

Canadian Missionary Link.

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OUR MEETINGS AND OUR GIVING.

The autumn is the time for picking up the threads of work dropped during the summer months, in Circles as well as in other organizations. In most Circles,—in almost all of the well-organized and "alive" Circles,—the programmes are planned months ahead—subjects decided on and the leaders appointed. The question arises once more as to what shall be chosen for the meetings. A large element is always seeking after something new to give spice and interest to the programme. Consequently it has come to pass that many Circles have much of China, Japan, the Islands of the Sea, under a great variety of titles, on their programmes, and in many cases very little of our own special work at home or abroad. Now, there is certainly an advantage in being acquainted with the world-wide field, and a disadvantage in having a narrow view and consequently cramped interests. But this desire to know of the work in general may be carried so far that we lose sight of the particular work which it is ours to do, and there have been some signs that this has been taking place here and there. It would be well to always remember in our Circle work that we are banded together for one purpose, and that purpose is to send the Gospel to our home land and to India. Therefore, it behooves us to be thoroughly acquainted with our own fields of operation, to know them from beginning to end, and not only to do that—which is not done and cannot be done in any single meeting or any two meetings a season—but to keep thoroughly abreast of the changing conditions and needs, which means constant study at every meeting, of both the home and foreign fields. This does not at all exclude the consideration of all other Mission work from the meetings, but it does mean

that these other interests ought to be kept strictly subordinate, and that our own ought to have the largest place and the most prominent place.

These remarks will apply in much the same way to our giving as Circles—only more so. When a group of women form themselves into a Mission Circle and come into affiliation with our Associations and Conventions, they thereby pledge themselves that all money going through that Circle shall go either to the Women's Home or Foreign Treasury. It is doubtful if all the women in our Circles really understand this, but it is so. This does not mean that many other objects—the needy in one's own town, South America, China, etc.—are not entirely worthy and very needy, and it does not mean that a woman who is a member of the Circle, or a group of women who are members of a Baptist Church, may not give to such objects,—but it does mean that the particular group of women formed into a Mission Circle cannot send the money they raise to these outside objects without breaking faith with the other Circles and the Convention formed of the Circles.

If this were not so, the Boards appointed by the Circles to attend to the business part of the work would not have any income on which they could depend, and the work which they have undertaken on behalf of the Circles might be and would be, from time to time, seriously crippled. As a matter of fact, it has been already more than once. The money raised from the Circles, then, goes to only two places—the Home Treasurer or the Foreign Treasurer.

This is the beginning of another season. See that the planning is right, the commencement right, and that the good work is continued both in the meetings and in the giving.