

1881



1894

## Woman's Missionary Society

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\* On furlough.

### "THIS IS THE VICTORY, EVEN OUR FAITH."

N.B.—Communications for this Department post-marked after the 18th of the month will appear in following month.

N.B.—All subscriptions for the OUTLOOK must be sent to the Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto.

N.B.—Certificates of Life Membership may be obtained by addressing Miss Ogden, Room 20, Wesley Buildings.

## Our Monthly Reunion.

### PRAYER TOPIC.

Meetings of Branches and Board of Managers.—That Auxiliaries, Circles and Bands may begin the year with renewed vigor and increased membership. Our missionaries in the field and those offering for service.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."—2 TIM. ii. 15.

"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God which is in thee."—2 TIM. i. 6.

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."—2 TIM. i. 7.

THE subject around which we are invited to gather our thought, and for which we are trusted to lift up our most fervent petitions to the Throne of Grace, is one in which the faithful worker of the Woman's Missionary Society is deeply interested. The prayer subject this month appeals to us as individuals, as no other does. It appeals to our heart and conscience, to our common-sense and to our self-love, perhaps, also.

Organization, as nearly thorough and perfect as we may make it, is the machinery by which we do our work, and by the machinery a mechanical sort of routine work may go on. But this is not all we need, to get from our work the good we may not yet to extend its influence as we should. The influence we are looking for is that which will be apparent by every woman in your congregation coming into touch with the Society's aims and objects through your Auxiliary; nothing less. And so long as this evidence lacks, the real success of your Auxiliary is wanting.

The question then will come to you, How can it be done? Of six women appealed to in this regard, five replied that they "belonged" but did not attend, because just the same few had "run" the Auxiliary since it started. Four gave to everything that was "got up" for the missionary work, but did not care about the meetings as they were always the same thing, and they thought so long as they gave, that was the chief end answered. Three affirmed their belief that their officers were zealous, patient and faithful, and did their best, but the attendance was small, notwithstanding. Two declared that all the constitutions of the Society ought to be changed, so that new officers and committees would be necessary every year, to keep the thing out of a "rut," thus widening the influence, and distributing the responsibilities; and two gave us a fine suggestion, to which we invite your earnest attention, viz., that, instead of having Circles, we endeavor to induce our young women to belong to the Auxiliaries. This is a timely thought when so many Circles have been merged in the Leagues. Many Auxiliaries just need the daughters of Woman's Missionary Society women to give them life and spirit. A hearty consecration by our young women of their powers of song and their cultivated intellects, would enrich our Auxiliary meetings so that none would willingly neglect them. Let us try to enlist these young friends, giving them freely their share of honor and responsibility. In most of our congregations a large number of young women are engaged in business during the day, and as most of the Auxiliaries meet in the afternoon, they are deprived of the privilege of attending. To meet these cases the meetings might be held in the evening. One Auxiliary, with which we are familiar, adopted this plan, and as a result has an attendance reaching into the forties.

Somehow, in our day, we are accustomed to hail changes as improvements and signs of progress. They are not always so. We may well pause to enquire sometimes whither we are drifting.