

Woman's Missionary Society

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Barrie, Ont.

"For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations."—Is. lx. 11.

THE Conferences are over, and we are much pleased to note that the representatives from the Woman's Missionary Society have been warmly received, their addresses highly appreciated, and the Society acknowledged as a powerful and growing factor in the missionary work of the Church.

Reviewing the great work of woman in every department of Church work, from the kitchen or culinary department (once, and even yet so prominent), through the Sunday-school, the classes, the benevolences, the missionary collecting, up to the organization and development of the Woman's Missionary Society, one may well exclaim, Where would the great Church organization be without the work of woman! No doubt there would be abundant hair-splitting theology, doctrine and discipline, there might even be membership, but it must be acknowledged the great heart and body of the Church, its very life-blood, is supplied by the devotion and fidelity of its women. We want women to think of this—think of it with gratitude to God, and you will come to think of it with a purpose that shall produce the best results to the world.

Did not a woman found our beloved Methodism? Did not another woman originate the idea of Sunday-schools? And yet another found the Church on this continent? The greatest movements to-day for the uplifting of the world have been planned and developed by women. The great Woman's Christian Temperance Union, with its many-sided operations, are all pushed, amid frequent and violent opposition, by women. With their enlarged privileges, God is teaching and leading women in a most marvellous manner, and the germ-seed of woman's consecrated effort to-day is, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do

unto you, do ye also to them"—the glorious golden rule, the keynote of the grand millennial chorus which is one day to echo round the world. The absolute violation of this simple Gospel principle which the Great Teacher enunciated, is the source of the unrest, the strife, the woes of the world to-day. Who can read the history of our day, as it comes to us fresh every morning from all over the world, without feeling that the burden of earth's sorrows is a wild, deep wail for justice?

With the progress of Christianity, women must share the privileges and responsibilities of Church government, as they now share the privileges of education, so long denied them; and it should be the aim of all Christian women to study the history and methods of the Church and prepare to take their place in the Church councils. In our own Church, women by the office of class-leader, are entitled to seats on the Quarterly Board, but how few avail themselves of their privilege and responsibility, or see in them a duty to be performed for God in a class-meeting, than it is to speak and vote in a business meeting? The latter may require more grace, and that is possibly one reason why the duty should be undertaken. Right in the heart of the Church we give practical recognition to that very fallacious principle of distinction between sacred and secular, where we should instead teach, that *all duty is sacred*. "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

"Ah! long the storm, yet none the less
Hid from the utmost reach of ill,
And singing in the wilderness,
Some small sweet hope waits blithely still."

THE Woman's Missionary Society, increasing as it is, is fast binding our women in one great, tender, loving sisterhood. We have a common heritage, the "gift of our Lord Jesus Christ," and in the bonds of our common Methodism and the development of our missionary work, "we know one another."

In this most happy result we are thankful to say, the MISSIONARY OUTLOOK has done its share. In coming to our work every month, we seem to feel the presence of a warm and tender friendship, and passing under review our own correspondence, papers, etc., and revelling in the opportunity we have of keeping near also to the great heart-beat of womanhood in the movements of the times, we just begin to realize what an agency this little paper, or some other, might be in the homes of our Canadian Methodism. True, we have the dear old *Guardian*, the friend of our lifetime, but would it not be delightful to have a sheet all our own coming into the homes fresh every month, bringing us into friendship and sympathy with those