

A correspondent, a lady, of very practical ideas, writes, suggesting, in view of the state of our Foreign Mission Funds, and the rapidly enlarging work, that instead of the "hap-hazard" method of depending upon collections, each person in every congregation be canvassed, and their subscription obtained, payable monthly, weekly, or at any other regular time. The result would be that each subscriber would feel an individual responsibility now unknown, interest in Missions and giving to Missions would be greatly increased, and the Foreign Mission Committee, knowing from subscriptions exactly what money it would receive, could arrange its expenditure accordingly. The idea of this good lady, with system and organization, is helping to make the W.F.M.S. so successful. What is needed in every congregation is the Missionary Society, consisting of all the congregation, organized for work.

The story of the sending of Dr. Leslie and Rev. Mr. Griffiths to Honan should be an example and a stimulus to the Church. The former, when very young, gave himself to the Foreign Field, and studied medicine to that end. When his course was completed, and he offered his services to the F.M. Committee, a few months ago, they could not with the present debt upon the Fund, assume new burdens.

Erskine Church, Montreal, of which he was a member, guaranteed, by individual subscriptions, his support for five years, in addition to her present giving for missions. His appointment was accordingly made.

But there was another young man, Mr. Griffiths, who last spring completed, at Knox College, his course for the ministry. He too wished to go, but there were no funds. Dr. Leslie, who has a little private means, devoting it, as well as himself, to God, for humanity; got two or three others to join him in guaranteeing support to Mr. Griffiths for four or five years, and now both are on their way to the work to which they have given their lives. These examples shew what can be done when there is a willing mind, and should soon lead to the clearing off of the debt on the F.M. Fund, East and West, and the sending of more men and women to the work,

Perils of various kinds attend mission life. The Editor of "The Exchange," the MS. weekly of Hsin Chen, Honan, says:—"Within a week's time four scorpions were killed in the Editor's office—to wit, his bedroom. While at morning ablutions, one was found in the face cloth, three others were discovered at different times by the side of the bed, while still another was found near the knob on a door in another room. Well-armed search parties, with lighted candles, can be seen every night, about eight o'clock, when the enemy, who has been lying in ambush all day, comes out from under cover to frolic and forage."

#### FALLEN AMONG THIEVES.

Perhaps there is "nothing new under the sun," but there are some things that, to say the least, are not common. Our Missionaries at Chang te Fu, Honan, one morning found their well stolen, i.e., all of it that could be carried off.

Another time some curtains that enclosed a part of their Chapel and dispensary disappeared in a very mysterious way.

"A very mean man stole the wheel of Mr. Goforth's barrow the other night. Perhaps he is the man who started about a year ago to steal our well, and brought the bricks to sell to us."

Another theft at the same station is described as follows:—"One morning we were rudely awakened by the announcement of our cook, that some one had stolen the kitchen chimney. Since the well and curtain episodes, we have been prepared for almost anything; but we were simply astounded at the sight that met our eyes. Of that chimney, the crowning effort of Mr. McGillivray's architectural genius, nothing now remained but the lower half and a hole in the roof. Entering the kitchen through this hole, the thieves carried off about everything that was small enough to go through the hole. Up to date about 30 articles have been missed, including the week's washing, tea kettle, teapot, dishes, etc., etc.

Breaking into the cook's strong box, which contained over 7,000 cash (\$3.50), they abstracted the cash and some other things.

The only clue we have so far is the certainty that the thief who entered the kitchen could not have been more than 14 inches in diameter.