

longer in her control. Then her mind reverted to the pale pink and blue sofa-pillow, and the *recherche* pin-cushion. It was then and there decreed that they should forever remain uncreated, and every cent of what the materials would have cost handed into the missionary treasury. Not only was this done, but at the next meeting Mrs. Platt "gave her experience," and wound up her little speech by saying, "So I've come to the conclusion that I can very easily afford to pray and fuss over more than one dollar."

This set some of the other members to thinking. Of course, there were some who could not spare another cent to this particular cause. They had very little to give any way, and there were many demands upon their purses; but it is surprising how many there were in that comparatively limited circle who found that in one way or another they could increase their foreign contribution three or fourfold. For instance, there was Mrs. Willmar, the wife of a man with an exceedingly modest salary. She had no superfluous dresses or decorations; indeed even the necessities for a large family of small children were sometimes hard to procure. It seemed as though there was no way she could retrench a little without affecting the health and well-being of her family, and she knew that would not be right, but as she sat with her thinking-cup on one day, an idea popped into her head which caused her to exclaim, "There's the fruit cake!" She had always been in the habit of making a fruit-cake in the fall, not so much because it was a necessary or desirable thing to have, for Mr. Willmar never ate any of it, she did not care particularly for it herself and knew it was not the best kind of food to bring children up on, but just because her mother and grandmother before her had done the same, and she, without giving the matter much thought, supposed it to be a part of good house-keeping. "Now that is something we can all do without perfectly well," she said, and setting aside the customs of her forefathers she found her missionary money in the fruit-cake.

By dint of persistent thinking and careful planning most of the members were able to increase their contributions, and so it came to pass that the offering from the West Street church was much larger than ever before. It all came from the ill-natured remark of Mrs. Hoffman about

the prayers being out of all proportion to the gifts, and as there was never the shadow of a thought that the prayers should be curtailed to correspond with the giving there was only the other alternative, which, as has been seen, they adopted.—*Emma L. Burnett, in Philadelphia Presbyterian.*

DIME NOVELS.

The *Christian Intelligencer*, referring to the influence of the dime novel in corrupting and poisoning the minds and morals of our youth, and converting them into daring criminals, cites the following:

At the Central Police Station in Philadelphia on Thursday afternoon, eight boys, ranging in age from sixteen down to twelve years, were charged with burglary, highway robbery, and thieving in general. It was shown that the boys had formed an organization with Ritter, the youngest of the gang, as head chief. They rejoiced in such names as "Thunderbolt of the Prairie," "Dead Shot of Texas," and "Deer Foot." They explained that their intention was to steal anything they could, sell the goods, place the money in a general fund until a certain amount was secured, and then start for the West and become cowboys and highway robbers. They had already committed many thefts. When arrested they all had revolvers that had been stolen from Tryon's gun store in North Second street. The youngest of the crowd boasted that the gang was bound to do what they read of in the dime novels or die in the attempt.

A WISE RECOMMENDATION.

Knowing that the success of the missionary enterprise for the future depends in great measure, humanly speaking, upon the young people and children, we recommend that earnest efforts be made to interest all the children and youth of the home, Church, and Sunday-school in this work; and that we, as mothers and sisters, help them to gain a knowledge of the progress and continuance of "God's saving power among the heathen;" that we aim to instruct them in what the Bible teaches of first-fruits and tithes and free-will offerings, and to apply these precepts to themselves; that we be as eager to teach them what they become Christians for as to make them Christians; and that we encourage them to give from principle, not mere impulse.—*A. B. W. Miss. Society.*