

has been put into the hands of our Association. We have undertaken, in a higher strength than our own, the conduct and support of the Labrador Mission, which, as a light in a dark place, is shining on a desolate coast, and furnishes the comfort and hope of the Gospel to those who would otherwise sit in darkness. It is true that the coast is not very thickly peopled, and that the means of living are so precarious that it might seem to some that it would be better to have the inhabitants come to some region where the Gospel is preached, rather than to have it sent specially to them at some expense. This, however, is a matter entirely beyond our control.

Some God-implanted instinct in the heart of man seems to impel him to inhabit the desolate places of the earth, as well as those rich and fertile lands, where a swarming humanity is bountifully supported by nature, and in either case, *our duty* is the same—to preach the Gospel to every creature. The more scattered the population, the more claim has it, in one way, upon Christian sympathy and aid, as being less able to support a settled minister. However, be the abstract question as it may, there is no question in our own minds. We believe that we have been called of God to this special work, and cannot neglect or relinquish it without sin. We are to do good as we have opportunity, and this opportunity has been given us of doing good to these fishermen—of gathering them and their families regularly for religious services—of teaching the children and of working among the sailors who in summer visit the coast, and we cannot, dare not, let it slip.

The mission is far from being an expensive one. Thanks to the disinterested zeal of the missionaries, the yearly expenditure, since it came into our hands, has been less than that connected with the support of an ordinary small church at home, notwithstanding the fact, that all provisions and household supplies have to be sent hundreds of miles. So far, the requisite funds have come in from various sources, as they were needed; but for many reasons it is desirable that there should be fixed sources of incomes, on which to rely year by year. We hoped to get most of what is needed

from the Sunday-schools connected with our denomination, but though many of these have contributed generously, and repeatedly, it has become evident that we can hardly depend on them for regular subscriptions to any great extent.

Now, it has occurred to us that as our Association is composed of ladies, we ought to appeal to the ladies of other churches for the needed assistance. The main feature of our Association, as distinguished from these sewing circles &c., found in many of the churches, is, that the money we raise is *collected*, not worked for. Books are prepared containing the names of every lady connected with the church, and collectors are appointed, who call monthly, quarterly, or yearly as the latter are disposed to give. The books and money are brought in to the social monthly meetings, at which business matters are arranged, missionary intelligence read, and Dorcas and other church work discussed.

Now it has seemed to us that in many churches such Associations might be formed with great profit to the members; a livelier interest would be taken in missionary matters, and a larger amount of money raised for such purposes. While strongly urging the formation of such Associations in all churches where they do not exist, we do not wish to dictate as to the expenditure of money thus collected. The greater part would be given to whatever cause is nearest the hearts of the members, but we would ask that some portion of the annual income be regularly devoted to the support of the mission at Labrador. (This request applies equally to sewing circles making money by their work.) We ask you prayerfully to consider this whole subject, and if you see meet to form such an association, we trust that you will be willing to set apart a certain definite sum yearly for this work—be it five, ten, twenty or fifty dollars, it will be joyfully received. We do not so much wish for large sums, as to know with some certainty, what we can count on to meet our yearly expenses. In some places the ladies of different denominations have united to form an auxiliary to the "Women's Board of Missions," and in