

thoughts that live, and words that burn ; provoking to love and zeal, and good works. Now comes the practical question. How shall we best compass this ? How shall we so conduct our meetings that all shall feel an interest in them, all be the better for them, all long for the appointed time, and feel the hours thus spent the shortest, the brightest in the day.

And here, Madame President, we have arrived at the very heart of my difficulty. It is easy to be theoretical ; but to be practical, to come down from the pedestal of lofty thoughts, and poetical imaginings, and carry these out into every day life ; to turn from the contemplation of a lovely landscape, with its varied lights and shadows ; its perfection of detail, its richness of coloring, its fullness of beauty, and suggestions of possibilities beyond the visible horizon ; to turn from all this and undertake, by patient study, by steady, plodding work, with imperfect tools and untested material, to produce a living copy of the same, will you not sympathize with me a little, Madame President, when I say it is not an easy task.

Of course, in all our gatherings, prayer and praise should have a large place ; might not our meetings be more attractive if more attention were given to preparation in these matters ? In every Christian society are some who are skilled in music and song ; let these talents be fully consecrated to the service of our God. Suppose a musical committee in every Missionary Auxiliary to take hold of this part of the proceedings, preparing for every meeting something appropriate and attractive in this line. How many sweet songs of Zion are there, which songs, as many of our members could sing them, would warm and cheer and inspire the souls of all present ; while we who are less highly gifted in this respect, would still join in where we could, making at least melody in the heart to our God.

The matter of prayer also requires much solemn, earnest forethought. We have one plain direction in Eccles. 5 : 2, "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thy heart be hasty to utter anything before God, for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth, therefore let thy words be few." Let every member in thinking of the meeting, study a little how she can best shape her thoughts in prayer ; for every one should be able to take part in this exercise, which practise will make easy, pleasant, and profitable ; a number of short prayers is always preferable ; and a little thought beforehand, on our needs, our wants, for ourselves, for others, especially in connection with the work of missions, will be time well spent, resulting in good to all, and in glory to our God. The preparation of the heart, as well as the answer of the tongue, comes from above. Let us seek that preparation, crying ever, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Touch Thou the lips, unloose the tongue,
Each thought and word inspire ;
Let our petitions rise to Thee,
Glowing with holy fire.
As fragrant incense, to our God,
May all our service be ;
And while it brings the grace to us,
Bring glory, Lord, to Thee.

Ladies, workers for the Lord, whatever part you take in a meeting, do, please, speak out. A soft, low voice is a sweet thing in woman, yes, as a rule, in the quiet home circle, in the sacred retirement of domestic life ; but not so sweet if she is leading you in prayer, saying or reading something in which you feel the greatest interest, and of which you can scarcely hear a word.

Next comes business. In my ideal meeting—every meeting—I would have a roll call. Each member present responding with an appropriate verse of scripture. I think this would be a benefit in several respects. (1) Each member of the Society would feel that she is needed, called by name, and would be more likely to feel it imperative to be there. (2) Every member might know at least the name of every other member, and thus a way be opened for further intercourse and mutual helpfulness ; for, friends, we may, if we will, help one another to be good, to be consistent and useful.

Your timely appreciation of my struggling efforts to add to the interest of a meeting may stimulate me in the use of some long-buried talent ; your kindly interest in my teething baby, or the suffering, fretful invalid of my home, may bring just the spot of sunshine into my life which I need, to keep me from discouragement and despondency. Your loving sympathy in my every day toils and trials, may help me over some rough place, may make my step lighter, my hand quicker, my heart happier and more thankful, and your bright talk of missions, of the pleasant meetings, and the joy found in working for God may make me long for such work too, may bring me oftener to the meetings and add another worker to the roll. Dear friends, we need more of this kind of Christian work. How is it that our meetings are so small ? that our Societies have so few names compared to the numbers on our church rolls ? Are we all doing our duty, or are we trying to hide ourselves behind the question, "am I my sister's keeper ?" The Lord enlighten us, as regards our duty in this respect.

To return to our missionary meeting. After business, comes what should be most attractive and improving, missionary intelligence, missionary letters ; the latter, of course, ranks first in interest. How pleasant, how cheering, to get words from far off friends, those whom we have seen, whose voices we have heard, whose hands we have pressed, whom we have helped to send forth as our representatives,