

Committee's errand, or the church's errand—your errand, my brothers and sisters, who have commended them to the grace of God for this ministry—oh! how few there are who care to ask, "What is the answer? What response?" And how chilling is this indifference to the heart of your returned missionary—Paul had a very high idea of the kind of treatment due from stay-at-home saints to the messengers of the churches. "I commend unto you Phœbe, our sister, that ye receive her in the Lord as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you." I envy Phœbe with that letter in her pocket! The great Apostle's chivalrous nature must have been of infinite help to the women workers of the church, who are too often shoved on one side. "I entreat thee, true yoke-fellow, help those women" who come back, weary and faint, from the hand-to-hand fight with powers of darkness, where Satan's seat is. Help them, oh friends! with at least a loving, warm-hearted reception, and lend a ready ear to the business in which they have need of help from you.

But not only to churches and the committees, but to you individually, I would say, "know your missionaries." Show them hospitality; let them have a taste of the grace and beauty and wholesomeness of English family life, so sweet in contrast to the heathen homes they have been working in. Receive them, refresh them, let them be "somewhat filled with your company." "Coming unto you with joy by the will of God, may they with you be refreshed."

Do you know that there is a great severing of home ties and ties of friendship when your missionaries go abroad; that, coming back to the home country after ten, twelve, or fifteen years, they find homes broken up, friends scattered, their nearest and dearest living in circles where they are strangers; surely it is not too much to ask that Christian love, love for Christ's sake purely, should do all it can to make up the loss.

Do you know that, with health impaired, nerves all unstrung, and purses only too thinly lined with half-pay allowances, many a missionary passes an unrestful holiday and returns but half refreshed to the field.

If you want to know the work, ask one of these weary ones to your country house or to spend a fortnight with you at the seaside; and, if all your own missionaries are too well provided for, look out for one of some other society. Let them play with your children and live in the sunshine; and, when the evening draws in, talk to them of the land and people that they love; and you will receive even here and now a rich tide of blessing in increasing sympathy with your Divine Master in the travail of His soul. The mission field will live and move before your eyes; and while you have put to her lips the cup of cold water which shall in no wise lose its reward, you will feel that you have indeed been drinking a fresh draught of the water of life, which will be in you as a spring of water welling up and bubbling over, bringing to others as well as to yourself, everlasting life.

And when that missionary goes back to the field you will follow her, will you not? and bind with golden links of prayer (both hers and yours) that mission field to the throne of the Great Father, that she that soweth and she that watereth may, in the harvest day, rejoice together.

Aye, and your gifts will follow. "Epaphroditus boxes" things ordinary enough in themselves—a few groceries, or stationery, or housewifely odds and ends, such as will convey the assurance of your loving re-

membrance to her personally; a new book or periodical to refresh the tired mind, or some little convenience for camp life—things only things, but how ennobled, how glorified for ever, by the motive that prompted them! "I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things, an odour of sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God."

And may God increase you and make you to abound in everything; "in faith and utterance, and knowledge and all diligence, and in your love to us."—*Missionary Herald*.

GIRLS BOARDING SCHOOLS.

By Miss Priest.

In dealing with this subject four points will be dealt particularly with.

(1) Their necessity. (2) How they are conducted. (3) The good accomplished. (4) What we are doing in this Department of work in India.

(1) In approaching a subject that deals with the uplifting and education of women in heathen lands, it is well for us to recognise the great power that woman necessarily wields. Glance at the home life. If the wife and mother be a Christian, how vastly different the influence going forth from the home, from what it would be if she were still heathen. The development of the young life of the home falls to a very large extent on the mother. When we consider the homes of India, apart from the influence of Christianity, surely there is no one but recognises the great need of in some way getting the girls, for a time at least, under Christian training, so that, when their time comes they may be fitted for the duties and responsibilities of home life, fitted to make their homes centres of helpfulness. If any one is doubtful about the need of boarding schools for the girls of India, let me urge her to study the homes of India, if homes they can be called, and surely no doubt will remain.

Many of the girls in these schools are from native Christian families, who feel the necessity of such an institution for their daughters. It will be interesting here perhaps to note the methods of conducting these schools.

When a girl comes into the school, she brings what clothes she has. She is supplied by the school with clothes, books, food, lodging and everything she needs except the dish she eats from, which must be her own. The Cocanada school teaches up to the 5th Standard. There are also training classes for Bible women, 1st and 2nd year. The school is under government inspection and receives a grant in proportion to the success of its pupils at the annual examinations. The girls receive instruction in Bible knowledge also. From Miss Blaskerville's report this year, the fact is pressed home upon us, that they bid fair to excel us in Scriptural knowledge.

In addition they are taught to sew, to make and mend their own clothes, and to do all the housework usually done by the women of the country. Habits of neatness and cleanliness to which many of the pupils are strangers, are insisted upon. To those accustomed to going about unwashed, uncombed and often unclothed, the life at the boarding school is entirely a new experience. The teacher who occupies the position of mother to them has no small task. Spiritual, mental and physical training are all under her charge. The work of these teachers which under God will tell so much on the future of India, demand a much larger share in our prayers than we have heretofore given it.

(2) Some one may be asking: Does it pay? Is there