

W. F. M. Society. She read of the plans for work and for organization; but there were no other women around her interested enough to help form an auxiliary, and she could learn of none near enough to which she could send her name. But she must help that Society,—she must do something.

What could she do to help that work? Then she read of "miteboxes." Yes, she could have a box; so when the holiday time came, and she went home from her busy days of sewing, she spoke to her mother about a family "mitebox." It was in the days of paper collars. A little round paper-collar box was soon found, the cover fastened on, and a slit cut in the top; string was passed through the side, and then the box was fastened to the wall in the sitting room. On this was written, "Mitebox for the W.F.M.S."

Then she said to her mother: "I will mark some of God's blessings to me by sending offerings to go in this box with the rest of the family. At the close of the year please open it, and send the money to the nearest Society." The mother gladly accepted the trust; and husband, daughters, all, were urged to make sacrifices, and drop pennies and nickels into the box when they could, as thank offerings for special blessings. They promised that as soon as the box was full it should be opened, and the contents counted and sent off.

Sometime after, it was noticed that the box began to look heavy; then that the bottom was beginning to break away from the side. Cord was wrapped round it from back to front. It grew heavier, and more cord was wrapped round and round, from side to side. Still the weight increased, and the strain on the poor little box grew worse. Again cord was tied around from back to front, then over the nail in the wall, then round the box again; and so it was braced and wrapped, and tied, till I don't know whether there was more box or cord. A mother-bird, repairing the ravages of time in the nest which sheltered her birdlings, could not have watched more anxiously, nor cared for them more tenderly, than did this mother in Israel watch and care for her treasure, the precious box which held a little help for the perishing sisters so far away.

Month after month, the pennies dropped, and the strings were wound. Sometimes it seemed that the box would give way in spite of all, but it held; and finally the mother said the box was full. With great interest and curiosity, it was tenderly taken down.

Moist eyes watched the counting of the sacred pennies and silver, for each piece meant some sacrifice or some special reason for thanksgiving. When it was announced that over twelve dollars had been sheltered in this oddly woven missionary bird's nest, there was great joy over their first collection. Where could it be sent? There was no Society near, and this sacred money, had to be sent out of the state, to find a channel by which it might reach the waiting ones who knew not Christ.

But its work was not all done over the seas, for more than once has this story of a woman's faithfulness and earnestness deepened the feeling of responsibility in other hearts. And if a broader circle now read of the box and cords, we pray that the interest awakened may bind other hearts to those who "sit in the darkness," with a "Three-fold cord of love."

Foochow, China.

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