

WOMAN'S WORK FOR WOMAN IN HEATHEN LANDS.

BY MRS. L. J. HARVIE.

EVERY Church should be a missionary Church. A *living* Church is always aggressive. Only when the Church forgets the great mission entrusted to it, nay, the chief object of its existence, the salvation of souls, the conversion of the world, the waging of a never-ceasing warfare against the kingdom and sovereignty of Satan, does it become cold, indifferent, *dead*. Look at the Church of the first century—but a handful, comparatively, of men and women, and the most of these rude and uncultured; yet, with hearts fired with a zeal and enthusiasm born of their devoted love to their Master, they went everywhere preaching the Word, and became, as the Saviour predicted, His witnesses, even to the uttermost parts of the earth. Thank God, that the latter part of this nineteenth century, as well as the first, is an age of missionary enterprise. Sixty years ago, the foreign missionaries of the Evangelical Churches might be counted by scores; to-day, they number thousands, with a native ministry growing rapidly in numbers and usefulness. Less than fifty years ago, the sainted Duff, who has been so closely identified with Indian missions—the man with the heart and tongue of fire—stood before a Scottish assemblage, and almost fainting with excess of longing and emotion, cried out: “If the fathers and mothers of Scotland have no more sons whom they can send to India, I will go back and show them that there is one old man who is willing to die for them.” And Bushnell, weak, worn, and ready to die, turned his steps back to Africa, because he could find no strong, young Christian to take his place. To-day the youth, the energy, and the culture of the Church are laid at the feet of the Master for the cause of Foreign Missions.

But especially is this age remarkable for the rapid development of what is known as “Woman’s Work for Woman in Heathen Lands.” In reality, however, this movement can scarcely be called a new departure. Women were always eager and successful workers for God. But this age is characterized not so much by a few brilliant souls, who, among woman, have outshone all others in holy living and self-denying efforts for their pagan sisters, as by a great volume of self-sacrificing work, the outcome of hundreds of thousands of interested hearts.

What is “woman’s work for woman in heathen lands”? In the language of a recent writer we say: “Woman’s work for woman