

auxiliaries could go with her from house to house, and see her in her earnest life, they would not regret any little sacrifice of time or money they had made for a cause which has such results. *Life and Light.*

- Why Do We Need a Mission Circle in Our Church?

BY MRS. WM. JIMFSON, ONONDAGA.

Owing to the fact that we have just organized a W. M. Circle, we propose this question, and propose to try and answer it in such a manner as will make it quite evident that the Mission Circle is really a need among us. In the first place, then, it will be necessary to define what a Women's Mission Circle is.

It is an organization formed by the females of the church to create an interest in the work of spreading the gospel news of salvation; of sending the gospel to those dark heathen lands, where the name of Jesus is almost or totally unknown. It is thought by many that there is no way so calculated to arouse personal interest in this great work as a regular meeting where we are expected to contribute each in our turn, and according to our several abilities, something of interest and information concerning missionary work; and also to unite our voices in sincere and earnest prayer for God's blessing upon the labors of those who have sacrificed the pleasures and comforts of homes in a Christian land to carry the great message of love to the dark, destitute homes of the heathen. This organization also affords an opportunity for each member to contribute of her means to aid in the support of this work, something we are quite apt to neglect if not called upon in this way. The apostle Paul says in Rom. x., 14: "How can they hear without a preacher, and how can they preach except they be sent?"

Now, if this be a true definition of a W. M. Circle, the question comes, "Why do we need one?" Are we not sufficiently interested in the spread of the Gospel and extension of Christ's kingdom here on earth?

I answer decidedly, NO. "If we claim to be, there comes to us Jesus' own question, 'Why stand ye all the day idle?' With most of us our circumstances and surroundings are such as to keep both mind and hands busily engaged with the things pertaining to this world. Let us decide to throw aside these cares a few hours once a month, and if thereby we become more interested in this noble work we will thereafter find it much easier to drop household cares occasionally and spend a few moments in gleaning such information on this subject as may be within our reach.

Many of our sister churches are doing a glorious work for the Master by this very means, and shall this fact not be an incentive to us? All that other folks can do, why with patience and God's help may not you?

In conclusion, dear sisters, I must say that when this busy toilsome life is ended, our reward for any sacrifice we may make, either as regards time or money, will far exceed our highest anticipation, for "eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither hath entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." 1 Cor. ii., 9

A poor, secluded woman in one of the zenanas of India, said to her missionary teacher, "Do you know why I am always glad to see you?" On being answered in the negative, she replied, "You bring in with you a breath of the fresh, outer air. I should be stifled if I did not see you once a week."

The Railroads and Caste.

The railroads of India are practically working against the caste system in a way to secure its ultimate overthrow. The people must use the railway, but in so doing they invariably violate their caste rules. We probably have little conception of the trial it is to Hindus, thus to be forced into contact with those whose touch they regard as defiling. A native paper, the *Gujarat Mittra*, thus expresses its complaint: "The question of the Dhed and Bhangee passengers has been urged by the native press on the attention of the government many a time; but unfortunately, this long-standing grievance has not been redressed. The practice of forcing the above-named low-caste people amongst passengers is still in force. It passes one's comprehension to think what gain the government and the railway authorities get by enraging the religious feelings of the people. Once a Dhed or a Bhangee enters a carriage, the rest of the passengers consider their bodies, clothes, and things polluted: they raise a howl, but have to submit ultimately. The European officers cannot imagine the trouble the passengers have to go through on going home. They can neither eat nor touch anything before their bodies and clothes are washed and purified. To an European mind, this may appear meaningless, but, nevertheless, the people will do it and cannot help doing it." - *Ex.*

THE WORK ABROAD.

Going and Coming.

What changes we have experienced in our mission during the past four years! Or perhaps I should say the past three years, because the departure of Mr. Currie and family and of myself and child for Canada in Feb., 1884, was not an unexpected event. But the death of our pioneer missionary a year later brought Mr. Currie back months before he expected to come and even I hastened my departure from Canada and came as early as was safe for Mrs. Craig and Mr. and Mrs. Stillwell. Then we welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Auvache in March, 1886, and felt that we were picking up strength once more. But July brought sorrow and loss when Bro. Currie was called home to glory. Then it soon became evident that Bro. McLaurin must leave. We gave Miss Hatch a heart welcome in December, that is, a year ago, but I for one was very much disappointed in not seeing any young men coming. Next came the decision that Miss Frith must go home, and her departure with Mr. and Mrs. McLaurin soon followed. What an anxious time they had on the way to England every one knows. Well, what next? Some more joy in the shape of reinforcements. But before the first of them came another decision had been reached. Extreme illness had forced Bro. Auvache to decide that he must leave for England at once. On the 12th November I went out to meet Mr. and Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Laflamme. I can assure you that was a high day at the Mission-house. Mr. and Mrs. Stillwell were in from Samulcotta and Miss Folsom was with us too. A young lady for the Narasapur Mission came on the steamer with our friends and was met by another young lady, and both were with us during that day.

Only a week later I went out to the steamer once more. This time to see Mr. and Mrs. Auvache and baby safely on board, Miss Ellen Gibson, whom I call the deaconess,