

Woman's Work.

Programme for May Meeting of Auxiliaries.

SUBJECT—SOWING AND REAPING.

Opening hymn—Sow in the morn thy seed. No. 440.

Responsive reading of Scripture. Gal. vi. 1-10.

One minute silent prayer, after which the president leads audibly.

Reading of minutes, business, etc.

Roll-call, each responding with appropriate Scripture verse or selection. Psa. cxxvi. 5; Eccl. xi. 4, Isa. xxxii. 20; Job iv. 8; Jer. iv. 3, Hosea x. 12; 1 Cor. ix. 11; 2 Cor. ix. 10, Jas. iii. 18; Prov. xi. 18, xxii. 8.

Brief prayers by as many sisters as can be induced to take part.

Papers on topic, missionary items, thoughts suggested by topic.

Closing hymn—Bringing in the sheaves.

Prayer.

SOWING AND REAPING.

We are all sowing. While life itself shall last we cannot cease to scatter seeds. There are but two kinds of seeds to be sown—one, the harvest of which will be everlasting life, the other, everlasting death. We can sow either, but while we sow we should remember that we shall reap just what we have sown. As there are but two kinds of seed, so there will be but two kinds of harvest; but two classes before the throne of judgment; but two sentences from the lips of the judge. What then should we sow? Those alone are sowing pure seed who are seeking to plant in the hearts of men the word of the kingdom, the seed from which all spiritual life must spring. We should then scatter the Word of God.

We should also sow kind, loving thoughts, helpful words and deeds, knowing that from these, too, we shall reap a blessed harvest.

"A loving word, or a kindly deed Is a seed for eternity sown, That will bear sweet fruit on heavenly soil, When time has forever flown."

When should we sow? Now. The time for sowing is the present. Our lives here form the seed-time of eternity. Sow then from morn till eventide. Our life's short day will soon close and we shall enter upon the harvest. What I do now decides what I shall reap beyond. My thoughts, my purposes, my words and deeds each day are all uniting to form my harvest. If evil seeds are sown now they can never be gathered again; they are sown for eternity. Like the thistles, whose crop is each year warded by the winds, so these evil seeds will spread, and just as impossible will it be to gather them in. So also will be the seeds of good we sow here. They, too, shall be borne from heart to heart bearing fruit, which shall go on cheering and blessing while time shall last. Then let us sow good seed. Sow it now.

Where should we sow? "Beside all waters." Wherever there is a soul for whom Christ's blood was shed, who needs to know of the great sacrifice, wherever there is a burdened, heavy-laden one who needs to be told of the great Burden-Bearer, wherever there is a faint-hearted, discouraged one, who needs our helpful words and deeds; wherever there is an erring one who needs to be led to the narrow way, there we should sow.

As workers in the Lord's vineyard, our mission is to see that the seed of the gospel shall be sown, even to the ends of the earth. It is a mighty undertaking, but it has within it and for its author the Everlasting God, and must succeed. The kingdom of this

world shall become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. Our faithfulness or unfaithfulness in sowing will determine the dawning of that day. The seed of the kingdom has been placed in our hands. Shall we withhold it or shall we gladly scatter?

Sometimes our sowing seems a loss of labor, time and seed. Especially is this so in missionary work. But having put our trust in the Lord of the harvest we know that the seeds we sow are not lost, but that we shall find them again, though after many days. God's Word (the seed) shall not return unto Him void, it shall accomplish that whereunto He has sent it. Then we may not see the fruit of our labors here; but let us remember that this is not the time nor the place for the full harvest, and let us never grow weary with the toil and the sacrifice of the sowing, even though the fields stretching before us may sometimes seem trodden by idolatry and sin; but may we ever be cheered by the prospect of the reaping time, the certainty of the harvest, when all those who have gone forth bearing the precious seed shall come with rejoicing, bringing sheaves to lay at the feet of the Lord.

Dear sisters, let us all be sowers of the Word; let us sow patiently, prayerfully and trustingly, knowing that after we have planted and watered faithfully we can with confidence look to God for the increase. And let us ever remember the fact that nothing else will count in the great day of harvest—nothing but sheaves, nothing but fruit. Let us then lay up treasures against that day.

"Wouldst thou bring rich, golden sheaves,

Lay them at thy dear Lord's feet; Hear from Him the glad 'Well done,' 'Enter into joys complete?'

Sow then now the precious seed; Sow with loving, patient care; Drop in rich or barren soil, Scatter pure seeds everywhere."

MRS. J. S. FLAGLER.

St. John, N B.

To the District Organizers.

In last June's annual report of the sisters' work an item reads the way: "Last year the field was divided into districts and organizers appointed, who failed to report work done." This refers to some appointments made at the Toronto convention. In drawing the attention of the sisters to the work devolving upon them, I have had inquiries made of me in reference to their duties, etc., which I was unable to answer. Upon writing to Sister White, of Indianapolis, she kindly sent me some leaflets written by Mrs. Peris L. Christian on "Duties of District and County Managers." I will copy a part of this leaflet, thinking it may prove helpful to them in doing the very best they can to obtain all the information possible along these lines. "The organization and development of our auxiliaries and mission bands is yet in its infancy. Our workers encounter the perplexities and drawbacks incident to the early stages of any such undertaking, and in newly organized districts the managers are asking, 'What is expected of me?' 'What are the duties of my office?' The object of our work is, as you know, 'to cultivate a missionary spirit, to encourage missionary effort in the churches, to disseminate missionary intelligence, and to secure systematic contributions for missionary purposes.' . . . It is the duty of the county manager to ascertain the condition of the churches in her county, and whether they have auxiliary societies or children's bands; also, those places where our organizer would be welcomed and assisted in her work, and where the ground is ready for the sowing of the seed. If this information can be got-

ten by visiting the churches it will be most satisfactory; if this may not be, the work may be done by correspondence.

Keep in mind the work of the children. Is it not quite as important as any other branch of our work? In many places it may be found practicable to organize a mission band where an auxiliary could not be sustained.

She should ascertain the attitude of the churches in the district toward our missionary work; where there is a probability of successful work being done through our organizers, and also the good ground where the seed of truth may be sown. She should get into communication with the sisters in every church in her district, and by personal visits or correspondence find out their needs and the prospect of organizing auxiliaries, and, if practicable, arrange appointments for the organizer.

Both district and county managers should instruct the presidents and secretaries of new auxiliaries in the details of their work. Emphasize the importance of reporting regularly.

May I suggest to you, my co-laborers in this cause, that wherever an opportunity presents itself which may be improved for the C. W. B. M., you be prompt in making use of the means at hand for that end? Utilize the talent you find. We have many earnest, capable women who could do grand things for this noble work if their talents and energies were enlisted in its behalf. The success of the district work will depend greatly upon the heartiness and unanimity with which the managers take hold of it. Join hands, consult together, plan for systematic work, and help each other by the interchange of practical suggestions and the highest and best thoughts you have; make your work one by working together and it will prove a successful work. Our good Father has greatly blessed us in our temporal affairs and in our missionary enterprises. With great thankfulness and liberal offerings we should come before Him. Many effectual doors are open to us, many fields white for the harvest are before us. Appeals are constantly coming to our General Board, worthy and promising, which cannot be answered for want of funds.

It is very desirable to extend our fields of labor. To do this our sources of income must be greatly enlarged. There are many ladies in nearly every congregation who would join the auxiliary if they understood the nature and demands of the work. Personal effort by the present members is the chief means to bring them in. In most churches there is good material for a young ladies' missionary band. The young ladies will enjoy the work, develop missionary workers, and materially strengthen our treasury. Children's mission bands are, if properly managed and trained by a devoted Christian leader, very useful in the work of the Lord.

Now for the present those sisters who have been appointed district organizers will need, in a measure, to combine the duties of district and county manager and organizer. This work needs developing here in Ontario. There are many places where excellent work could be done. This should not be left entirely to those appointed for the work. Let each sister who feels an earnest desire for the advancement of the Master's kingdom remember that "personal effort by the present members is the chief means to bring them in."

B. S.

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Children's Work.

Mrs. J. A. Lehard, Supt., Owen Sound, Ont. to whom communications for this department should be addressed.

"The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."—Habakkuk ii. 14.

DEAR MISSION BAND LEADERS: I find myself in the position of having to supply "copy" for our column and nothing on hand wherewith to do it just now, so I will try and write a few of the many things I should like to say if I had an opportunity. I mentally travel around the circle of bands and wonder how you are all prospering. Whether you are at work to the best of your ability; whether you are feeling hopeful and encouraged over the condition of your special band, or whether you are down-hearted and despondent.

How is it with each of you? I hate to own it, but I have been feeling just a little discouraged myself of late, but I console myself with the fact that I have not been feeling well and that things have taken on a slight "blue glass" aspect in consequence. Still I cannot forget that there are some of you who have not sent me a word all this year. I suppose if I did not care for the welfare of our work I should not mind, but I so dislike to think of failure in connection with it, and I am very much interested in every separate band and its prosperity. There is no need for me to indicate which one has failed in this particular, but each one can decide for yourselves whether you are the neglectful one. If you put yourself in my place for a few minutes, it may give the things a different aspect. I cannot sufficiently thank those of you who have reported and helped me so much.

There is one short word in the Bible which has comforted me very much of late. It is the word "shall." Whether it is that I have been looking at myself through the same "blue-glass" medium or not, or for some real good reason, it is a fact that the closer acquaintance I get with myself the more unsatisfactory it becomes, and I am afraid I am not alone in my experience. When I think of our Master and His wonderful loving patience, I have a feeling almost like compassion for Him. That we try Him so much, and wonder how He bears with us so long; and one day when I was feeling this very much this wonderful "shall" comforted me. "He shall see of the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied."

Then those of us who are interested in the temperance movement and in any degree engaged in fighting the gigantic evils of intemperance, will often be appalled at the work to be done and the difficulties in the way, but there is a "shall" to fit this too. "The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." Breweries, distilleries, saloons, and all their kindred evils must go down before the power of this mighty "shall." Let us comfort ourselves with the thought of how complete it must be.

Then let us take a view of the great mission question, in which we are all so closely interested. Look at the immense area covered by the world's mission fields; of the millions of souls who have never heard the sound of the gospel nor the name of Jesus. Then look at the workers, and be dismayed at the utter lack of proportion of the workers to the work. Not very cheering, is it? and yet there is a glorious "shall" to meet our need. "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

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Let us construct a bridge of this wonderful "shall," which shall span the sea of trouble and difficulty and discouragement, by which faith can visit the land of promise and there find strength and endurance to take up our work and do it, and the time will come, we do not know how soon, when we too in our measure shall be satisfied.

I must remind you that your annual reports should be in not later than May 20, and that date will soon be here.

J. E. L.

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