

little or much. There may be sisters who are not engaged in the work of our Aids, on account of the membership fee, \$1.00 per year. This may be a barrier to some, but are not the instances few? If there is a sister in the church who has not the dollar to give, the Lord does not require it of her, but let her presence be with us; let us have her prayers and sympathy. An old proverb says, "Where there is a will there is a way." A more modern saying might be made, "A woman having a will, for the most part can find a way." If we all could adopt a systematic plan for giving, giving to the Lord would not be such an insurmountable difficulty. We may here suggest that each sister be provided with a mite box, and also be requested to lay aside two cents per week, at least, and occasionally as the Lord prospers her, make a thank-offering for Home Missions. This being carried out, let all the boxes be brought or sent in to the last meeting of the quarter; the treasurer would soon find each sister has contributed twenty-five cents or more to Foreign Missions and made a gift to Home Missions. If this is repeated every quarter, the total amount will far exceed anything ever done before, and this plan will also facilitate the work of the treasurer, not to mention the satisfaction there is in the punctuality.

The Apostle James teaches us that works must accompany faith, or our faith will be dead. "What doth it profit my brethren, if a man say he hath faith and hath not works? Can that faith save him. If a brother or sister be naked or lack daily food, and one of you say, 'go in peace, be ye warmed and filled,' and yet ye give them not the things needful to the body, what doth it profit. Even so faith, if it hath not works is dead in itself."

Giving is not a sinking fund. Some one has said, "There is nothing made for itself, nothing whose powers and influences are entirely circumscribed to self." What ever a creature receives it gives out, with the modification and increase of its own force. The clouds borrow water of the ocean, but they pour it forth again in refreshing showers upon the thirsty hills, which in their turn send them amongst the valleys. Planets borrow light of their centres and forthwith fling their light upon dark regions of space through which they roll. The tree borrows from every part of the world in order to build up itself, but it gives out in return, beauty and fragrance and fruit. Thus all things give what they appropriate. The material is but the emblem of the spiritual, and thus all nature typifies man's distributive function. Truly, he who appropriates and gives not, is an anomaly in the universe. A miser is a monster that no heart can love. Thus we see, in giving to others we help ourselves. Benevolence is a characteristic of every true Christian. "Is there a Christianity that is not Christ-like? No more than a sun that sheds no rays, a fire that gives out no heat; a rose that breathes out no perfume. They are mere painting life like but dead."

Then again, there are sisters whose names are on our books, with their membership fee paid, but their presence is never seen at a meeting. This is not united effort. Is there not such a thing as our being too much cumbered by the things of the world? Do we not sometimes spend time unnecessarily in our domestic affairs? We admire culture, taste, order, but is there not a danger of our over-estimating these things and neglecting Christian duties and privileges. We are pleased to have those names on our membership column, we welcome the dollars, but more welcome is the sister who personally brings her gift to the altar of prayer and consecration.

There are exceptional cases, however. The wearied

mother may not be able to meet with us; her work must be done in her own home, but at the appointed hour her prayer is ascending on high in behalf of her sisters. Others again, may be detained by ill-health, but in spirit they are in the work. To these sisters we tender our sympathy, and we shall reap the benefit out of their service.

To be co-workers with Christ we must be filled with His spirit, possessing a knowledge of His work, and by the united efforts of—not the quarter of the number of our sisters—but of the entire number, great things shall be accomplished for our Lord and Master.

## Mission Bands.

At one time when Greece had met with misfortune in war, the enemy demanded boys as hostages. The Grecian General replied, "No, we will give them *men*, but we will not give the hope of our nation—the boys." He recognized the grand possibilities in the boys. A Themistocles to plan their campaigns; a Socrates to lead them in the paths of wisdom; a Demosthenes to fire them with the enthusiasm of his oratory. The Judsons, the Careys, the Moffatts, and the Timpanys, are among the children of the Mission Band! God has put the work of preparing them for His field of labor into our hands. Can there be in the various departments of Christian service a more important or a more responsible and withal a more delightful work than this among the children? Shall they grow as the tall poplar tree, sending its roots deep into the soil, absorbing all the richness of the earth, sending its branches straight up, to be sure, but hugging the tree trunk, as if saying—"All I want is to grow as near heaven as I can myself, I cannot stop on my way to spread my branches for shade and shelter, I am sorry if I absorb all the richness from the land, but I must live anyway." Or like the Banyan tree which, not content with spreading its branches far and wide, the outermost ones reach down until they touch the earth again and a new tree springs up; and again it sends its seedlets by the birds and breezes to neighboring lands, and thus it spreads and increases. To a great extent it rests with us whether these children shall grow up absorbed with self, or with hearts big enough to take in India, Africa, China, Japan, and the islands of the sea.

It is not necessary for me to stop here to speak of the need of Mission Band work, we all acknowledge that. Not long since I called on a mother whose little daughter had recently come to our band. In speaking of it the mother said, "Why when Sary Jane came home she was a tell me that they said to the meeting that there was widows in Injir not more'n three or four years old, an I couldn't believe it!" On being assured that it was only too true she exclaimed, "Well now ain't that dreadful! strange I never heard of it afore, and I went to Sunday School when I was a girl, but I guess they didn't have no Mission Bands then." After each Band meeting that little girl went home to tell her mother many things about the foreign field that the mother "hadn't had no chance to learn when she was a girl," and before long the mother became so much interested that she joined the Circle so that she might hear for herself.

As I said before, it is not necessary here, to speak of the need of the work; to speak of some of the discouragements, some helps toward the accomplishment of the work, some ways of working, and a word of cheer to the worker, is the object of this paper. Perhaps the plans suggested will be familiar to some of you, there may not