

ORIGIN AND WORK OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY.

By Mrs. Fortin, Holy Trinity parish, Winnipeg.

DEAR FRIENDS :—

When I was asked by the Board of Management to read something before you this afternoon, I had the satisfaction of feeling that the most important paper was to be prepared by our esteemed co-worker, Mrs. Cowley, and therefore I might take a very secondary place, but God has willed it otherwise for our friend, and this day sees her, not in our midst, but on a bed of sickness, from which may it please our Heavenly Father soon to restore her, and may we be permitted for many years to enjoy the privilege of her counsel and ready help. We know she is with us in spirit to-day, and many hearts here will turn in loving sympathy toward her sick chamber.

I thought I would like to say a few words upon the *origin* and *work* of the Woman's Auxiliary, a work of such vast range, truly that the world is its field, and eternity alone will be the limit to what it can accomplish.

The W. A. though looked upon as a modern development of Christian work, yet savours very much of apostolic usage. The last chapter of Romans shows the Christian women of the Imperial City in very prominent positions. They filled places of influence and activity in the Church; and Phoebe the Greek, actually held the office of Deaconess at Cenchrea, and was honoured by St. Paul to be the bearer of that marvellous Epistle to Rome. Perhaps she did not know the value of what she was carrying, but we do; for, thanks to her careful custody, we have it in our Bibles to-day, and when she reached her destination what a noble W. A. she found there to welcome her and help her. Priscilla and Mary and Junia, and the sister of Nereus, and Julia, worthy successors to the women who followed Jesus and ministered to Him of their substance. And the work these women did in Rome was just as necessary in its place, and just as really a part of the economy of God as the work of the Apostle Paul.

In deeds of mercy it is not good for man to be alone, and, though it may seem egotistical, coming from a woman, still it is a fact, that God has been pleased, all down the ages, to accept the services of consecrated women; and men have recognized in them their quick intuition, impulsive sympathy, and great faith, and, in many instances, their disciplined power of endurance; and