

into the sacred association of becoming a friend of the Most High God, yet that is His promise, and we would not so dishonor Him as to doubt it. Then we cannot begin to measure the good accruing from each one connected with our Society—from the one holding the most important and responsible position down to the youngest, weakest member—being completely under God's direction, knowing no will but His. There would not be the hindrances we now have to encounter, but the work of our Society would move gloriously forward. Let us as individuals besiege the throne of grace that we may first be made willing to surrender our wills to God's; and, secondly, that the surrendering may be most complete and entire.

WE would like to take this opportunity to thank the many friends for kindly wishes expressed—verbal as well as written. We could not well tell you how much they have helped to “strengthen the weak hands;” and even if we have appeared to receive them in silence, because fast-speeding time would not allow us to reply individually, they have been none the less appreciated. We thank you one and all most heartily, and can but say:

“If any deed, or thought, or word of mine  
Has ever given delight or consolation,  
Ye have repaid me back a thousand fold,  
By every friendly thought and salutation.”

### A Fireside Chat With Discouraged Workers.

“**F**EAR thou not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

Again our fireside circle is complete, again the ruddy glow of the flames seems to almost transform the tired, discouraged lines on each face into lines of placidity and restfulness. But we know such change can be only momentary, and so, in the beginning of the New Year, we want each discouraged worker to claim as her especial property for the entire year the above promise, which will appear each month in your corner. If you do we cannot but predict that before the year has again numbered her days our circle will be most perceptibly lessened. Dare we be entirely cast down, dare we be completely discouraged with such a strong tower in which to flee?

Well, we find that to Corresponding-Secretaries of Auxiliaries there is no exemption from drawbacks and discouragements, although the burden of responsibility may not rest as heavily upon them as upon some of the other officers.

“That is just one of the difficulties,” said a Corresponding-Secretary. “There seems so little we can do to brighten or help our monthly meetings; the Recording Secretary and Treasurer always have some kind of a report, and so often we are obliged to say ‘no report;’ except quarterly, we have little or no correspondence so what are we to do?”

We have experienced the same difficulty, and in reply would say, “report something.” Could you not

make it your special duty during the month to be on the lookout for some particularly important item of missionary intelligence? Do not here fall into the error of giving or reading anything lengthy—let the selection be brief, pointed and enthusing. This will not only be helpful to your Auxiliary but to yourself as well. Then, dear Corresponding-Secretary, do you pray for the success of the monthly meetings as you should, or do you pray *at them*? We have attended Auxiliary meetings time and again and never once heard the Corresponding-Secretary open her lips in prayer. Perhaps the other officers did not, but does their non-doing free you from the responsibility of a lost opportunity of helpfulness; perchance some timid member in the rear ranks wanted and felt she should take part in the devotional exercises, but she kept waiting for you or some of the other officers, and more than one lost the blessing and privilege of intercessory prayer for those in darkness.

What about the OUTLOOK subscribers? In the smaller Auxiliaries this work devolves upon the Corresponding-Secretary; in the larger places another member is usually appointed to take charge of the interests of the OUTLOOK. If the latter is your position, then do not imagine no further responsibility rests upon you; bring the matter up occasionally at the monthly meetings, urging every member to become an OUTLOOK subscriber; inquire if all are getting their paper regularly, etc. Show the importance of all taking *Leaflets* and *Reports*. If we would have missionary enthusiasm, missionary information must precede it.

Do you keep others informed about your local work? It might become a source of encouragement to many to learn of how you are prospering. When you have anything especially noteworthy, embody it in a short, bright article. (If for the OUTLOOK, please remember not longer than fifteen lines.)

What about your Quarterly and Annual Reports? “Ah, there you have touched upon a sore point.” A chorus of voices exclaim, “I never feel as if my annual report at least is correct, but somehow it seems so hard to make the Treasurer's and my report agree,” etc. Yes, that is all too true. We have a very distinct recollection of a certain Branch meeting in particular, when a certain long-suffering Branch Corresponding-Secretary made such an appeal for more careful preparation of the reports, basing her remarks on the fact that out of the one hundred and fifteen reports sent in only *eleven* were found to be correct. If you studied and followed carefully the printed directions, you could not go far astray, could you? Do not do the work hurriedly; be painstaking and systematic. Give of your best to the work. Magnify your office. Pray much for the wisdom and guidance which cometh from above—it will be granted, and difficulties will melt away. Lean heavily this year on *your* promise, and the discouragements will vanish. But, there, actually the last faggot spark has faded away. Have we woman-like talked too long? “Gude night,” and good-bye, until in a month's time we again gather around our fireside.