

the Baptist women of today is in the field of organization. Indeed, women have a genius for organization, as has been evidenced in the fields of temperance, suffrage and missions. It was in 1861 that the first organized woman's board of missions was founded—an interdenominational organization established in New York. Soon after the close of the Civil War, denominational boards were organized in all of the leading Protestant denominations. These all began in weakness, but in faith, with a sense of a heavenly call to carry the gospel to the women and children of the non-Christian world. Today these national women's boards number over forty, with a combined annual income of more than \$6,000,000. In addition to these, nearly as many women's boards of home missions have been organized, with an income almost as great. The two largest boards, those of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the two fields of home and foreign missions, have each an income of \$2,500,000. It is doubtful if the whole field of organized enterprise in the Protestant churches of America can show anything so successful. These women's societies have a great army of volunteer workers in county, state and nation. They are able to maintain a direct line of communication with the smallest and weakest local auxiliary. They carry on schools, hospitals, dispensaries, orphanages, asylums, Bible training schools, normal schools and colleges. They send out evangelists, nurses, teachers, doctors, editors and Sunday School specialists. They build buildings, hold property, send out and sustain thousands of missionaries. They print magazines in many languages, among them the only magazine for children in all China; they publish books; they found and supervise a great system of training classes and institutes for the study of missions in every state in the union. They have banded themselves together in a Federation of Women's Boards of Foreign Missions, and in a Council of Women for Home Missions, which they vigorously support.

Now this great organization which the women have built up in a short half century, is only an instance of what women have accomplished in the field of organization. It is a stimulus to Baptist women to extend still further the field of our organization. We must harness up this woman's genius for organization to the great claims of Jesus Christ. He is the Light of the world. It is only as we make his ways and words workable in the world that we are of any deep or permanent value to the world. A warning ought to be given to the leaders of the church, not to look coldly upon this out-reaching purpose of the women. If the world outside is more hospitable to the claims of women, offers them larger opportunities of initiative, responsibility and self-expression, than does the church, then the church must bear the consequent loss of power, as it sees its members turning from its work to that which summons them with a more persuasive voice. The church—our church—needs the services of its women. Let it summon them with a generous and compelling voice, to the service of Christ.

Third, there opens before Baptist women a great new opportunity of service. God has liberated and equipped them in order that they may offer their whole mind and soul and body in the service of this Saviour in whom alone rest the hopes of the world.

The fields of our service are various. More and more the world is turning to women to be the teachers of its children. The fear lest the preponderate influence of women in the schools might tend to enfeeble and feminize the boys was proved by the late war unfounded. American and English boys in the bloody trenches of France and Belgium showed valor never surpassed. Today the call to be teachers comes to women fragrant with the sense of service and of patriotism. It does not offer high salaries, it cannot compete with the voices of the market-place calling her, but in the school room the woman of