

your Father, the King, by a doleful countenance or a dejected spirit. No matter what the record of the year. If you have passed through deep waters; if you have had trials and persecutions—What then? Did you find no Balm in Gilead? No physician there? Are you not a Christian? And has a Christian any right to "go mourning all her days." Even worldlings can meet in Convention when all goes well with them with cheerful faces, and can we do no more? Yes. Let us take our trouble to Jesus and let us as He bids us leave them there at the foot of the cross, taking with us

A heart at leisure from itself
To soothe and sympathize.

A young man in Massachusetts, possessed of splendid attributes, mental and physical, looked forward to a useful life in Mission work. But God willed otherwise and he now lies crippled and partly paralyzed. A friend was condoling with him one day when he lifted his withered right hand and said, "Hush! God makes no mistakes." Let us feel that God has made no mistakes in ordering our lives and let us "rejoice evermore" as well as "pray without ceasing." Remember the Golden Rule. You know how it cheers you to meet bright, sunshiny people. Act then so that at the close of our Branch meeting the language of each heart may be

And if our fellowship below
In Jesus be so sweet,
What heights of rapture shall we know
When round His throne we meet.

And further I think each delegate should feel a "sense of partnership." In a blackboard lesson recently published in PALM BRANCH, our W. M. S. was compared to a tree. The name "Branch" is suggestive. The Auxiliaries were compared to the various ramifications of those branches, the Bands to the twigs, etc. The Board of Managers represented the main body of the tree and the root. Let us hope that we are rooted and grounded in love, the love of Christ. How appropriate the illustration. How every smallest part has its work to do, how that work is utilized, and with what grand results, as a whole, when either work or parts would separately be comparatively useless. How it will help us in our work in the dark days to feel that we are a part of this organization, to know that our work, though small, will be utilized to its fullest extent, and many times multiplied. The work of every little Band, the contents of the tiniest mite-box are appreciated. Let us then strive to

"Do our little; God has made,
Smallest leaves for forest shade,
Smallest things their offering bring,
God employeth everything."

Bring also to the treasury as large an offering as you can afford. It may be but the widow's mite but let us be sure it is not diminished by any self-indulgence. Was it not in Dr. Talmage's church recently that such an immense sum was realized by every member simply giving up her jewelry? I often wonder if we "missionary women" have any right to wear "ornaments of gold or silver." It is at best a custom borrowed from the heathen. It is said that though God's hands compared with ours are as the ocean to a drinking cup, yet He will not accept our hands half filled. With all this preparation do not forget to bring a written report from the Auxiliary to which you belong. There is a right way of getting

this report and a wrong way. It is not too unimportant a matter to do in the right way. I hope you are not imagining this delegate as having

"Hands too full of gifts to give,
For reaching out a hand to take a gift."

I do not think we need have any anxiety on this point. We need not worry about the return journey. It would be simply impossible for *anyone* to come prepared in this way and not take back to her Auxiliary the best and most helpful ideas in each meeting, for as a matter of principle she will be present at each meeting. She will be sure to take back a full report, to be more enthusiastic, to have increased knowledge, greater zeal, a determination to do more work and do it better than ever before. In fact the reflex influence cannot help being felt. If Auxiliaries will send delegates thus prepared they will have no cause to complain of the result. There has been in the past too much of tacit *acceptance* without a thought of *contribution*. Resolve in the now historic words of Neal Dow that "By God's help we will change all this," and let us see the result in the Branch Meeting of 1896. Two questions have no doubt by this time arisen in your minds. First, Is this preparation necessary? and second, If so, how is it to be accomplished? As to the necessity the cry still is "The harvest truly is plenteous but the laborers are few." Never was the need for mission work more pressing than at the present time, and do you not see how much depends on individual effort." Our Society can have power only as the individuals composing it have power. It, the Society, cannot be used as a refuge from personal responsibility. The Branch Meeting for instance is just what the delegates make it. If there is important work to be done and they are not prepared to do it whose the blame? And while we are saying of our missionaries in foreign fields, "What are they among so many?" Do we ever think it may partly be your fault, partly mine, that there are so few. "The great enemy of the *best*," says Prof. Hyde is the *good*." Let us not be satisfied with the fact that our work in the past has been undeniably good but let us for our Society "Covet earnestly the best gifts." Remember that the very fact that we consider *possible*, such work as we suggest renders us responsible for its fulfillment. This preparation *can* be accomplished by steady, systematic work on the part of each Auxiliary. There is indeed a greater lack of system than earnestness in our work. Perhaps we might to some extent utilize the Chataqua Idea. If papers on field work were sent, say in January, and an examination held in June we might, other things being equal, discover the diligent ones and select therefrom a delegate. Our field studies in PALM BRANCH are well adapted to aid this plan. The returning delegate can be of great service by keeping the matter before the Auxiliary through the year. She need not be too aggressive. "Light houses do not need to fire cannon or ring bells to call attention to them or their lights, they simply *shine*." So if each returning delegate will let her light shine through the coming year, we will in '96 be able to say of each delegate, "Many delegates have done virtuously but thou excellest them all."

AGNES D. THOMAS.

Baie Verte, Oct. '95.