

Dear sisters of the W.M.A.S.—We are fairly launched upon another missionary year. What is the prospect for success? Shall we aimlessly float like "painted ships upon a painted sea," or our barks return at the close of this year freighted with precious souls won for Christ? The sea of life is filled with the perishing, their cries constantly greet our ears, while the silence, the *awful silence* of others is a more fatal sign and should fill us with greater alarm than the most agonizing cries for help, for the worst state of all is to be in great danger and not be conscious of it, or be indifferent concerning it. To be rapidly drifting into eternity and not realize our position is far sadder than to be assured of the fact that we are in need, and cry aloud for help.

In the whole world last year 50,000 were rescued while 20,000,000 of immortal souls were swept unprepared into eternity. Four times the population of Canada! My sisters, did you do *anything* to save these millions? If not, you must share the awful responsibility. The blood of their souls cling to you. Did you do *everything* in your power to rescue them? If not, then you must share the awful responsibility to the extent of your negligence and neglect.

We have much to thank God for with reference to our past year's work. Let us rejoice that the Master has given us His smile of approval and a great degree of success. But we have not begun to come up to the means of our ability or our opportunity. The great *needs* seems to be *consecration* of heart and time and money. What might we not accomplish this year if every one of our 4,000 members were wholly consecrated to the Lord's service? Have you ever thought of what this means? Is it possible for each child of God to be thus consecrated? Study the subject, my sisters, from the word of God, asking the aid of the Holy Spirit, whose province it is to "teach us all things," and then see if the only limit is not our *unwillingness* to be thus consecrated. "I beseech you, therefore, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." "We are not our own, we are bought with a price." We are Christ's. "He gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity." We were once the possession of another. "The strong man kept the palace and the goods were his," but when the "stronger than he" came, He changed the ownership. All we have and are belong to Christ. Do you wonder the Apostle Paul, after taking up the Ephesians into the heights of heaven, and sealing them in Christ, came down and said, "Let him that stole, steal no more?" They that stole the time, the talents, the possessions that did not belong to them, that was purchased and claimed by another, appropriated them to themselves and perjured them. There is no such thing as real peace and blessing or success in the Lord's work, as long as there is divided ownership. We rejoice in the fact that "Christ is formed in us the hope of glory," let us express it daily in our acts and lives. The months fly apace—the summons "come up higher" is borne on every breeze—our time for usefulness is passing by. Oh, that the Lord may save us from coming before Him to say, "Here thou hast what is thine"—my life—and if He asks what we have done with it, reply, that we have wrapped it up in the napkin of selfishness, and buried it in this earthly life. Oh, the dreadful words, "Wicked and slothful servant!" Wicked, because we were not *honest*; we used for ourselves what we should have given to God. Slothful, because we did not work for Him. Shall any of us hear these dreadful words from the lips of our loving Saviour?

A missionary, who had been twelve years laboring on the foreign field, said recently, that she was "twelve times more interested in missions than when she first engaged in this work." How many of us who remain at home can say that we are twelve times as much interested as we were that many years ago? Do we pray twelve times as much? Do we give twelve times as much time and money to the Lord's work? Oh, that a baptism from heaven may descend and fill all our hearts, and as the months of this missionary year go by may our interest and zeal increase; until each one can truly say at its close, I am more interested and have given twelve times more prayer, time, and money, than ever before.

S. J. M.

... cannot see the grass grow,
How sharp so'er thou be;
But that the grass is *grown*
Thou very soon shalt see.
So, though thou can'st not see
Thy work now prospering, know
The fruits of every work, time
Without fail shall show."

LET OUR SISTER'S VOICE STILL SPEAK TO US.

In Mrs. Selden's report of 1883, referring to the departure for India of Miss Wright and Miss Gray, we find these words: "Soon after convention these dear sisters will leave their home and friends, but your responsibility in connection with them will still remain."

"The Central Boards of these Provinces look to the sisters for the means to sustain the work we have undertaken in their name. But beyond and above this the Lord expects your prayers as well. See to it that your place in the monthly meeting is filled. Come prepared to give as well as to receive a blessing; and if some selfishness is occasioned by this course so much the better."

"Two cents a week, and a prayer, from each member of our churches, would accomplish more than we think."

"We say *churches*, not societies, for surely each member of the former should also feel it her duty to become a member of the latter."

At the Maritime Convention of W. C. T. U. workers, held in Amherst, N. S., in September, the President mentioned that in the States Miss Willard had asked the different Unions to set apart one day this autumn as Crusade Day i. e., a day on which, after prayer, each member of the local unions should canvass the town or village for new members. A grand idea, is it not? and one sure to result in large accessions to the temperance cause, for nothing succeeds like hand-to-hand work with the individual. Now, sisters of the Aid Societies, why not have a Crusade Day in our missionary work? Are not numbers of women in every church and congregation who are not members of the Aid Society, but who would be if only urged a little? Are there not members in our Sabbath schools who would gladly join the Mission Band if asked to do so?

Most of our Societies hold their monthly meeting during the first week of the month. At the meeting in November, then, will you not pray over this matter? and then appoint a day which every sister shall look upon as sacred to this work of bringing in new members to this work of the Lord. Try it.