

woman, in such cases, will gain access to the home, when, in many cases, it is impossible for the missionary to do so. Women are, in general, easy of access, if it is a woman they have to deal with. Women have more confidence in one another in this kind of work than they have in men, especially when it is a stranger that presents himself. Women are more communicative with one another than they are or could be with men. The Bible-woman who is polite and affable in her manners can gain access to and be welcome in almost any home she desires to visit.

We must, however, draw exceptions to this rule whenever the subject of conversation is upon religious matters. The Bible-woman is welcome everywhere until the priest arouses the people against her.

When the men are at home the Bible-woman will be less liable to be molested than a man, for it is seldom that a man would so far forget himself as to be rude to a woman, even if he does not enter into her views. As she visits from house to house, she reads the Bible, exhorts and prays with the family when she is allowed to do so. This a man cannot always do.

The Bible-woman is better listened to than the missionary because it is something new for a Roman Catholic to have a woman talk on religious subjects, and even if it is out of curiosity she will be heard.

When a woman is ill it is impossible for a man to take care of her, but it is a good opportunity for the Bible-woman to gain access to the home, care for the sick one, render all the services she can, and speak of the Saviour at the same time. In times of trouble everyone is ready to hear something on the subject of religion, and especially of the Saviour. She can also visit poor families, help them through others, work for them, clothe them, set the house in order, and, in general, do what a man cannot do under such circumstances. Thus she has in her power the means of doing much good, and, if not winning souls to God, at least awake them to the sense of their religious duties.

Nobody will contest the advantages that a woman has over a man in this kind of missionary work. Her services are also invaluable to the Protestant pastor in the discharge of his duties to Protestant families. In his absence she replaces him with great advantage to the Church. It is a fact, that those who have been converted and are persecuted wait with anxiety for the visit of the pastor or the Bible-woman at least once a week. By praying with them and exhorting them, they take courage and feel that they are not alone to fight the good fight. They then become more zealous and more eager in the discharge of their religious duties. They attend more regularly the services on Sunday and during the week. Therefore, I consider these weekly visits among our Protestant converted families of the utmost importance to our work.

I love the work in which I am engaged at the present time, because of the good which I can do. I have consecrated myself to this work because God has commanded us to love Him and to love our neighbors, and to do unto others as we would others should do unto us. Through God's special grace I have been redeemed from the world and its vanities, and I ought to show my love and gratitude toward Him. Through the instrumentality of a brother here present, I have been brought to the knowledge of the Gospel. By him I was led to the Saviour. Should I not, therefore, devote myself for others as others have devoted themselves for me?

There remains very little for me to say as to the encouragements of my work as a Bible-woman. I have visited a large number of families in Woonsocket, and found a large proportion of them too enlightened and too liberal in matters of religion to be sincere Roman Catholics, or likely to constitute a source of strength for that Church in the near future.

The Church of Rome has not now the authority upon the consciences of men that it once had. That Roman Catholics are losing confidence in their priests is evident by the fact of their readiness to speak about them and find fault with them. May the Lord Jesus Christ give them a complete deliverance, bringing them unto Himself through salvation.

I came in contact with a dozen families or so who said they did not attend any religious worship in any church, having, they said, no faith in the teachings of the Catholic Church. They would like to have united and come with us; yet they, each of them, have some excuses. Some of them are afraid to lose their employment; others, to incur the displeasure of their children or more distant relations; again, some say they would be persecuted by their neighbors.

O! may God touch the hearts of those timid souls who would rather please men than do the will of God. May God cause them to realize their weakness and ingratitude, and inspire them with the courage to do their duty in this important matter of man's obligations to God.

It is needless to speak about the discouragements we meet with in this work of French evangelization. Who among you pastors and missionaries here present does not know these discouragements? During the first two weeks of my work at Woonsocket I had no cause to complain. I met with a kind reception everywhere, but the priests, upon being acquainted with the object of my visits in the Roman Catholic families, denounced me from the pulpit; then commenced a series of discouragements which inspired me with the thought of abandoning a work that appeared to me so full of hardships. But I soon repented of this weakness. Had not my Saviour and Master said to me, "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad when you shall be persecuted, for your reward is great in the Kingdom of Heaven."

I thought of the good Saviour who, because of His love to me, did not refuse to drink to the dregs the bitter cup of insults, wicked treatment, and of sin. I resumed my work with more courage than ever. Well received in one place, being expelled from another, I remembered the words of the Saviour to His disciples: "When ye are not received in one place, go into another. I send you as lambs among wolves." Oh! why should I murmur now, Lord? Have I not accepted the conditions which Thou hast imposed upon me? Hast Thou not sufficiently rewarded me for the work I am doing, since Thou hast given me eternal life? Lord, Thou art my strength and my only hope; may Thy will be done, and Thy holy Name blessed forever more.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF EDITOR OF THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY DEPARTMENT.

RECEIVED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.

DEAR SISTERS,—From the nature of the work committed to me, a report of mine must differ in character from those to which you have listened. In this department of our work we have no statistics. It is not my privilege to tell you of the number of subscribers to the OUTLOOK, nor even of the number you have secured. We have nothing to do with that, nor yet can we give you a financial sheet, for none is published. Whatever may be the cost or the revenue of the OUTLOOK, is a matter, I suppose, outside of our province. We know, however, that as a society we have worked steadily for it; we have added to its receipts; and so I am not alone in thinking that it is not presumptuous in us to hope to see some report of its standing, as we frequently do in the reports of other missionary societies. I am quite sure it would be a source of satisfaction to us to know to what extent we have assisted it. Perhaps this will be forthcoming later on, and, if so, we shall all be well pleased.