

this year's work," commented another, and, with slight variations, these remarks were echoed from all parts of the room. In the midst of the general rejoicing, some one happened to notice the thoughtful and dissatisfied face of the Treasurer, and exclaimed: "Why, what is the matter; is anything wrong?"

"I am afraid something is not quite right," was the reply. "We have worked hard all this year, raising more money than ever before, but we have spent nearly \$300 of it upon ourselves, while we have given to Missions only a barrel of cheap clothing and \$3.17 in cash. What troubles me the most is, that it seems to come out that way every year."

"I don't see anything to be troubled about," said Mrs. Close; "I don't believe in Missions any way. If every church took care of itself as well as ours does, there wouldn't be any need of Missions."

"My dear Mrs. Close," remonstrated the minister's wife, "you cannot mean that. Just think how much help this church had from the Missionary Society only a few years ago; but, even if the churches already established could take care of themselves, there would still be pressing need of money and helpers for the new settlements. Among the first shanties built in our western towns, you will always find a drinking saloon and a gambling den, and the least our Christian people can do to combat these evils, is to send out ministers and teachers and build churches and schools."

"But, Mrs. Dean, do you call that missionary work," asked a lady who sat near her; "I always think of missions as necessarily in India, China, Africa, or some other far-off land."

"As to that," said the minister's wife, "whoever makes it his business to carry the Gospel message to his fellow-men is a missionary, whether he lives in Canada or India, and the distinctions between Home and Foreign work are very unimportant. Our own Canada was a Foreign Missionary field to the Catholic missionaries who came here less than three hundred years ago; and Mrs. Wheeler told us, at the Board meeting last June, that the only real Home Missionary field in the world is Turkey—the old homestead of the human race.' The people most interested in Foreign Mis-

sions are those most ready to help in Christianizing their own land."

"But," persisted Mrs. Close, "we cannot afford to give any more than we do. Besides, I don't know anything about Foreign Missions; and as for the Home Missionaries, I guess they would get along well enough if their wives weren't so extravagant."

"I used to talk just as you do, Mrs. Close," interposed Mrs. Strong, "but you know my cousin Sarah married a Home Missionary, and I spent a week with her out in Dakota last summer. Ever since then I have had great respect for the economy and business qualities of a woman who can make a salary of \$500 (and that usually six months overdue) support a family of six. You and I couldn't do it, Mrs. Close."

"I am glad this matter has come up this afternoon," said the minister's wife, "for while no one is more thankful than I that we have been able to do so many things for our own church, I confess that I feel much as our Treasurer does; and the only way to remedy this state of things, and accomplish anything for missions, is to have a Ladies' Missionary Society in our church."

"I don't believe in multiplying meetings," remarked Miss Sharpe. "We have too many now."

"One extra meeting a month won't hurt us," rejoined Mrs. Strong. "If any of us had an invitation to take tea with a friend once a month, I am pretty sure we would find some way to go, and not feel it a burden either. I vote for the Missionary Society; for I, for one, am ashamed that I know so little about missions."

"That," responded the minister's wife, "is the very reason so many others lack the needful enthusiasm in these matters. Our Ladies' Aid this year has had unusual success, simply because, in working for the church, we have studied its needs, talked about them, and tried to supply them. We have been so busy with our sewing and planning, that we have had no time to pay much attention to anything else; and yet no one in these days can afford to be ignorant concerning missionary movements. The subject is intensely interesting, interwoven as it is with the history, geography and literature of every country in the world. We need the broadening influences of missionary study,