

VII. In the larger schools at least the children should be asked to form Working Associations with a committee of three or four ladies to superintend and direct them in their work. These might make garments for children at schools and mission stations, or useful objects for distribution or sale.

Woman's Auxiliary Department.

"The love of Christ constraineth us."—2 Cor. v. 14.

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

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY.—JUNIOR BRANCHES.*

President and Ladies,—

I RECEIVED a post-card from the Secretary of the Toronto Board of our Society, inviting me to attend this meeting, and requesting that I should address you on the subject of Children's Missionary Branches and the best way to start them. I felt unwilling to undertake it, and many excuses came into my mind. "Why not have chosen some one else? There must be others more experienced, more capable; and why not an easier subject?" In fact all the same pleas and excuses which you will find so ready to present themselves to any of you when the thought is suggested, or you are asked to undertake the establishment of a Children's Missionary Branch in your own parish.

Why should we have Children's Missionary Guilds at all?

1.—Because until quite lately English Church people have been very blind to the duty of spreading Christ's Kingdom upon earth—they have thought it rather a praiseworthy thing if they simply strove to make their own "calling and election sure."

2.—Because this laxness is* mainly due to their own early training, or rather want of training.

3.—Because if our children are to grow up with a deep sense of their own responsibility as sons and daughters of the Lord God Almighty, towards the other less favoured children of His family, we must train them early and constantly to know their great duty and privilege in this matter.

4.—Because to teach a duty in theory only, without giving aid and opportunity to put it into practice in our daily life tends to unreality and hardness of heart. "If ye know these

things," saith our Lord Himself, "happy are ye if ye do them."

5.—Because habit counts for so much in the formation of character; and the habit of working and denying one's self for God's cause in childhood will mould the life of later years.

6.—Because unselfishness is the most beautiful and God-like characteristic in the world to-day, and the sacrifice of money, time and thought for others' sake is a direct training in this loveliest of the Christian virtues.

7.—Because as members of Christ's Church on earth these little ones have a right to take their place as soldiers under the Banner of the Cross, to help forward the battle by which all things shall be subdued unto Christ.

Now, how shall this be brought about? At the outset let me urge upon you, that the trivial details, the hum-drum every day side of practical work must not blind us to the glorious aim that animates us—the grand result we have in view. We desire to do our part, and we desire that the children of this generation shall do their part in making the whole world a holy temple to the Lord of Hosts.

But in the building of an earthly temple, the labour of the individual worker is often petty and low. He wheels the sand monotonously hour by hour; he chips the stone, not as the sculptor chips it for a form of beauty that generations shall praise, but simply to fit it with its surroundings, to make the rough places plain; he digs the foundations spade-ful by spade-ful, and, as the building rises, his work is covered and lost to mind. Nevertheless that work was needful, and the glorious building, when complete, sheds honour on every man who helped to raise its fair proportions heavenward.

The Children's Missionary Guilds have already accomplished much worth mentioning. In the United States good work is being done by the Ministering Children's League, the St. Mark's Friendly League, the Children's Twenty Minutes Society—by means of which money has been collected and great interest awakened. Twenty-five years ago where were these organizations? Undreamt of, as indeed were many of the adult organizations in whose prosperity and numbers we rejoice to-day, for instance, the Girls' Friendly Society, the St. Andrew's Brotherhood, the Church Temperance Society, the White Cross Society, the Guild of the Holy Cross, the Society of the Royal Law, the Daughters of the King, and other Leagues, guilds and clubs spread so widely over the length and breadth of the land.

If we are unanimous, as I am sure we must be, in the conviction that these guilds are good for our children and good for the Church, how can we best set to work to multiply them, until there shall not be one parish where the little ones of our communion are not being trained in doing definite missionary work for Christ.

* A Paper read by Mrs. Grant Francis, Assistant Superintendent of Junior Branches, at the late Quarterly Meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary, at Barrie.