

## Among The Circles

### I HAVE AN ENGAGEMENT

Mrs. John Turner, Almonte

I think we women are not very far removed from the folk of long ago, who, when invited to a feast, all with one consent, began to make excuse.

"I married a wife, and, therefore, I cannot come."

"I bought a piece of land."

"I bought a yoke of oxen."

Our President, fearful for the success of the meeting which she has had on her mind all month calls up Mrs. A. to remind her of it and is met with this response.

"I have a baking of bread on hand to-day and will come if I get it out in time."

Bread has a way of refusing to be hurried. Could she not have planned to bake a day sooner or later?

The President then tries Mrs. B.

"Oh, I forgot all about it!"

People never forget what they are interested in, do they?

Mrs. C. says, "I planned to go to town before I ever thought of the meeting."

But Mrs. C., you knew a month ago that the 2nd Tuesday or Thursday as the case may be, was Circle day. And it was announced from the pulpit on Sunday. Why forget? This reason may satisfy you, but not your President. Would you have planned to go to town, had you had an invitation to tea, or a party, or a drive?

"My husband had decided to go that day."

But could you not have persuaded him to go a day sooner or later, or let him get you the things you need? **Could you not?**

"I was invited to afternoon tea and my hostess would not like it had I refused."

Probably not. But you had an other engagement. Should not all our Circle meetings be that? I think she would have been anxious to know what a Circle meeting was like when you refused to miss it, and it kept you from her tea. She might have been so curious to know, she would perhaps have gone to the next one, had you invited her.

"A friend came to call, just as I was going out."

Why not invite her to go along with you?

She would understand, or if she were staying the rest of the day, excuse yourself for your engagement.

"I have so much to do at home, I couldn't spare the time."

Very true. Most of us could plead that excuse, nevertheless, if it were a picnic, or a concert, or the golf links, would you be too busy? It is only one hour a month.

"The meetings are so uninteresting."

But did you help to improve them? Did you give any thought during the month to the study of the topic, search for any bright bit of intelligence, pray for its success? **Did you?**

"I can't do anything to help. I am so timid."

Yes, most of us are just that way. Our hearts are in our mouths when asked to take a part in the meeting. But surely the most timid can read a few verses of Scripture, or repeat a sentence in prayer. You forget the promise, "Fear not, I will be with thee," and "As thy days so shall thy strength be?"

"I have so little to give. I need the money for other purposes."

Perhaps you do. Did the Lord say, "It is a pity the widow gave her all that day?" She should have kept it for her own need." Do you think He allowed her to go hungry when she went back to her humble home? He is the same Lord. "Bring ye in the tithes I will pour out a blessing."

"I'd rather give what I can all at once."

Most of us would have little to give when the time came, did we not lay aside.

"My husband doesn't believe in women's societies. He thinks they never accomplish much."

Did you ever tell him what it accomplishes? That we are a band of women over 200,000 strong, contributing more than one million dollars for the uplift of humanity? Did you ever talk of it—of our schools, and homes and hospitals, and social service, and strangers' work? of the Indians, and the New Canadians? of the great foreign field? Did you?

"My husband does not believe in missions."

Well, I admit you have a difficult row to hoe, but that is no reason why you should