

SOMEBODY ELSE.

Who is Somebody Else ? I should like to know
Does he live at the North or South ?
Or is it a lady fair to see,
Whose name is in everyone's mouth ?
For Meg says, "Somebody Else will sing,"
"Or Somebody Else can play."
And Jack says, "Please let Somebody Else
Do some of the errands to-day."

If there's any hard or unpleasant task,
Or difficult thing to do,
'Tis always offered to Somebody Else,
Now isn't this very true ?
But if some fruit or a pleasant trip,
Is offered to Dick or Jess,
We hear not a word about Somebody Else,
Why ? I will leave you to guess.

The words of cheer for a stranger lad,
This Somebody Else will speak ;
And the poor and helpless who needs a friend
(Good Somebody Else must seek.
The cup of cold water in Jesus' name,
Oh ! Somebody Else will offer.
And words of love for a broken heart
Brave Somebody Else will proffer.

There are battles in life we only can fight,
And victories too, to win,
And Somebody Else cannot take our place,
When we shall have entered in ;
But if Somebody Else has done his work,
While we for our ease have striven,
'Twill only be fair if the blessed reward
To Somebody Else is given.

—Selected.

FAITHFULNESS IN COUNTY SECRETARY WORK.

The theme assigned to me is "Faithfulness in County Secretary Work." It is rather a delicate matter for one holding the above named office to write on such a subject, but, even at the risk of condemning myself and every County Secretary in the Maritime Provinces, I must state my honest convictions on the subject and as I object very much to partiality, will endeavor not to show any and by so doing gloss matters over, but will try to be just, even if I may be called severe.

In the first place then, why do County Secretaries exist ? Is not the Provincial Secretary sufficient ? The questions require no answer. A county can with ease be handled by one, whereas a province is very unwieldily.

Next, is the office of County Secretary merely a nominal one or is there work in connection with it ? And if so what is our duty concerning it ? Listen ! "It shall be the work of the County Secretary to visit every Society in her county at least once a year ; and to correspond frequently with said Societies ; and also to write to pastors of churches where no Society exists, with the object of organizing one if possible ; to keep an account of all letters, and meetings held, and at the end of the Convention Year send a written report to the Provincial Secretary of such work." Clearly then, the office is not a nominal one. There is work in connection with it. What is our duty concerning it ? To do it faithfully and well and count it a sin to avoid or ignore it ; for the work is to serious too to be trifled with.

We might ask what harm will result from negligence in this work and what benefits accrue from activity in it ? What harm ? In the first place then, we wrong the county over which we are placed. There are weak societies in it.

Their officers and members ask for a little help and sympathy and kindly recognition as they struggle on. We never send them a line. Don't make any effort to find out whether their numbers are increasing or decreasing. Unfaithful to the work is the just verdict of said Societies in regard to us.

Next we wrong the districts where there are no Societies. A letter written, a meeting appointed, the sympathies of three or four good Christians enlisted and you have your Society. The small one increases and grows larger and stronger. A good Society exists where, had the County Secretary been unfaithful there would probably not have been one. True, others might do this work, but except in a few cases they will not. They look for the County or Provincial Secretary to do it, and the latter with her multitudinous duties can hardly find time to look after every place in the Province, so that when we are unfaithful we increase her burdens which, methinks must be heavy enough already.

Next, unfaithfulness to our work means unfaithfulness to ourselves. When we accepted the office we surely knew that there were duties connected with it ; and we agreed to discharge them. When we do not do so we break our word. We are false, have promised and made no effort to fulfil our promise. Unfaithful can be written opposite to our names. My sisters, I am not saying this lightly ; no charge made against me could cause me keener pain than the charge of unfaithfulness, but I promised to be just, and to be so we must look the matter squarely in the face. Yes, or no, have we tried to do the work faithfully during the past year or have we been indifferent to the county under our charge ? This is no time for self-congratulation or idle ease. Our mission work has reached a great epoch in our history. Christians are awakening as never before to a sense of their duties and their responsibilities to God and man. Then let us gird the armour on, my sisters, and enter the contest heart and soul, and brain and nerve, determining that we will be faithful to that which is committed to us. You say it is all very well to talk but most of us have other duties to attend to besides missions. Granted. I don't suppose there is a woman of leisure among our members. Those of us who have not home and family cares, have school or other duties and too often we put the mission work to one side. A little more system with our work, and fore-thought in planning, might prevent all this. Will the sisters kindly pardon me, if I refer to my custom as far as visiting the Societies is concerned ? I am a school teacher, cannot claim any day as mine except Saturdays and our occasional holidays. Since holding the office of County Secretary these days have been given up. They do not belong to me any more than the five. They belong to the Aid Societies in the County, and if I can in any way assist them on those days I count it a pleasure to do so. Then my sisters, how often we might take a few minutes from some book or other pleasure we planned for ourselves, and write a friendly, helpful letter to some of the weaker Societies. It is only a little act but we promised to be faithful.

Next, unfaithfulness to our work means financial loss to our Union. How so ? The better the County is worked the more money will be raised ; there will be more interested and others will join as a result of their increased activity.

Lastly, unfaithfulness to our work means neglect of our esteemed and beloved missionaries, cruel disregard of the cries of our suffering sisters in heathen lands, when we profess to be desirous of helping and unfaithfulness to our God, who notes our every act and bids us do the work as for Him.

The benefits resulting from faithfulness I have not time to enter into, but will merely mention a few. More Societies, better financial showing, greater zeal in, and love for the work, a clear conscience ; and last of all the "well done, good and faithful," of our beloved Master.

My sisters, our work is not child's play. It calls for earnest consecrated effort. Will we give it ! Are we will.