

and especially the sisters, have begun to do their share of the work. To-day we see that grand army of Christian Endeavourers marching shoulder to shoulder, and forming a solid phalanx against the attacks of the enemy. But the little ones! Is there no work in the Master's vineyard for them to do? Yes! Christ Himself has said,—“suffer the little children to come unto me,” and Christ never yet called anyone to Himself and then allowed them to sit with idle hands. God has a work for their little untried fingers, and who can estimate the harvest which may be reaped from the labours of the little ones?

The Bible says,—“and a little child shall lead them.” We know not what unseen work for the Master may be accomplished by the judicious training of the children. Teach the little minds to reason aright, for it is thought that rules the world, and if we succeed in guiding the young thoughts into right channels, we have accomplished a great factor in the cause of Christ.

One of the first places to begin in the Sunday-school. “Why?” You ask. Because it is the fountainhead from which all the other forms of work must flow. The little ones must be taught to love the Sunday-school, and this largely depends (with the very little ones at least) not on home training, but on the teacher. And can these little ones be taught to love the Sunday-school? Where can you find a fairy-tale fraught with more of interest to the childish minds than the stories told in the Bible? They will listen to you with wrapt attention while you tell of many of the Old Testament characters. Then tell them of the little Baby, born in far-away Bethlehem, of that Baby as he grew to boyhood, and from boyhood into manhood. How their eager, earnest, little eyes will gaze into yours as you relate this ever-new story! What questions they will ask! Ah, yes, the children can be interested in Christ's work! Then the older girls and boys; those who are just ripening into girlhood and boyhood. Here is a grand soil for the earnest worker! These girls and boys are leaving behind them their childish ways,—they begin to feel a strange new responsibility as if life were not all play, (as indeed it is not). Let them see that we need their help; that we want them to work, not for us, but with us, and for Christ, and we will find smiling faces and ready hands in answer to the call.

I have not yet touched upon any special branch of work. There are many ways in which to direct the minds of the children and in which they may be intensely interested, but I will touch upon but one or two, and those, I may say, which lie nearest my heart.

The children should be interested in the temperance cause. Our future nation is to be swayed by the minds of those who are to-day little more than babes in arms; and if the girls and boys of to-day are to be the women and men of a few years hence, what great and imperative need to instil the principles of pure and upright living into these fresh young minds under our guidance. True, if the work of the Lord were done as it should be done, we would have no place, no need for temperance societies in our midst. But the lamentable fact remains that it is not done as it should be, and while the day is hastening, I pray, in which every child of the King will stand together on the Rock of Ages, with the Bible and the Bible only, as their guide heavenward, and shall clasp hands in the work of enlarging the kingdom, still it behooves us to seize every opportunity at hand to further that cause; hence I say, we must interest the children in the temperance cause. And it is not a difficult matter to do this? Our city children at least, know only too well the signs of drunkenness, and the little ones will turn with disgust or fly with terror from the reeling form, who with bleared eyes and foul tongue is a blot upon our Christian civilization.

A little intelligent, well-directed talk with the children is all that is needed to organize a brave little band of temperance advocates. In our own two Sunday-schools in St. John, we have found that blackboard temperance lessons are enjoyed keenly by the children, and I think, by the older ones as well. The chairman of our S. S. committee provided with a movable blackboard and colored chalks, at the close of the Sunday-school lesson, tells a temperance story and illustrates by drawing on the board as she talks; and there is nothing which the childish mind will so readily retain as a story which they can see as well as hear. These lessons are given at least once a quarter and sometimes oftener.

Next I wish to speak of missionary work for the little ones; and here let me say, that while I pray that the cause of Christ may be abundantly fruitful here in our own provinces, still I have a deep interest in the work being carried on in the foreign field as well; and I would like to see the children interested in that work too.

But how can you interest children in lands and people of whom they know nothing, you say? Ah! there is the point! Let them find out about them; tell them of those things yourself, and if you do not know about them study together, and believe me, you will be surprised to find how much nearer those people have come to you, how much more real and tangible is the life of darkness they are leading.

We have formed a band to work for the aid of our missionary, Miss Rioch. We meet once a month and open by singing and each member repeating a verse of Scripture containing some word previously chosen by the band. A subject is also previously agreed upon, and as our work is for Japan, we have been choosing such subjects as these:—“Children of Japan,” “Schools of Japan,” “City of Tokyo,” etc. One little girl belonging to our band has been to China and Japan, and has a number of views and pictures of scenery and native life, as well as many of the household articles used by the Japanese. These she has brought, and a happy hour soon slips away in talking over, and handling these things. While every band may not be so fortunate as to possess such a member, and therefore cannot easily procure these things, still it is comparatively easy to get good descriptions and sometimes pictures which never fail in interest to the children.

I have said nothing so far about money—Well, we agreed to lay by two cents a week; this is paid monthly to our Secretary-Treasurer. But money is not the prime object; it is the missionary spirit which we want to foster and educate. Get the child thoroughly in earnest over the meetings; nourish that interest as he grows older; and the money will come afterwards without the asking.

Before I close I must say one word to our sisters. We live in a Christian land where our sex has every privilege, every advantage which Christianity can give. We have a God-given work before us, a work which we and we alone can do. Let us not sit with idle hands while others gather the sheaves. Every soul which we win for Christ will make another jewel to shine in that crown which He will one day place on our brows. While we enjoy the sweet blessings of our Lord and Redeemer, dare we stand aside and say,—“It is not my place, women should keep silent in the church?” No, my sisters we dare not do it; we cannot do it; for Christ has said,—“With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again,” and as we expect to hear the “Well-done!” at the last day, so must we work to deserve that reward.

We cannot afford tamely to sit by whilst there are thousands, aye millions, dying around us who have not heard the sweet story of a crucified Saviour, and if at the last day, when we gather round that great “white throne,” we see some who can turn

to us and say,—“you know of this great salvation so freely offered to all, and yet you never told us,”—what can we say in extenuation, my sister? When Christ shall ask the questions,—

“I gave my life for thee,
“What hast thou given for me!
“I suffered much for thee,
“What hast thou borne for me!
“I bring rich gifts to thee,
“What hast thou brought for me!

Shall we dare to say,—“Lord, I have hid thy talent in the earth; lo! there Thou hast that is Thine!”

Oh! may we so live and work, that our joyful words to Christ may be,—

“That each departing day
Henceforth may see,
Some work of love begun,
Some deed of kindness done,
Some wanderer sought and won,
Something for Thee.”

GO FORWARD!

Read at the Womens' Missionary Meeting, Cornwallis December 21th, by Clara Wood.

Before we commence any thing we should first decide whether it is right or wrong, and if right we should persevere and go forward.

If this be true in relation to other things, it is also true in reference to Mission work.

When we have begun any work relating to Missions, we must persevere in it if we would succeed. We should not falter; for even though the outlook may be gloomy, and we do not seem to be accomplishing much good, and though it seems hardly worth while to continue, yet we should go forward, for we may be near to victory. Our reward is certain if we persevere, and let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

“The path of conquest before you lies,
Be faithful, and true, and brave,
For “the Lord's occasions” lightly passed
Return to Him who gave.
Oh! remember the source of all your strength,
On the heaven-sent manna feed,
And follow the pillar of fire and cloud,
Let the Lord Jehovah lead.

The world is making greater progress every year. Men are making new discoveries in science, and seeking to advance art and education; and while people are devoting their time and strength, and means to these things, Christians should not be idle, but seek to advance their Master's kingdom, and be always ready to heed their Leader's command to go forward. There may be difficulties in the way, but we must conquer these, and each time we gain a victory we are strengthened and encouraged to make greater efforts.

It is estimated that nearly 30,000,000 heathen are dying every year. Is not the thought of that enough to make us strive to do all we can to send the gospel to heathen lands? Remember that this year will be the last opportunity to preach the Word of God to 30,000,000 people.

We should go forward in our work now, and not trust to the future, for in the meantime millions are dying without hearing the gospel. God's command is, “Go work to day in my vineyard.” We should work before the night comes, for then it will be too late. You are called to work. Your Master needs your services. Go forward and aid in conquering the world for Christ. If we should pause in our work or give it up, it might involve a terrible responsibility; for God has said, “that no one who putteth his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. May we so work that it may be ours to hear the King in His glory say, “Well done.”

We are now near the commencement of a New Year. Let us endeavor to go further forward this coming year than ever before. Though the work may be great, and though there may be many obstacles in the way, God will be with us, for he has said “Lo, I am with you alway, even to the end of the world.”