

that we shall all press toward the mark of the prize of our high calling of God in Jesus Christ.

#### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The year just closed has been one of unusual blessing to the dear workers in India, by giving them the largest number of conversions they have ever had.

So we begin the day with a note of praise and thanksgiving. I would mention three reasons why we should especially thank God for the past year.

1st. For the large numbers that have accepted Christ as their Saviour, and united with the churches.

2nd. For sparing all our missionaries and increasing their number.

3rd. For granting us the privilege of helping to send God's message to the Telugus, by giving us the desire to sustain the work with our prayers and gifts. Shall we not search our hearts and see if we have done all we *could* and all we *should* to help Foreign Mission?

How different the outlook now, to what it was years ago.

When early in the past Century Dr. Duff, while studying the secluded and degraded condition of women in India, said, "To try to educate women in India was as vain as to attempt to scale a wall 500 yards high." Dr. Duff, "great as was his wisdom, was not able to see that in the last quarter of the Nineteenth Century a great army of women of holy heart and life would invade India, and prove mighty through God, not only to scale that wall, but to *throw* it down." It is they and they alone who can reach the women of India. This is why as an organization our Womens' Foreign Missionary Society exists. We are workers together with our Home Missionary Society. One is our Master, even Christ. Our aims and efforts are one and there is something inspiring in the thought, that we all are helping to carry out Christ's last command to "preach the Gospel to every creature."

That our work may be more thorough and effective, separate organizations are needful. This is why we have various branches of work in our churches. All criticism of woman's work as leading to the diversion of funds from the General Treasury falls before the well-known facts, that as a rule the churches with the most active Women's Circles are the most generous contributors to our General Boards. If missionary information and interest as is too often the case

in our churches, is largely confined to the women of these societies, how important to have their hearts and minds broadened by this work. By this means many loving hearts, generous hands, and vigorous intellects which otherwise might have remained unknown, have been discovered and developed.

Many have learned in recent years that women in heathen lands are preventing hosts of men from becoming Christians, and that in India there never will be found noble men until the homes are blessed with good and enlightened women.

Years ago the great problem was, how to reach the mothers of India. Lady missionaries have solved that problem, under God they have opened Zenana doors and have told the story of redeeming love to the burdened and sorrowing hearts of those within.

We cannot expect women secluded all their lives, who know nothing of the outside world but what their husbands tell them, to exert much influence for good. But our lady missionaries established schools, trained teachers and Bible-women whose work is telling on hundreds of these people already. The influence of these women is felt in all branches of the work, and they are an inspiration for good wherever they go. Would that the large number of women in our home churches who have not experienced the joy of sharing in this work realised the blessing lost to themselves in the eternal joy and happiness it is their privilege to give to darkened lives burdened with sin.

Our new ladies, who went out last year, Misses Pratt and Corning, were heartily welcomed and at once shared with the overburdened ladies on the field in the double work with which some of them were overburdened. Yet much of their time had to be given to the study of the language, and adapting themselves to their new and strange surroundings. But imagine if you can the special joy they felt in having with them again Misses Folsom and Baskerville, the honored and loved principles of our English and Telugu Boarding schools. The sisters have served long and well, and are beloved and respected by all who know them. At present all are well and hoping soon to welcome back those who have done such excellent work among us during their home visit, and who are now on their way to India.

Let us not forget to pray for these our devoted representatives. They have relinquished much