

THE WORK AT HOME.

Waiting For The Church.

Sixty dollars! It seemed quite a little pile. Mr. Preston handed it to Mrs. Preston with these remarks: "It must be divided up among those three societies. Keep it in the meantime. I want to see if others can be induced to send more with me. It speaks well for our church when it goes in a bunch, and my idea is that everything should go through the church and be credited to the church."

"Paul, money is wanted badly now. Every Baptist has an appeal. There is that superannuated fund. The secretary says, 'that some are looking forward anxiously to the time appointed for the collection.' It is very near now, and yet it is never mentioned in the church," pleaded Mrs. Preston.

"Very well, you may send them twenty. You have that much in hand besides?"

"Yes, eighty in all."

"They won't take up a collection for that fund I am certain, but we must press the matter of Home, Foreign and Grand Ligne before that money goes."

"I would like to help on the Women's Fund," spoke up the book-keeper, secretary and treasurer of this Preston tithe scheme, a small, insignificant-looking woman.

"Not one cent," was the quick reply. "That money goes through the church, not through a Woman's Society. Just look at the money they must spend going to their conventions. Much better for them to stay at home and save their money to send to missions."

After this appeal and rejoinder, the matter was dropped, the money placed in a purse and laid away to wait for an action by the church. In the meantime appeal after appeal sounded through the paper. The fourth of April came and went. Thanks to a few who received and read *The Baptist*, some did know that it was a special day, to be given to fasting, and prayer for blessings threefold, but the majority were in ignorance that a shower was expected, and that surely a few drops, if only faithful, would fall in their vicinity. It was not mentioned in the pulpit, and only those revs. who possessed their denominational news, were aware that *that* Friday was to be a memorable occasion. The purse was very heavy in Mrs. Preston's pocket, and she felt strangely unhappy over it all. Surely, surely if the King's business was in haste, was it right to wait for other creditors? Over and over came the question, until at last, like the man of old, she laid the matter before the Lord. The answer came in the shape of tidings through *The Northern Messenger*, and was voiced in the story of "The Deacon's Truth." Mrs. Preston read the story to Mr. Preston, and he enjoyed it immensely. It was so true to life that both laughed merrily during the perusal. The "Deacon" began his Christian giving rather grudgingly, but "Hulalah," his help-mate, evidently kept him up to the mark, and fortunately the good man got a blessing. In fact there was such a fattening of his soul that unselfishness blossomed forth, and in the second year of titling he was, as he declared: "Man enough to divide up with Hulalah, and let her have half to give away." At this point of the story Mrs. Preston could not avoid glancing over at her husband, but gleaned nothing from the scrutiny. The reading over, no remarks followed, but somehow "Hulalah" kept following that woman of my tale all afternoon, and she prayed this prayer: "Lord put it into his heart to let me have a quarter of it for my very own."

In the evening, unasked he came to her side, and said, "You can have the half of all the tithes after this, and send it when you please." There was not a happier woman in all Canada that day, and before long her share of the sixty dollars went speeding on its way, but the rest still waits the action of the church.

MAGGIE EDWARDS COLB.

Carleton Place, Ont.

News From The Circles.

NEW SARUM.—As we always take great pleasure in reading the "news from the Circles" we thought perhaps a few words from our own Circle might not prove uninteresting to some. We organized in August of 1884, assisted by Mrs. Wilter, Associate Director for Elgin Association with a membership of twenty-three. We have had a number of additions since then and some withdrawals so that we now number about thirty. We take up both Home and Foreign work, also contributed to "Grande Ligne Endowment Fund" last year, and intend doing so this year besides undertaking to furnish a room at Grand Ligne. We held an open meeting and invited Sparta Circle to meet with us on May 7th, at 8 p.m. The President Mrs. Sowerby presided. Miss Morrow read an interesting paper on "Why we Love Missions." A reading by Mrs. Newcombe, "Lost opportunities;" Hymn; a carefully prepared paper by Mrs. Cloos. "Sketch of the History of Missions;" Music, "Not half has ever been told;" Recitation by Miss Scott, of Sparta. "The Missionary Hymn;" Essay by Miss E. House, "Is life worth living." Address by pastor Sowerby, on "The Home Mission Work, and the necessity of it." He divided his subject into "The encroachments of the Roman Catholic Religion" and "The needs of our destitute fields at the north of our province." A duet, "Too late," was sung by Mesdames Grey and Newcombe.

MRS. C. NEWCOMBE, Sec.

WALKERTON.—On September 14th of last year we re-organized our Band, with a membership of twenty-two. Since then our number has increased to thirty-five. We have held regular meetings once a month. Each circle is supposed to either earn or save the money for their collection. One of the little girls of our Band started a mission box, into which she put the cents she had earned by being a good girl, and when opened at the end of the year it contained thirty-three cents; the collections for the six months have amounted to \$4.00.

At our October meeting it was decided that our Band should be called "The Cheerful Givers," and that the money raised should be equally divided between our Home and Foreign Mission work. In April, instead of our usual meeting, we, with the help of the Circle, gave an open meeting. One third of the proceeds of this meeting the Band received for their share, which amounted to \$2. Our object is to interest the children in the condition of the heathen, and in the children of our own land who have not as many privileges as we have, to train them in giving to the Lord's work, and to win their own hearts to the Lord Jesus.

This officers are: Miss Spoule, President; Mrs. Baker, Vice-president; Miss Maggie Bildron, Secretary and Treasurer, and Mrs. Kerr and Mrs. Menzies, Musical Directors.

MAGGIE BILDROD, Sec.