

"I need not tell Thee who I am ;
My misery and sin declare ;
Thyself hast called me by my name—
Look on Thy hands, and read it there.
But who, I ask Thee— who art Thou ?
Tell me Thy name, and tell me how.

"In vain Thou strugg'lest to get free—
I never will unloose my hold !
Art Thou the Man that died for me ?
The secret of Thy love unfold :
Wrestling, I will not let Thee go
Till I Thy name, Thy nature know !

"My prayer hath power with God : the grace
Unspeakable I now receive,
Through faith I see Thee face to face ;
I see Thee face to face, and live !
In vain I have not wept and strove :
Thy nature and Thy name is Love,

"Lame as I am, I take the prey ;
Well, earth, and sin, with ease o'ercome ;
I leap for joy, pursue my way,
And, as a bounding hart, fly home,
Through all eternity to prove
Thy nature and Thy name is Love."

May God add His blessing to His Word !
"When I am weak, then am I strong."

AN APPEAL FROM WOMEN IN CHINA

(From more than two hundred ladies, members of the Missionary Conference held in Shanghai in May, 1890.)

To the Christian women of the British Empire, the United States, Germany, and all other Protestant countries' greeting :

We, the women of the Missionary Conference now assembled in Shanghai, come to you, our sisters in Christ, with an urgent appeal in behalf of the one hundred millions of women and children of China who "sit in darkness and in the shadow of death."

The work of the women in China has been prosecuted at the oldest stations for about fifty years, at first chiefly by the wives of missionaries ; but in later years single ladies have largely augmented this working force. There are now ladies engaged in educational, medical, and evangelistic work in China. Much has been done by them, many lives have been uplifted from the degradation of idolatry and sin, many sad hearts comforted, many darkened minds enlightened, and much solid good effected. But our hearts are burdened to-day with love and pity for the millions of women around us, our sisters, for whom Christ died, still unreached by the sound of the Gospel.

Beloved sisters, if you could see their sordid misery, their hopeless, loveless lives, their ignorance and sinfulness, as we see them, mere human pity would move you to do something for their uplifting. But there is a stronger motive that should impel you to stretch out a helping hand, and that we plead—the constraining love of Christ. We who are in the midst of this darkness that can be felt, send our voices across the ocean to you, our sisters, and beseech you by the grace of Christ our Saviour that you come at once to our help.

Four kinds of work are open to us :

1. There is school work in connection with our various missions, which in many cases the men have handed over to the women in order that they themselves may be free to engage more directly in evangelistic work.

2. There is work to be done for the sick and suffering women of China in hospitals, dispensaries, and homes, for which skillful physicians are needed. Most of this work can be better done by women than by men, and much of it can be done only by women.

3. There is work for us in the families of the Church. There are converted mothers and daughters who need to be caught the way of the Lord more perfectly, and to be trained in whatever is necessary for their full development into lively members of the great household of faith.

4. There is a work of evangelization among women, similar to that being done by men among the people at large. It is not claimed that the evangelization of women cannot be done at all by men—but that there is more of it than men can do, there is much of it that will never be done unless women do it, and much that men cannot do as well as women can. There is nothing in this kind of work transcending the recognized scriptural sphere of women. Women received from the Lord himself upon the very morning of the resurrections their commission to tell the blessed story of a risen Saviour. What they did then we may continue to do now.

But, you will ask, who are needed for this work ? Knowing the conditions of life and work in China, we would answer that :

1. They should be women of sound health, of good ability, and good common sense, also well educated—though not necessarily of the highest education—apt to teach, kind and forbearing in disposition, so that they may live and work harmoniously with their associates, and win the hearts of the Chinese. Above all, they should be women who have given themselves wholly to the Lord's work, and are prepared to bear hardship and exercise constant self-denial for Christ's sake.