

WOMAN'S WORK FOR MISSIONS.

[EDITORIAL.—A. T. P.]

PAUL writes to the Philippians of those "women which labored with him in the gospel;" mark the phrase, "who labored with me in the gospel"—*συνηθλησάν*—were my *co-athletes, fellow-gladiators*, as though the life and labor of the gospel were an arena and they were his fellow-combatants, destined to the crown of life!

God fitted woman constitutionally for a high service in the gospel. Woman is pre-eminent above man in her sentimental, emotional and religious nature, and so it is that she holds the very keys of the domestic sanctuary in the opportunity to form youthful character. She has marvelous capacity for teaching and for endurance. She is especially fitted to care for, sympathize with and reach her own sex. Hitherto in our denominational schemes she has been quite too much neglected and her work almost altogether ignored. But now the time has come when her capacity and sagacity, her intelligence and her consecration, bid fair to constitute her the leader of the modern missionary host. When we think of Augustine and his mother Monica, Chrysostom and his mother Anthusa, Basil of Caesarea and his grandmother Emmelia, Gregory of Nazianzen and Nonna, Theodoret and his mother, no marvel that Libanius, the pagan rhetorician, exclaimed in amazement, "What women these Christians have!"

Let us not forget how much woman can do for the rising generation by fostering in them a spirit of consecration to the work of God in evangelizing the world. The Scriptures* tell us to whom the world and the church are indebted under God for the labors of Timothy: "I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois and thy mother Eunice"; "from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures." Here is the double secret: not only a pious education, but a pious ancestry transmitting *an aptitude for a religious life*, almost as though faith and devotion of soul to Christ were become hereditary, like the curse of a sinful character.

Put in contrast to the exclamation of Libanius what Napoleon said: "France is lost for want of mothers." There was a boy at Athens, according to the old story, who used to boast that he ruled all Athens, and when asked how he said, "Why, I rule my mother, my mother rules my father, and my father rules the city." But there is a reverse side to this statement. The mother shapes the character and influence of the child, the child determines the future man and woman; and so in the hands of the mothers God puts the character of the whole generation that in thirty years is to give shape to society. As we trace

* Comp. 2 Tim. i. 5, and iii. 15.