

* PALM BRANCH *

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JUNE, 1896.

ONE who is a steward with trust money to invest is bound to consult the will of his Master as to the disposition of that trust. If he be a true and faithful steward he will seek to make the best possible use of every talent, so that at His coming his Lord may receive his own with usury.

Is not this the position in which we find ourselves to-day, as members of the W. M. S., either in Bands or Auxiliaries? Not even one talent *ours* to fold up and lay away in a napkin! not even one talent *ours* to expend on ourselves in a vain show! not even one talent *ours* to use according to our own short-sighted judgment! All under His control, whose we are and whom we serve. Money is only one of the talents to be used for God. He wants our money, humanly speaking, His work cannot be carried on without it, but He wants our personal interest too, more than all. When we urge our friends and neighbors to join our Society we often hear this remark, "Oh, yes, I will give you a dollar, if that is what you want, but I cannot promise to attend your meetings." Now, that is not what we want—it is not what the Lord wants. If that fee represents interest enough in His work to lead us once a month to attend a meeting for the purpose of discussing the best modes of accomplishing His work and for seeking to awaken in others an enthusiasm for it, then it is acceptable in His sight. Is it acceptable otherwise? Better be poor, we think, and give our mite willingly, gladly, than rich and withhold our riches, or give without the interest in His work that God demands. It is true, we may not always be able to be present at our meetings, but may we not be always there in spirit, and from month to month may not that work so lie on our hearts that we shall not only pray "Thy Kingdom come," but with all our might help it to come.

Our prayers this month must be for India—that vast country with its 282,000,000 inhabitants. India has come to a crisis in her history. The faith of the people in their religion has waned. The great throng of pilgrims, with their costly gifts, has ceased. Many still go, *by train*, to the shrines, but the spirit of their religion is not there. Many Hindoo temples are going to ruin, and lately there have not been found enough devotees to convey the car of Juggernaut back and forth through the streets. The "Missionary Review" quotes from representative newspapers in India to show that the most thoughtful Hindus agree that Hinduism must go, but they are not agreed as to what shall take its place. There is danger of their acceptance of a Christianity without a divine Christ.

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Please renew *at once*, we do not wish to lose your name from our list of subscribers.

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Our warmest thanks are due Mrs. Hartwell for her great kindness in giving us so graphic and interesting a description of the escape of our missionaries in China from the terrible dangers which threatened them. We appreciate it the more because we know that it must be painful to recall the details of such a thrilling experience.

Our readers will all be interested in the story of "How the B. Auxiliary went to Branch Meeting by proxy!" especially when they know that the distance, going and returning, was 26 miles! and that our kind friend, the writer, has already crossed her sixtieth milestone! We feel quite sure of having a delegate from that Auxiliary to our Branch meeting *this* year.

FOR WEARY WORKERS.

"Oh, give Thine own sweet rest to me,
 That I may speak, with soothing power,
 A word in season, as from Thee,
 To weary ones in needful hour."