

sionary Meeting in the Shadyville Baptist church. Mrs. Gray, the minister's wife, came to the vestry with a sad heart. She knew too well the character of these gatherings. A few ladies came together in a listless, apathetic way, a few lifeless prayers were offered, a little business disposed of, and the ladies went to their homes wondering why there wasn't more interest in missions. Mrs. Tucker wasn't in the habit of attending the missionary meeting; so when she came into one this afternoon, the ladies present looked at each other in surprise. Mrs. Gray read the psalm and offered prayer, and then came the usual dead silence.

Presently Mrs. Tucker rose to her feet, and, in a voice shaken with emotion said:

"I s'pose you're all astonished to see me here, but the truth of the matter is, I've got something to say to you, which can't half be told in words, neither. You all know my little Sallie has been sick, but I don't s'pose none of you know what that sickness has been to me. You see the children wanted her to go to the mission band, but I was tough and cranky, and dead set ag'in anything of the kind, an' told her in the cross way she couldn't go. She'd heard somethin' about giving to Jesus, and laid out her best doll and book, an' I laughed at it, an' told her the Lord didn't want her t'fashin'. Well, she took sick, an' got sicker an' sicker, till my heart stood still with the fear o' losing her. She was out of her head, you know, and every time I come near the bed, she'd start right up an, say, 'O, can't I give Him anything? Don't he want my dolly? O mother, mother, can't I go?' till I just thought my heart would break in two. Everywhere I looked I could see her eyes with such a beseechin' look in 'em, and hear her voice callin' 'mother, mother, can't I give Him anything?' till at last I went down on my knees, all broke up like, and I sez:

"Lord, I'm a poor ungrateful sinner, and I've been a-withholding from you all these years, but if there's anything I can give you, won't you please take it? Even my little girl, and everything I've got I just lay down."

"Well, my sisters, I cried an' cried as I hain't for years, and it wasn't all for sorrow, neither—there was a great, deep joy in it all. And I come here to-day to tell you that I just give myself and all I've got to the Lord's work. I'm fairly converted to missions, and if the Lord will only take the poor, miserable offerin' I've got to give, and use me rough-shod in His work, I'd really be only too thankful. Whv, my sisters I'm the happiest woman on earth, and it's all owin' to the blessed child and that there children's band."

With one accord the ladies present sank upon their knees, while from awakened tender hearts, went up earnest vows of consecration. And Mrs. Gray wended her way homeward with lightened, grateful heart, saying softly to herself: "And a little child shall lead them."—*Home Miss. Echo.*

## THE WORK AT HOME.

### A Brief Sketch of the Formation and Progress of the W. M. A. Societies in Connection with the Baptist Denomination.\*

BY MRS. S. J. MANNING.

In 1870—just seventeen years ago—Miss H. M. Norris (now Mrs. W. J. Armstrong), was constrained by the Spirit of God to consecrate herself entirely to work among the heathens.

At that time no single lady missionary had ever gone from these Provinces, and our denomination had no separate organization, but was working in connection with the American B. M. Union.

To go so great a distance *alone* at that time, seemed a wonderful undertaking, and many hoary heads were ominously shaken, as well as discouraging words spoken. Indeed, at first she met with no encouragement, and much decided opposition, so much so, that many times she stifled the convictions that filled her soul, and praying that the Master, if it were His will that she should go, would open up the way, she tried to satisfy her troubled conscience by doing missionary work at home, among the Indians who inhabited the islands near where she lived. She rapidly acquired the Micmac language, and worked for some time among this people, with good results.

But "her soul was not at rest." The voices of perishing heathen sisters sounded so loudly in her ears that nothing could drown them, so she conceived the idea of forming W. M. Aid Societies, and asking the sisters of these Provinces to send her forth as their missionary. She then prepared a constitution and formed the first W. M. Aid Society in America at Canso, her own home. After this she received an appointment as missionary, and went through the country organizing a large number of Societies. Three Central Boards were then appointed, one in Halifax, for Nova Scotia; in St. John, for New Brunswick; and in Charlottetown, for Prince Edward Island, whose duty it was to foster these Societies, receive their money, and transmit the same to the Foreign Missionary Board.

In the Autumn of 1870, Miss Norris was sent out to Burmah, to labour among the Karens. In the following year, 1871, our sisters in the United States commenced their "Women's Work for Women." The first Society being formed February 28th, at Newton Centre, with only eleven ladies present. Their motto was, "The Whole World for Jesus," and with their characteristic zeal and enthusiasm, the work had been carried on with great energy and success through the New England States, east and west, until now it stretches from Maine to California. Their work is divided into two parts, Societies of the East and West.

Last year they expended the handsome sum of \$90,524.93, in the following countries: Burmah, India, China, Japan, Africa and Europe.

A few years later, in 1878, our sisters in the upper Provinces felt the necessity of having a share in this great enterprise.

Through the efforts of their departed missionary, the late Rev. A. V. Timpany, who returned home about this time, their work was firmly established. They have now

\* Read at the Annual Meeting of W. M. Aid Societies of Halifax and Dartmouth, N.S.

A VALUED correspondent writes:—"The grand peculiarity of Christianity is that it develops duties; it does not destroy, but constructs society. For proof of this, go visit our mission stations. The enlargement and perfecting of the work is only delayed by want of means, and, when the hand of God is laid on the giving hands in the Church, as the hands of Elisha were laid on the hands of the young King of Israel as he charged him to speed the arrows, this reproach will be wiped away from us as a Church."—*Woman's Work.*