy,
The resting heart above annoy!
Thrice blessed, daughter of the Lord,
Thy love itself thy sweet reward.

—The Missionary Messenger.

WHY SEND BOXES OF FREIGHT TO INDIA?

The reason the Women's Board of Ontario West appointed someone to be responsible for sending boxes of freight to our missionaries in India was in order to help our Circles and Bands to send their parcels more cheaply and also to save our missionaries from having to pay duty on parcels received through the mails.

In some measure we have succeeded, but relative expenses seem rather complicated at times. We feel sure that those who pay postage on printed matter to get it to Toronto for packing would save by sending it by mail direct to India. Printed cards, etc., marked "Printed Matter, No Commercial Value" go at the rate of two ounces for two cents, which is practically the same as the freight rate without the extra postage. That is the cheapest way for a small parcel, but beyond 4 pounds it would pay to ask the cost of sending your parcel as printed matter and also by parcel post "via Vancouver and Hong Kong." Parcels marked that way take longer to reach their destinations but also cost much less than those sent by the usual route via England. It may be cheaper to send larger parcels of printed matter that way.

Those parcels that contain personal gifts or new articles which are dutiable must be sent by parcel post or by freight. On a small parcel or a very large one the freight rate is cheaper than mail and for all it is advisable for it saves the missionary having to pay duty. You see, duty cannot be paid here, but in sending by freight we have asked for a certain per cent. of the value of the articles and the money has been sent out to India for the expenses there.

Those of you who have sent parcels to missionaries who have not written personal letters to you in acknowledgment must not feel discouraged. Missionaries have so little time for letter-writing that often such letters, important as you feel them to be, get left week after week probably because the missionary, like many of us, thinks she will have time to write a "real" letter next week. Sometimes a letter to all those who have sent parcels to one missionary appears in the Link, and thus