

months they will surrender them again and stand bare and shivering, that the soil beneath them may be enriched; and the lovely blossoms that now fill the air with their fragrance will quickly fade and fall that, in their place, may come the perfected fruit. And so on, all through the whole cycle of Nature.

"Nought lives for itself."

The clouds, whose glory is to die in showers,  
The fleeting streams, who, in their ocean graves  
Flee the decay of stagnant self-content;  
The oak, ennobled by the shipwright's axe,  
The soil which yields its marrow to the flowers,  
All spend themselves on others."

And it is only as they so spend themselves, that they reach their highest development.

Supposing the little stream were one day to say, "I am tired of this busy life, I don't see why I should forever have to go hurrying on to keep the earth moist and the grass green; I shall just settle down quietly for awhile and enjoy myself." The result would be that the sparkling, rushing waters would soon be transformed into a dark stagnant pool, giving out only unhealthy odors.

Or supposing the fair white lily were to think within itself, "Why should I always have to give back again the light which shines upon me? I will keep it to myself after this, surely I have a right to do so." Instead of remaining a thing of beauty, the lily's pure petals would turn a dull black and its beauty be gone.

God has decreed that all life shall be accompanied by service, and God's laws cannot be disregarded without punishment. The gifts of the munificent Creator must be made use of, or they will be taken away.

We find this truth strikingly illustrated also in our own physical life. The law of all our bodily powers is "use or lose," and those members of which we make the most use are the ones that are most fully developed.

But most of all do we find this true of the highest form of life, the Spiritual.

"Give, and it shall be given unto you," or, keep to yourself and lose even that little you may have; the decree is unalterably established, "With what measure ye mete shall it be measured to you again"; just according to the amount and quality of your giving will be the measure of your receiving. A deeply solemn truth, is it not? and well worthy our earnest consideration and full realization.

We are gathered here to-day as a company of women who are pledged to the service of a King. What kind of service is it that we assume with the name of Christian? What does our King ask of us, His servants? He asks that we should help Him in bringing a lost world back to His God; there is some special way in which He wants each one of us to help; He does not ask impossible tasks of us, but only that we should do just what we can to

help in making known the blessed story of Jesus and His love in all lands, to every creature: our neighbor next door, or our neighbor across the seas. This is Mission Work. Now to do this we must give, give of our time, of our thought, of our energy, of our money; nay, more than this, perhaps give those we love, or even life itself. It is no light thing to become a partner with Jesus Christ in this work of proclaiming His glorious Gospel; it is going to mean sacrifice all the way along—that is, the full, complete life service. Of course it is very possible to give intermittent service, scraps of time, fragments of energy, a little money; yes, we may give so and never feel it particularly. But we are not talking of such giving, benefits there must be from any smallest ministry done for the sake of our King; but only from giving that cost shall we get returns of highest value, and so we are going to consider to-day the benefits which come from giving all, the rewards which will be hers who says, "Lord, here am I, a poor unworthy, sinful creature at best, do what Thou canst with me, for I give myself over in glad and willing submission to be used as Thou wilt, and only for Thy service." That is the beginning of true giving; it will be followed by all sorts of service, as the Lord directs. And now as to the results which follow such "true-hearted, whole-hearted" service. First intellectual, is it not perfectly marvellous what God can make of the most ignorant, unlearned man when the new Christ life has taken possession of him? Take William Carey, for instance, the humble cobbler, when fired by enthusiasm to proclaim the Gospel to those sitting in the darkness of heathendom, became triumphant over every obstacle, from mastering one language he went on to such proficiency, that before his death he had translated the whole or portions of the Bible into forty dialects, and so one of the indirect results of his devotion to mission work was that he became one of the foremost oriental scholars of his day. And how many men there have been in the Christian Church who have had no educational advantages, and who probably would have remained ignorant and obscure throughout their lives had they not been taken hold of by the desire to win men for Christ; they have commenced to study the Bible, and the result of their study is that their mental powers have been developed, their ideas have been enlarged, and they have acquired habits of thought, and gifts of utterance before unknown to them. So it will be with us, in whatever work we undertake for the Master, you become leader of a Mission Band, let us say, that means that you must make yourself acquainted with the history of missions in order to intelligently teach the children committed to your care. The study of missions will open up to you wide and varied fields of knowledge, of which you were probably ignorant before, knowledge of countries, their history, religions, people and customs,