

All these you may call *little* things, but if so, then I don't know what in all the mission work is *big*. The church prospers, but these things in daily life, and many smaller things than these, summed up together are what make it prosper.

In a missionary meeting in Canada we used to hear of "proclaiming the glad tidings of salvation to the millions in China." Inspiring words, but you can't speak to millions all at once, and these words divested of clouds of romance apt to hang round them, simply mean a great deal of downright hard work. You hear of converts, but don't imagine they were won by just standing on the platform and speaking to them. Very likely foreign missionary and preachers and converts and their wives have been planning and watching, shewing kindness and helping for years, in order to get one single man of them. Either I do not comprehend what I have seen and heard, or else "preach the Gospel" means—call a man to mend a crack in the wall, and *see that he does it*, and *think*, think of a thousand things while you're at it, keep your eyes and your ears wide open wherever you are, watch well what you say and *how* you say it, be out at five o'clock in the morning to see that worms are not eating the trees, think and plan and "compass heaven and earth" to get the better of one man trying to cheat you or to injure a convert, make up accounts, take quinine, and hundreds of other things *quite as important* as standing on the platform and telling of salvation. As A-Hoâ often says: "Oh, if we only just had to tell of the doctrine wouldn't it be easy? I think I could preach *that* way from morning till night every day!"

No, dear Christian women. I suppose some of you think your work commonplace and monotonous enough, but if you could watch the direct effect on the heathen of that very work you would not think it unimportant. The preacher's wife over her wash-tub in a hot day is just as faithfully preaching the Gospel as her husband on the platform or dispensing medicine. It needs the combined efforts of all, and attention to all these details, to make the Church prosper. Neglect them, and it will not prosper.

The principle throughout the mission seems to be this: Not the preacher alone, but every convert must do what he or she can to make the people think well of him or of her, and thus to think and speak well of the Church. So the heathen are gradually, not at once, but gradually won. Perseverance is required; human nature is the same everywhere, and converts need constantly to be stirred up—so I hear. How many of us Canadian Christians would not need stirring up with such surroundings as they have? As you likely know by this time,