

pils in many cases; support of teachers; books; tracts; bibles; medicines; salaries of missionaries, &c. How many societies we have at home to cover the same amount of ground! Is it right to have these societies? Ought not one society to be enough for our home missions, common schools, ministerial education, &c. &c.? Here is where specific donations come in, as also the work for the women and children of heathen lands by the women of Christian lands.

Whenever a party at home specifically donates a gift for foreign missions, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, he does about as he would in contributing to one of our many societies at home.

Our Foreign Mission Society has appropriated some hundreds of dollars for native preachers. Suppose some brother here says, "I will take a preacher and pay for him yearly." Does he not, by his gift, reduce the amount to which the society is liable for the support of native preachers? Is he withdrawing funds from the general society? The same remark applies to the work of the women of our churches. The estimates sent home by our missionaries and approved of, contain at least \$2,000 of work that the women are organized to do. Already the Board at Toronto of the ladies have taken \$450 of that \$2,000, and will take more just as fast as their funds warrant them in doing so. See Mrs. McLaurin's recent letter in the *Canadian Baptist*.

Do these societies, as some affirm, detract from the funds of the general society? They meet once a month to pray for, and talk about, and get information bearing on foreign missions. Does God hear prayer? Do not the information and interest which are the outcome of these meetings find their way into the community, and will not there influence for better the income of the General Society? I am sure they will, and eventually enormously so. If we had a circle in each of our churches, I would feel perfectly confident that the sum asked by our Foreign Mission Board this year would be raised to the *last cent*. I would know where to look for intelligently interested, capable canvassers, for the General Society. The first summer I was home I did my best in my native place, and got less than \$30. I, at the same time, organized a "circle." Last year, with no help of mine, over \$40 was raised for the General Society; the circle had its money besides. On the other hand I could mention a church where there is no "circle," and they will not have one, where the contribution of last year is below that of the previous year. Had there been a "circle" in that church and it had raised, as it might have, \$50, it would have been

at once said,—The "circle" has taken money from the "General Society."

I wrote to Dr. McKenzie, of Boston, on this point. I give his reply:—"I would say that the efforts of the Women's Societies, in the way of collecting funds, do not detract from the receipts of the Union. You look at it in this light. Last year they collected about \$40,000. Now, perhaps \$5,000 of that would have come into the treasury of the Union, if it had not gone into the treasury of the Women's Societies. But the Union had a real gain of \$35,000: for by their efforts that amount got into the fields of the Union, an amount that our fields would not have received but for the Women's Societies. Do you see how it works?"

Yes, I see how it works, and saw how it would work before I started our Ladies' Societies in Ontario and Quebec. Dr. McKenzie might have added truthfully that the increase in Foreign Mission interest was more than \$5,000, and five times that sum, which has resulted from the study of Foreign Missions in all the hundreds of "circles."

No, the opposition to these "circles" is born of no deep insight into, or love of the benighted millions of heathendom, or of a misunderstanding of the scope and aims of the "Women's work." I got the core of it the other day, when a brother told me he was not in favor of these circles. "Why," said he, "if all the women were to go into this, we should have all the other objects starved. They would get all the money for Foreign Missions." He and others had been talking about this matter, and the above was the very Christian decision reached. So there is a danger of having too much interest in a Christless world; and the interest must be strangled. I venture to say if we had interest enough to have every woman in our churches giving two cents a week to send the gospel to those that sit in darkness and the shadow of death, our *Home work* would be in a better state than it is to-day. But I did not start to write a long letter, but introduced the following excellent paper on "Woman's Work in Missions," by a man and a minister.

A. V. TIMPANY.

[Owing to the length of the paper in question, we shall be obliged to defer it till next month. EDITOR C. H.]

A SOCIAL, under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society of Alexander street church, will be held on Tuesday evening, February 26, for which an excellent programme is preparing. Tickets 20 cents, including refreshments. Go!

EARLY MEMORIES.

CONTINUED.

Passing over a couple of years, during which time I had so far recovered my health as to be able to do light work, and to walk without crutches, I was indeed to undertake a little school in a detached part of the settlement. I had fifteen pupils, varying in age from five to fifteen years, no one of whom, I think had ever been at my school before. My school house was a log shanty which had been erected by some men who had a job for clearing land; and when their job was done, having no further use for the shanty, they left it to the owner of the land, who being one of my employers, gladly allowed it to be converted into a seat of Learning. It was summer, and our number was small, and the shanty answered admirably. My fees were to be half a dollar a month for each pupil, not in cash, for there was very little of that in the settlement, but in trade: i.e. in such articles of home production or home manufactures, as the several families might have to spare. From one, for instance, I would get a straw hat, or a pair of socks; from another a pair of home-made linen trousers, or a home-made linen shirt, while some would send me a bushel or two of wheat or corn which I could exchange, perhaps with a shoemaker for a pair of shoes, or with a store keeper for articles not produced in the settlement.

My little experiment was a success. My pupils were advanced not only to the satisfaction of their parents, but to their astonishment,—far beyond their expectations, so that the next season I had no difficulty in getting a school in a more central position, with double the number of pupils. I taught nothing but reading, writing, and the ground rules of arithmetic. To say that nothing more was required would be perfectly true; but it would be only honest to admit that I was then capable of nothing more. Hitherto I had read much (at least all I could get) and thoughtfully; but I had formed no serious purpose of attempting to acquire an education. Indeed I had very vague notions of what was implied in that word. I read chiefly for the pleasure it gave me. It afforded me almost my only means of enjoyment. If I had any fixed object beyond this it was the acquisition of knowledge on as many subjects as possible. But having no method, classification, or arrangement, the knowledge I acquired was mixed and confused and of little value beyond personal gratification.—I now began to see the necessity of a more careful and distinct course of study. I was especially desirous of acquiring a good knowledge of grammar and arithmetic. But how was this to be accomplished? I knew of no school in the county in which the former branch was taught, nor any in the township where I would be likely to get much assistance in the latter. A circumstance occurred, however, early in the winter, which for a while promised to remove all my difficulties. A stranger arrived in the settlement, who, in the most confident manner professed to be a scholar. According to his own account he was a Scotchman, and a graduate of a Scotch University. He was in business however, and was here to purchase lumber for the American market. During the winter he would have very little