

Woman's Auxiliary Department.

Communications relating to this Department should be addressed Mrs. Tilton, 251 Cooper Street, Ottawa.



THE following is an extract from a letter written to one of the officers of the Church Women's Mission Aid, of the Diocese of Toronto. The words will apply to any other society whose members fear their work will be interfered with by the formation of the Woman's Auxiliary:

* * * "I have been told that this Auxiliary has been regarded by yourself and the members of the Church Women's Mission Aid of the Diocese of Toronto, as in some degree in opposition to the work of that society, and that instead of your work being assisted, it will thereby be hindered, and the usefulness of the Church Women's Mission Aid greatly impaired. I trust that you will not consider me unnecessarily intrusive if I endeavor to shew you that the work of the Auxiliary will in no way hinder the work of the C. W. M. A., that it is not in opposition to it, and that, in the opinion of those interested in the Auxiliary, your work will be greatly stimulated, and your usefulness consequently increased.

"1. The work of the C. W. M. A. will not be hindered by the work of the Auxiliary.

"The objects of the association, as set forth in the constitution for the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, are 'by means of united and systematic efforts, to diffuse missionary intelligence and increase missionary activity among the women of the Church; to unite previously existing societies in one interest, and to endeavor to organize diocesan and parochial branches throughout the ecclesiastical Province.' There is nothing, surely, in the objects of the Auxiliary, as set forth in the constitution, which will hinder your work. It can only be helped by 'missionary intelligence being diffused, and missionary activity increased among the women of the Church.' I have not by me a copy of your constitution, but if I mistake not, these are the very objects of the Mission Aid. What has been your desire? Has it not been to have a branch of the Mission Aid established in every parish of the diocese? Here, again, the Auxiliary will help your work, only going a great deal further than, according to your constitution as a purely diocesan society, you could have ever hoped to go, for it seeks to have a branch, not in every parish of the Diocese of Toronto alone, but in every parish of the ecclesiastical Province of Canada, from the Diocese of Nova Scotia, on the east, to the western limits of the Diocese of Algoma, on the west.

"2. The Auxiliary is in no way in opposition to the C. W. M. A., for the object of the Auxiliary, as already stated, is to unite previously existing societies in one interest. The object of the

Auxiliary is in no way, therefore, to interfere with work being already done, but on the contrary, by bringing all existing societies into one organization, thereby to stimulate the work of each by the power of sympathy and the strength of opinion.

"There is no intention in the formation of the Auxiliary to draw one cent of the funds from the channel in which they already flow, nor to withdraw the sympathies of any society already existing, from any portion of the Mission field in which the members may be now interested, whether that work may lie in the Diocesan, Domestic, or Foreign field. For instance, the work of the C. W. M. A., I believe, lies chiefly in the Dioceses of Toronto and Algoma. Should this society fall in with the Auxiliary, its work need not alter in any respect. The members of any branch of the Auxiliary may choose their own field, and special provision is made in the constitution for Local and Parochial Societies, in the 5th Section, that 'By a two-thirds vote at any general meeting, this branch shall be qualified to receive contributions for Diocesan Missions.' Again, should you choose still to continue as a society, the constitution of the Auxiliary in no way prevents this, since it is provided that each Local or Parochial Branch should have its own officers, and in every way manage its own affairs. The plan of work is left to each Board of Management. A Local Branch is, I presume, as distinguished from a Parochial Branch, a society formed by a combination of Parishes, such as the Ottawa Branch of the Auxiliary now is, and such as, I suppose, the C. W. M. A. would be, should you deem it advisable to become part of the Auxiliary.

Whether the proposition was made in earnest or not I do not know, but I was told that you had proposed that the Auxiliary should become a branch of the C. W. M. A., but I think you will see the impossibility of this. Were the Auxiliary merely a Toronto Diocesan movement, this would be quite practicable, and I for one would go in for it most strongly, "the Mission Aid" being already in the field, but the great power of the Auxiliary lies in the fact that it is as wide as the Church of England in the ecclesiastical Province, and one chief object of the Auxiliary being "to unite previously existing societies in one interest," it could not become part of one of those already existing. I think I have said enough to show you that the Auxiliary is in no way in opposition to the C. W. M. A.

"3. I am convinced that it will greatly stimulate your work and increase your usefulness in consequence.

"It will stimulate your work, because, as the interest in the Missionary work extends, it excites fresh enthusiasm in those already interested in the work. Others will be led to join your Society, or Branch, who are either personal friends of the members, or particularly interested in your field of work. And as your members increase, and as the enthusiasm of your members grows brighter, your usefulness in the Mission field increases on account of the larger amount of work done. Your increased