

Woman's Auxiliary Department.

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MISSIONARY WORK AND THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

(Concluded.)

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But the question now is, How best to secure the interest of Sunday schools in this missionary work? How may we best foster and propagate that divine zeal which will lead our young people when they come forward to take an active part in the drama of life to keep up the prestige of their forefathers and to win fresh laurels on the battle fields between light and darkness?

Many plans might be suggested, but one thing must never be forgotten, the two-fold nature of mission work, if we dwell exclusively on the one or the other we defeat our object and promote neither. There may be a few mistaken enthusiasts who have their eyes so stedfastly fixed on the foreign mission field that the needs of our Home missions are forgotten, and our own isolated settlers, without churches, without means of grace have no place in their sympathy, their prayers or their alms. There may be a few such, but the difficulty is probably on the other side. It is more than likely that feeling the pressure of our own necessities we are tempted to concentrate our efforts on our own mission work and thus miss the interest and enthusiasm which foreign missions are so calculated to awake in the young, an enthusiasm which when once roused is ready for work wherever needed, at home or abroad. Naturally enough even the foreign landscape of missionary labor interests the curiosity of children—the sunny skies, the feathery palms, the coral strand—appeal to their imagination; and then where can there be found such stories of deep pathos as in the annals of missionary life? Bishop Patteson's murdered body floating out to his ship in the little canoe, the smile of eternal peace on his features, the fronds of palm crossed on his breast; Bishop Mackenzie lying down to die in the rays of the setting sun on that desolate African island just as his missionary episcopate had begun, Bishop Alexander, of Jerusalem, suddenly called from his tent in the Arabian desert, Bishop Hannington calmly awaiting his death in that suffocating African hut. These are but a few of the foremost heroes in the Church Mission field. Science, it is true, has had its martyrs. Many noble lives have been sacrificed in the vain attempt to find the north-west passage and scarcely a season passes but some daring scientist loses his life while scaling Alpine precipices, but how far do these fall short of the high aims and lofty purposes of the Christian missionary!

Do we fear that in remembering, helping and praying for these distant workers our Sunday Schools will diminish their assistance to wants nearer at hand? The history of the Christian Church teaches us another lesson. It has been found that contributors to Foreign missions are the most liberal supporters to missions at home. The heart grows large by loving and giving; so much is this the case that young converts are generally taught to aid at once in imparting to others the benefits they have so recently received. The Indian boys in the Shingwauk Home in Algoma support a little Jewish boy in Jerusalem, and at Salt Lake City, the Church people, whilst struggling against the monstrous evils of Mormonism, are interested in a mission station in Africa. Thus do missionaries draw closer the Church's bonds of sympathetic unity, whilst they teach their converts to show in a practical manner their gratitude for blessings bestowed. And if we wish to increase or even retain the interest of our young people in missionary work it must be by doing our part, however small, in conveying the Gospel to the heathen. This is not an age for us Church people to limit our Church work to our own parish, our own diocese, or our own country.

Are not our enterprising merchants seeking foreign ports for their trade? Do not our men of science correspond and compare notes with professors in distant lands? Shall the world be wiser than the children of light? Our young people by a liberal education are being brought daily into closer contact with the rest of the world; our great railroad has belted the continent and brought us within three weeks travel of the heart of heathendom. Do not these facts call for enlarged sympathy? The Church's watchword for this age is "Christian unity." How can this be better expressed than by loving words and kindly acts towards those who are scattered up and down through the great harvest field bearing the toil and heat of the day? But to come to the practical point. If we have secured the interest of Sunday schools by vivid descriptions of missionary scenes, and by stories of patient endurance and heroic deeds, if we have reminded them of the gratitude they owe for benefits so long bestowed upon us by the venerable societies of our Mother country, if we have appealed to their love and devotion to the great Proto Missionary, who left his home of light with a message of love to this distant and benighted planet; if by all these means we have aroused the interest of our Sunday schools, how shall we secure their practical co-operation? By definite and periodical efforts. Definite effort towards one particular object concentrates and increases interest; periodical work is suited to the constitution of man. Tides of thought ebb and flow, different subjects occupy in turn the human mind, and then apparently lose their interest. The Church adapts herself to this marked peculiarity, and by her changing ecclesiastical seasons gives the variety needed to secure interest. In many