

PALM ✻ BRANCH.

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SEPTEMBER, 1898.

UR prayers this month are to be especially made for "Our boards of management, officers and committees; also our sister societies." Every year at this time we are asked to remember in prayer those who are in authority in our societies—those who make and mend the laws, and with whom rests the chief responsibility of the work—those who so much require wisdom and good judgment that they may direct the Lord's work and spend the Lord's money aright. We say the chief responsibility rests upon them, but by no means all the responsibility and that fact is recognized when they ask for our prayers. We can hold up their hands as Aaron and Hur held up the hands of their leader, Moses, by the faith and prayer which that act signified.

Can we believe that this is the last month of another missionary year? We have to send up our accounts and reports to our officers to see that they tally with the accounts kept by them. This is of the utmost importance to the success of our work.

We are responsible to a still higher Tribunal for the improvement of this year's time and talents and opportunities, and the success of our own lives and perhaps many other lives must depend upon our faithfulness. Will the accounts tally?

On looking over the Palm Branches of the year, we find that we are much indebted to our missionaries, especially our Japan missionaries, for valuable help. Busy and burdened as they are, they might have claimed to be excused, but there have been few papers this year in which their work has not been directly brought to our notice—and there is no food like that fresh from the field.

An article in the August Missionary Review, "The Supreme Need in Missionary Work," is most helpful

on this subject of prayer for missions. We can only cull a few ideas. Prayer is to missionary work what air is to the body—the element in which it lives. The very first duty of a church in regard to its missionary work is to awaken, maintain and sustain in its members the spirit of prayer. He who prays for missions never forgets that the work is God's; that he is aiding in the Divine enterprise of missions. How important this is to our missionary committees and boards. The carrying on of a mission involves so many business details that unless the church is simply full of prayer, men will be tempted to forget God, and will try to do God's work in their own way.

We appoint a committee or board to manage our Foreign Mission work. How can we secure that the committee will act wisely and will judiciously employ the means at its disposal? Only by prayer. Nothing else will secure that the men we appoint are kept in touch with God so that in the work the Spirit of God as the Spirit of Wisdom shall rest on them.

In the evangelization of the world, the missionary prayer meeting is a greater force than the missionary public meeting.

A praying church never lacks missionaries. If they are not forthcoming it is a sure sign that that work has not the place it ought to have in the church's prayers. A church has no right to send out any man unless she is prepared to uphold him by prayer. Prayer for missions must be intelligent, definite and intense.

A propos of the Plebiscite again.—In matters of social reform, woman's influence is greater than man's. Her power is indeed great. Let neither of you ever despair.

JOSEPH NEESIMA.

We are glad to receive "Na-Na-Kwa," from Kitamaat, published by Rev. Mr. Raley, and setting forth the claims of the Home there.

Miss Maggie Smith of the Coqualeetza Institute is home for rest. She will pardon us for publishing her letter, which we thought would be of interest to our readers.

"I left Vancouver July 1st, and am now at my old home in Nova Scotia. I have only six months' furlough, when I will return to my old work at Coqualeetza. It is so nice to think I am to go back, for my heart is certainly with the children there.

When I left there were about 102 children, I think, all strong and enjoying good health, with one or two exceptions. While in Victoria in June I called on Misses Bowes and Morgan. Just missed seeing Misses Churchill and Elliott. The latter expected to go out that same evening in the steamship for Fort Simpson. Four girls went with us as far as New Westminster for a two weeks' holiday.

While in Vancouver three or four of our boys and girls called to see me. I almost wish I could see some of them to-night.

I hope to get a good rest and be able to do better work on my return."