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Women's Missionary Societies.

A short sketch of the rise and progress of Woman's Foreign Mission work in the United States and Canada.

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MORE than twenty years ago a missionary's wife in the city of Calcutta, sat working a pair of slippers for her husband. A Hindoo gentleman sees, admires and wonders how they are made, and, in the end, in answer to the inquiry, whether he would not like to have *his wife* taught to make a pair of slippers for *him*, the missionary's wife is invited, for this express purpose, to his house. The fact is noised abroad, similar invitations follow, and in the glowing words of Miss Britton, a *pair of slippers* has become the instrument of letting in a ray of light upon thousands of women, who, for ages, had been sitting in the darkness of the shadow of death. But a score of years has passed, and hundreds, yea thousands of heathen homes are open to the Christian woman, who with the Bible in her hand visits them, either as the physician or teacher.

In the year 1861, almost simultaneous with the "opening" just recorded, "*The Woman's Union Missionary Society of America for Heathen Lands*," the pioneer woman's society of the United States, was organized in Boston. Soon after, a second organization followed in the city of New York, which became the headquarters of the general society, the first President being the late beloved Mrs. Doremus, who retained this responsible position until her death. This Association was the result of an earnest appeal to the christian women of America, by the wife of Rev. Francis Mason, Baptist Missionary to Burmah, who, on her way to America, had visited Calcutta, and

become thoroughly interested in the new "movement," viz., the christian education of the women and girls living in zenanas. In twelve years after its establishment, "*The Woman's Union Missionary Society of America*," had received and expended more than \$260,000, and though these organizations have multiplied on every hand, it is still full of life and vigour, supporting missionaries in Japan, China, Greece, &c. It publishes a missionary periodical monthly, called "*The Missionary Link*."

Second in order of establishment was the "Woman's Board of Missions, (Congregational) auxiliary to the A. B. C. F. M. formed at Boston, 1868. The Congregational Church in the United States has also two additional boards, viz., "*The Woman's Board of Missions of the Interior*," organized October, 1868, with its headquarters at Chicago, and the "*Woman's Board of Missions of the Pacific*," organized in 1873. The first-mentioned of these raised last year \$97,492, the second, \$26,105, and the third, \$2,300, total from the women of the Congregational Church last year, \$125,897. The number of missionaries supported by each is about in the same proportion as the receipts, and they labour in the same fields as do the American Board. Their missionary periodical, "*Life and Light*," is published monthly. In March, 1869, followed "*The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States*," was formed at Boston. The ladies of the Methodist E. Church find it easier to work through *one* organization. This Society has 2,578 auxiliaries, with a membership of nearly 66,000; the receipts last year were \$107,932. It sustains 38 missionaries, 200 Bible-women and teachers, 6 hospitals, 15 boarding schools, with 800 pupils, 125 day schools, with 3,000 pupils, girls and women, 3 orphanages with 400 orphans, one home for