

gave her peace and happiness. Forthwith she consecrated herself to His service. Out of a grateful love sprang her ministry.

For one whole year she accompanied Christ in His work, visiting all the towns of Galilee. She was a woman of means, for the Gospels tells us she "ministered unto Him of her substance." Can we not guess what this meant to Jesus during that busy and profitable year?

She was the last at the Cross when her Lord died. But here is the most inspiring incident of her life. She was the first to whom Christ appeared on Easter Day. He gave her the glad message of the Resurrection and she hastened away to tell it to the disciples. The world first heard the joyous tidings of the Risen Christ from the lips of a woman, and that woman Mary Magdalene. She was, therefore, the original witness, and the first missionary of the larger Gospel of Hope. What a peculiar honour and dignity was hers! We take this Mary, therefore, as **the type of the active missionary.**

My dear friends, our work must have its **living agents.** We need workers more than wealth. I believe that no person can be truly honest until she has first asked the question, "Can I go to the mission field?" Before we plead with others, we must first go upon our knees and ask that question, prepared to be perfectly honest in the answer that is given. And we are not to begin in the first place to raise all sorts of barriers and imagine all sorts of difficulties. It is so easy and so fatal to begin to make excuse. "Do I really want to go?" and if the desire is really there, can we not trust God to raise up someone in our place to do the home duties? If the Voice comes clear and sharp enough, "Go," shall we begin to silence it by raising cries of home needs and difficulties? The burning need of our time is men and women with trust big enough and desire strong enough to say, "Here am I: send me."

But we may not be able to offer for the foreign field. Still here is the home field. All the missionaries are not in Asia or Africa. There are crying needs here at home. There is the parish to be stirred up and aroused—who will become a parochial missionary? Are there not places where some one might start a branch of the Auxiliary? Are there not struggling missions where the service of a deaconess, of a consecrated woman, would be of inestimable value? "Who will rise up and who will go for us?" May we venture to hope that among all these women here to-day there may be found one or more Mary Magdalenes?