

It was subsequently resolved—"That an appeal be made to the sisters in these provinces to supply the funds necessary for this object." This appeal was responded to and through the efforts of Miss Norris, aid societies came into existence all over the provinces.

Each Aid Society that was then, and that has since been organized, has had the sanction of the church with which its members are connected, and bears its name.

Our meetings are announced from the pulpit, and the claims of our work frequently urged upon the attention of the sisters by our pastors.

Our funds are applied to work already assumed by the Foreign Missionary Board, the executive of the churches, and from year to year we have had their cordial approval and hearty thanks. They have recognised in us true help-meets, laboring side by side with them in the God-given relations established in Eden; marred it is true by sin; and distorted just in proportion to the power of evil over nations, and in the hearts of individuals, until, in the dark places which are filled with the habitations of cruelty, woman is under the very heel of man, but restored as the head of the serpent is bruised. And so far as the gospel of Christ leavens nations and controls individuals; just so far is woman raised to her original position, and man and woman are one in Christ Jesus.

Having thus been called by our Master, by our benighted sisters, and by the churches, and having put our hand to the plough, we will never look back. We have not only a firm footing side by side with the many thousands of Christian women in England and America, who are about this work to-day and with others of all times and countries whose names adorn the pages of history; but also with many noble examples of courage and devotion furnished us by our infallible guide—the Scriptures.

When the children of Israel led by Moses sang their song of triumph, Miriam led the women in response; when the timid Barah was not equal to Israel's emergency, Deborah was ready to deliver them; when in the days of Ahasuerus the captive Jews were threatened with utter destruction, there had come into the kingdom for such a time as this an Esther, who was ready to take her life in her hand that she might avert their doom; when an Apollon needed to have the way of the Lord expounded unto him more fully, Priscilla failed not in her part of the necessary and important work; and, when the Son of Man who had not where to lay his head, needed human sympathy, although Judas betrayed and Peter denied Him, and James and John could not watch one hour with Him, the loving ministrations of Mary were never wanting. She was last at the cross, and being first at the sepulchre, was the first to catch the glad word, "He has risen." She was first to receive his tender greeting, to respond with a woman's loyalty, "Rabboni!" and was commissioned by her risen Lord Himself to "Go and tell the brethren."

Stimulated by such examples as these let us stand firmer than ever.

We have been held together by self-denying and consecrated workers whose renowned names will ever live in our memories, led by them we have been enabled to do much for the cause we love. And now in closer union of purpose and effort we may hope for a future worthy of our worthy past. Let us see to it that the raiment in which the King's daughter is to appear all glorious, has woven into its beauty our threads of gold and purple.

THE essence of true nobility is neglect of self. Let the thought of self pass in, and the beauty of great action is gone, like the bloom from a soiled flower.—*Froude*.

Discouragements.

BY REV. A. P. MCDIARMID.

That which seemed disaster has sometimes proved the stepping-stone to triumph. Apparent reverses have often served the purpose of revealing the existence and developing the strength of a grand Christian missionary spirit. The apathy and opposition William Carey had to encounter did not quench the fire that burned in his soul, but rather made it burn with intenser glow. The difficulties that piled themselves up in the path of Adoniram Judson afforded his grand, heroic, conquering missionary spirit the opportunity of revealing itself and the triumphs it was capable of achieving. The attempt to dissuade Francis Xavier from his purpose by portraying the perils to which he was about to expose himself, called forth the memorable words of triumph, "Whatever form of torture or death awaits me I am ready to suffer it ten thousand times for the salvation of a single soul," and his life proved him no vain boaster. The murder of Williams, the Gordons, and others by savage cannibals, served as occasions to reveal what stuff their brethren were made of, who showed themselves ready to step into the breach counting not their own lives dear unto themselves, that they might testify the gospel of the grace of God to the savage islanders.

If we would see at the present time a striking illustration of this fact we have but to turn our eyes to the mission of the English Baptists on the Congo. What mission has been suffering such seeming disasters? The deadly African fever has been making havoc among the missionaries. One after another has been cut down, some of them ere they had scarcely entered upon their work. Under these circumstances are the missionaries asking to be recalled? Are the promoters talking of abandoning the mission? Nay, rather these sad reverses have kindled a spirit of enthusiasm both at home and on the foreign field. The missionaries on the field have been beseeching the people at home not to become discouraged. The spirit of missions is triumphing gloriously over these seeming disasters. The Rev. T. J. Comber is now on his way back to the field accompanied by five noble young men who are ready, if God so orders, to lay down their lives on the altar of this mission. Mr. Comber is showing himself possessed of a truly heroic spirit. He buried his beloved wife in Congo soil. His brother—a medical missionary—who gave promise of great usefulness, fell a victim to the fever after a few months' service. And now he is going forth again, taking with him—one of the five—his only remaining brother, ready to live or die for Christ on the Congo. The day of Christian heroism is not passed. At home the people are responding with a spirit of enthusiasm to the calls for money, and young men are offering themselves for the work, cheerfully coming forward to reinforce the broken ranks. As an illustration of the spirit awakened, a widowed lady has written expressing her willingness to give up her only son—a University graduate—to the work of the Congo. If we understand the marching orders of the church of Christ, and if we are animated by the spirit of Christ, difficulties, perils, what men call discouragements and disasters, will not appal, unnerve, and paralyze us, but will challenge our faith and heroism, which, called to measure swords, will achieve their most splendid and Christ-like triumphs.

ONE of the missionaries computes that the contributions of the members of the Japanese Congregational churches would have been equivalent here to an average of not less than \$20 a member.