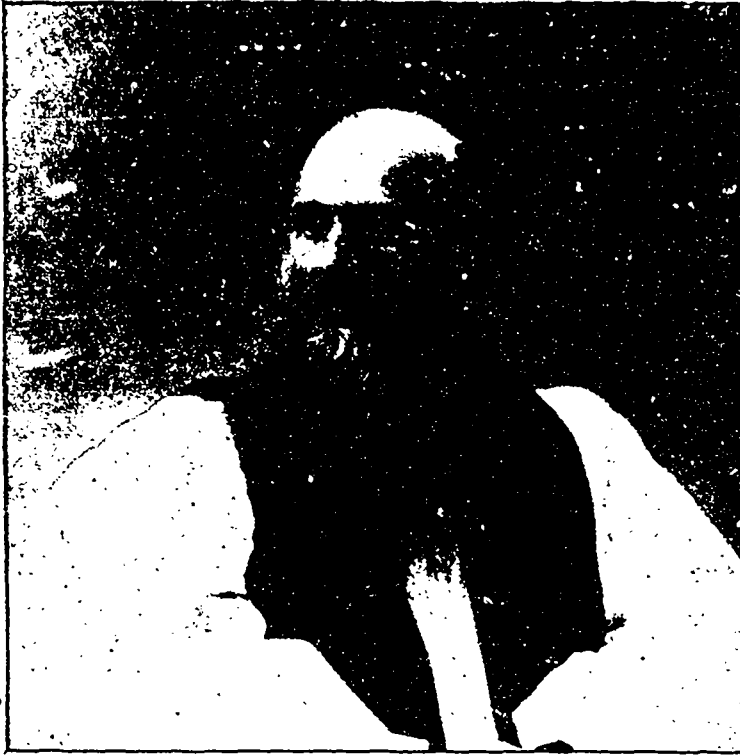




THE RT. REV. DR. RIDLEY. (See page 273.)
Bishop of Caledonia, B.C.

the Root of David, the rod of the stem of Jesse, do these owe no duty to the spiritually dead and dying? Cannot God's Spirit breathe on them that they may live? Surely it is part of our personal responsibility in our daily use of the members' prayer to include those who, born in a Christian land, and professing the Christian faith, are yet ignorant of Christ as their personal King and Saviour. Should we not remember such no less than the heathen, and earnestly pray the Lord, who died for them, "Have pity on those who know Thee not"?

2. But your rose-tree has not only leaves, but flowers; and you will sometimes find a bud that has never opened, beautiful as a bud, but never coming to perfection, never developing into flower, and the fruit that nurtures the seed of a fresh life. Perhaps your bud is hidden under thick leaves and gets no sunshine; perhaps drought has blighted it. It is not always the non-worker's own fault that she has never opened her heart to the Sun of Righteousness, that she has never thrown off the sheath of selfishness, nor borne fruit for other lives. "You ought to work for missions," we say to such a one; but do we who work take pains to show her the great need, the reasonable duty, the grand results of missionary work? To do this we must know more about missions in detail than some have ever troubled themselves

to learn. We owe it to others not less than to ourselves to read and remember those missionary facts which enlarge our sympathies and warm our zeal, that so we may be able to fulfil the responsibility laid upon us to win more workers for the spreading of Christ's kingdom. A great help in this will be found in the four questions given every month in the *Leaflet*. Discuss them at your meetings, endeavour to answer them before you get the replies in the next month's *Leaflet*, hunt up books on the subject in the public library, and study the missionary history of a country now and then instead of the last new magazine; the taste will grow, and you will be worth far more as a member of the Auxiliary.

3. Have you not sometimes seen a team of horses pulling a heavy wagon, and thought,

"That near horse is doing double work; he pulls more than his share." The off horse pulls a little, but while the one strains at the trace and puts strength and good will to the work, the other shirks as much as he can. We have both types among our Auxiliary women. I do not speak now of those with many home claims, with scanty leisure and limited income: I mean the contrast, not of circumstance, but of spirit and will. The sense of personal responsibility for the life and good work of the branch is present in the one case, and well nigh absent in the other. Where does the remedy lie? First, in awakened spiritual conscience in the slothful member, but largely in the branch as a whole, who, as a rule, are only too ready to work the willing horse to death, to heap and multiply responsibilities upon her till she does one of three things, all undesirable. She attempts more than she can rightly fulfil; she gives up in despair; or you spoil your best worker by making her think that nothing goes right without her, and that she is the branch. There is a personal responsibility on every member with regard to work; so far as her vote and influence extend, she should see that it is fairly divided, that each, herself included, helps to pull the load, and that the most half-hearted member is greatly encouraged to feel that she can be of use, and that she is really needed.