

Woman's Work.

Conducted by Mrs. S. M. Brown and Miss J. ...

The Influence of Woman's Mission Work in the Church.

What is known as Woman's Mission Work should be a part of the life of every church. We as members must of necessity wield some kind of influence in the congregation to which we belong. What shall it be? There are so many kinds which we may use. It may be the influence of indifference, which generally springs from ignorance of the object of the work, or misconception respecting our mode of working, but no matter from what it springs it will surely exercise an influence on others, and be a fruitful source of like indifference. Then it is possible to exert an irritating influence in the church; this may grow out of many causes, but will always be found to be a hindrance rather than a help. The great question is: What influence should we, as earnest Christian women, exercise on those by whom we are surrounded? In what way can we make ourselves felt, without being forward or unduly aggressive? It would be well if we could each arrive at some definite conclusion which would be helpful in placing our obligations in a tangible light. As I understand it, the true genius of all missionary enterprise is the salvation of souls, and should be begun at home. The home church, where we worship week after week, should be the central point of effort. Now imagine that a good proportion of sisters in any one congregation, are earnest about the spiritual growth and condition of their fellow members, and seeking to promote their welfare in every way possible, can that church fail to be the better for such influence? In every congregation there will be some who have not closed with the offers of salvation. Can we do anything to lead them to the Saviour. If so, how? and what? To a great extent as to detail each woman will have to use her own judgment, and be ready to enter any door open to her, but our one great hope and strength is prayer. Prayer in our meetings as a mission band, prayer in private where we can carry to the throne of grace those who are yet out of Christ. Dear sisters, every such soul in our midst should be a burden on our hearts, only to be lifted by taking it to the Lord in prayer, believing prayer, persistent prayer; prayer which will wrestle like Jacob of old, until the blessing comes, and one by one we are rejoiced to welcome them all to the blessings and privileges of children of God. A much more difficult work, harder to do and often neglected, is that of personal appeal. So many of us shrink from it, some from sheer cowardice, some from a sincere fear lest we do harm rather than good. If we saw the same person standing on the brink of some great danger we should scarcely wait to reason about it, but should lose no time in leading him out of it. So there is plenty for us all to do without going out of our sphere; the world should be better for us and the church should be better for us. Let us act so as to deserve the Saviour's approbation of the woman of old: "She hath done what she could." J. E. L.

DON'T MISS IT.

A new and attractive publication containing many useful, interesting and instructive features has just been issued by T. Milburn & Co., of Toronto, under the title of the BUNDOCK BLOOD BROTHERS ALMANAC FOR 1891. It is now in the hands of druggists and merchants for free distribution, and we would advise our readers to secure a copy before the supply is exhausted.

(REPRINTED BY SPECIAL REQUEST)

An Appeal from more than Two Hundred Ladies, Members of the Missionary Conference held in Shanghai in May, 1890.

To the Christian women of the British Empire, the United States, Germany and all other Protestant countries, greeting:—

We, the women of the Missionary Conference now assembled in Shanghai, come to you our sisters in Christ with an urgent appeal on behalf of the one hundred millions of women and children of China who "sit in darkness and in the shadow of death."

The work of women in China has been prosecuted at the oldest stations for about fifty years, at first chiefly by the wives of missionaries, but in later years single ladies have largely augmented this working force. There are now ladies engaged in educational, medical and evangelistic work in China. Much has been done by them, many lives have been uplifted from the degradation of idolatry and sin, many sad hearts comforted, many darkened minds enlightened, and much solid good effected. But our hearts are burdened to-day with love and pity for the millions of women around us, our sisters for whom Christ died, still unreached by the sound of the Gospel. Beloved sisters, if you could see

their sordid misery, their hopeless, loveless lives, their ignorance and sinfulness, as we see them, mere humanity would move you to do something for their uplifting. But there is a stronger motive that should impel you to stretch out a helping hand, and that we plead—the constraining love of Christ. We, who are in the midst of this darkness that can be felt, send our voices across the ocean to you, our sisters, and beseech you by the grace of Christ our Saviour that you come at once to our help.

Four kinds of work are open to us:—

1. There is school work in connection with our various missions, which in many cases the men have handed over to the women in order that they themselves may be free to engage more directly in evangelistic work.

2. There is a work to be done for the sick and suffering women of China, in hospitals, dispensaries and homes, for which skilful physicians are needed. Most of this work can be better done by women than by men, and much of it can be done only by women.

3. There is work for us in the families of the church. There are converted mothers and daughters who need to be taught the way of the Lord more perfectly, and to be trained in whatever is necessary for their full development into lively members of the great household of faith.

4. There is a work of evangelization

among women, similar to that being done by men among the people at large. It is not claimed that the evangelization of women cannot be done at all by men—but that there is more of it than men can do, there is much of it that will never be done unless women do it, and much that men cannot do as well as women can. There is nothing in this kind of work transcending the recognized scriptural sphere of women. Women received from the Lord Himself, upon the very morning of the resurrection, their commission to tell the blessed story of a risen Saviour. What they did then we may continue to do now.

But you will ask, who are needed for this work? Knowing the conditions of life and work in China, we would answer that:—

1. They should be women of sound health, of good ability, and good common sense, also well educated—though not necessarily of the highest education—apt to teach, kind and forbearing in disposition, so that they may live and work harmoniously with their associates, and win the hearts of the Chinese. Above all, they should be women who have given themselves wholly to the Lord's work, and are prepared to bear hardship and exercise constant self-denial for Christ's sake.

2. It is desirable that they should pursue a systematic course of Bible study before coming to China, and

have some experience in Christian work at home.

Further, we would suggest that they should labor in connection with established missions in order that the good results of their work may be preserved, and that they may have, when needed, the assistance and protection of their brother missionaries.

Open doors are all around us, and though idolatry lifts a hoary head, and ancestral worship binds the people as with chains of adamant, yet with God "All things are possible," and mountains of difficulty melt like snow-flakes before the rising of the Sun of Righteousness.

God is on the side of His own glorious life-giving word; we ask you to come in the power of consecration and faith, with sober expectations and readiness to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus, and take your share in the most glorious war that was ever waged on earth—the war against the powers of darkness and sin, assured that God will accomplish His own purposes of love and grace to China, and will permit you, if you listen to this call, to be His follow-workers in "binding up the broken hearted, proclaiming liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound."

That the Holy and loving Spirit of God may incline your hearts to respond to His call is our earnest prayer.

DR. T. A. SLOCUM'S

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Advertisement for Dr. Slocum's Oxygenized Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil. Includes a portrait of a man and text describing the product's benefits for various ailments like consumption, bronchitis, and asthma.

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