

matter necessary to every tree. If we burn any tree we will find lies earth in its composition than any other constituent. So with our tree. Money is a necessity, but only for anchorage ground and mineral needed for the growth.

The *Air*—"Prayer is the Christian's vital breath, the Christians native air." So the needed atmosphere on this tree is prayer.

The rain is God's blessing, "falling as showers upon the new mown grass."

*Leaves*—Drawing from the atmosphere the life and growth are literature., "The Old Bible," text books, magazines.

How soon a tree begins to wilt if its leaves are withered or stripped off.

And the *Fruits*—We cannot innumerate them all, but we may specify the enlargement of our own lives and *hearts*. The Salvation of souls, at Home and in India. The organization of more Aids and Bands. And so the fruit reaches back to the root, so our tree must be a Bangan as the top sends down branches that re-root in the soil, so the tree spreads on and over the land.

And in each fruit there is the seed, in each seed the embryo of a new tree. Eternity alone will tell the tale of the work and worker—roots, trunk, branches, twigs, leaves, leaflets, fruits, germs.

Let us review *Soil, Money*. Every tree needs earth for solid standing room. The roots cannot grow if the soil becomes hardened so that rain and air cannot permeate the ground. So the soil necessary for the support of this tree becomes hardened in pocket-books, carried away from its original use to feed fashion and vanity, and wasted over trifles. We should watch our methods on using the soil.

The *Roots, Aid Societies*. All roots should have their growth, too, their power of pushing their way through the soil. A root dies; the whole tree feels the effect. Our roots should keep moving. Stagnation means death; when we cease to grow, we die.

The *Trunk*, with its beautiful three-fold form. The centre officers, President, Vice-president, Treasurers, Secretaries, form the trunk and, main divisions.

*Branches*, Provincial Secretaries, Mission Band Superintendents, form branches differing, as all branches do in size and utility, but branches still.

*Leaves*, the clothing, so to speak, of the tree.

The breathing apparatus is leaves, literature, knowledge, knowledge of God's word, knowledge of the needs of others, knowledge of the work and the workers.

*Fruits*, so many and varied, differing in size but all holding that life-giving embryo. They do not all germinate! No, neither do all seeds in natural trees germinate. There are still the "fowls of the air, the rocky ground, and, the shallow soil." How many aids sprung up in shallow soil have withered at the first drought!

*Winds*, necessary to the rooting and growth, and symmetry of our tree, are the prayers, often of the unknown and most humble woman or child in the union. The prayers of the saints—"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." Watch a natural tree in dry seasons, in summer when the air is hot and dusty and every limp leaf hangs useless. Some cool wind, with a tint of sea breezes blows, how different the tree looks! The dust is blown away, the leaf recovers its lost life, rather its dormant life, and rustles in fresh green again. Pray on sister.

And the *Rain*.—God's blessing.—"Falling as showers that water the earth. Oh, that to-day they might fall."

How the life moves through the tree! The atmosphere is clearer, the soil freer, and the blessing that washes the roots rises up in sweetness and sap through the tree, sending life and energy, which mean growth to every smallest twig and branchlet.

"The trees of the Lord are full of sap."

May one tree be as the cedar or lebanon.

HOW TO TAKE MISSIONARY COLLECTIONS.—Inform the people thoroughly of the work. People prefer to give for that of which they know something. Regenerated people are willing to give, but they need information to know their duty. It is well to have a special week of prayer for missions in which appeal is made to God, and at the same time to set the needs of the work before the people.

Ask for a definite amount. In many churches it ought to be ten times as much as they have been giving for foreign missions. Get some consecrated man or woman to give one-fifth, or one-tenth of what you want, and the rest is easy. Whenever a large amount is raised in a church there is always some liberal moving spirit to lead off.—*The Foreign Mission Journal*, of the Southern Baptist Convention.