

✻ PALM BRANCH ✻

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JANUARY, 1896.

 As we take our pen to write the first editorial of the New Year, the gentle rebuke of the Lord to Samuel, 1st Saml. 16, 1, comes forcibly to mind. "How long wilt thou mourn?"—"fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee." Could anything be more appropriate than these words for us, dear readers, standing as we do on the threshold between the old year and the new? They come especially to those who are disheartened and prone to dwell on the failures and disappointments of the year that has gone. And are we not all too apt to be discouraged, forgetting the source of our strength? There is no doubt that there is a dark side for many of us missionary workers, and often to this burden we are bearing for others, comes a burden, perhaps a sorrow, of our own. What then? "How long wilt thou mourn?" God's remedy for all sorrow is action! but first, fresh consecration to His blessed service. "Fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee." So let us go bravely on to meet the unfoldings of the new year, feeling that we go not "to this warfare at our own charges," but that with it will surely come His own grand compensation.

We must put aside other editorial matter to give our readers Mrs. Thomas' admirable paper, so much appreciated at our Sussex Branch meeting. We confess we would also like to see it published as a leaflet.

We wish all our readers a very happy New year.

WHOM SHALL WE SEND TO BRANCH?

 The momentous question we are now to consider, and I would like all present to unite with me in trying to find an answer. Realizing that every delegate would naturally be interested in this subject and that probably many would have some bright practical ideas to which they would like to give expression. I have tried to make this paper simply suggestive, hoping with your co-operation to arrive at a satisfactory solution of the difficulty.

My own idea of the matter can be summed up in a word—"Reciprocity." I would like always to send a delegate who would bring a great deal to the Branch

Meeting and who would also carry a great deal away.

First, I would like her to bring to the meeting a full realization and appreciation of the responsibility resting on our W. M. S. as a Society. Has it ever seemed strange to you that this work of proclaiming Christ to the nations has been taken in hand not by Kings, Governments, or even Churches, but by Societies? So far as is known only one church—the Moravian—gives as a reason for its existence the fact that it is, not *has*, a Missionary Society.

The great and good Carey, "Father of Missions," favored this idea. "Let the work be carried on" he writes "by Societies organized for the express purpose and controlled by those who long for the universal coming of His Kingdom." It being the fact then that this work is entrusted to Societies, how great the responsibility resting on those Societies, particularly on the leaders and officials. I wish every delegate could feel to some extent, what only God and themselves can fully realize, how heavy the burden resting on the hearts and minds of those who direct our work. Could they (the delegates) feel the responsibility they would surely help to bear it and so "fulfill the law of Christ." Next in order I would have every delegate bring a comprehensive *knowledge* of the work of our Society. What has been done, is being done and especially what is yet to be accomplished. Familiar as household words to her should be the names of our missionaries, fields of labor etc. I would like her to have definite and practical ideas concerning the work to be done at the present meeting, also a knowledge of parliamentary forms, why we use them, the state of treasury and so on. A general knowledge of mission work as carried on all over the world will wonderfully enlarge her horizon. A delegate prepared in this way will not only be able to take an intelligent interest in the work of the meeting, but also render valuable aid in carrying it on. Further, without this *knowledge* she is apt to lack the *third* qualification which is I think, *zeal in and for the work*, for zeal, in more senses than one, is often "according to knowledge." How can one be zealous in a cause of which they know little or nothing, and what can be accomplished in any cause without zeal? "No one does much without it, everyone does better with it." It overcomes difficulties as fire overcomes every resisting object, and we have need of it for there are difficulties yet to be overcome, for great as our success has been in the past the main result has been to open up the way for still greater work in the future, therefore let us be "zealously affected in a good cause." And surely a delegate should bring a heart consecrated to God and God's work. This indeed should rank first, as herein lies our power. John Wesley said that if he had one hundred men who loved no one but God and feared nothing but sin, he would set up the Kingdom of God on earth and shake the gates of hell in twelve months. Yes! we must give ourselves. Organization does much for us but organization is not *life*, and it is life we need. A poet represents Christ as saying:

"Who gives himself, with his gifts feeds three,
 Himself, his braving neighbor and Me."

Also, I would have my delegate bring to the work a cheerful, sunny spirit. Do not bring discredit on