

tures, Auntie! nice pictures for our Mish'nary sc'ap-books. 'Missionary scrap-books, indeed! What does a baby like you know about missionaries?' 'I does, I know a dood deal, Aunt Marfa; I'se got a mish'nary jug for pennies.' 'Well, well, child,' said I, 'bring it here and I'll give you five cents for it.' So off she ran and brought the little jug, and I dropped in the money, wondering all the time what made your whole family so interested in missionary work. I saw nothing like it when I visited you five years ago. I remember you took me with you to a ladies missionary meeting, but there were very few present, and the church basement was stuffy and smelled of coal oil. The president did nearly all the talking, and, altogether, it was so stiff and doleful that we were glad to come out into the fresh air and use our tongues again. Now, do sit down, please, and tell me what has worked this transformation."

"Yes, Auntie, I am very glad to have a chance to do so, and you are quite right about the condition of our society when last you were here. We were so nearly killed by routine and monotony that we were as useless and uninterested as the private soldiers in an army would be if they were entirely without exercise and compelled to sit still and see the officers do all the work and enjoy all the fun. Soldiers would rebel or desert, and it is not strange that our ladies thought the meetings 'stupid,' and so stayed away. Mrs. Pompous, our president, gave liberally, and was a good, well-meaning woman, who really *wished* people were interested. Clad in elaborate toilets, she was accustomed to harangue her plainly-dressed hearers upon the duty of denying themselves in the matter of dress that they might give more money to the Board. Her zeal was so great that she rarely failed to lecture those of us who *did* go to the meeting, because so many stayed away. She was almost sure to select hymns so mournful in sentiment that no one cared to sing, even if, as was rarely the case, the tunes were familiar. After lengthly-opening