

Canadian Missionary Link.

Published in the interests of the Baptist Foreign Missionary Societies of Canada.

VOL. XXX.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1915.

No. 6

THE WOMAN'S SHARE.

In the awful struggle which is now being waged in so many countries of the world, that struggle which one moment makes us shrink with horror from the mere recital of the sufferings and makes us long for peace, peace at any price; and yet that struggle which, in our stronger, our wiser moments, we know could end in no greater disaster than premature peace,—in that struggle men are giving of themselves without stint, withholding nothing—their money, their time, their thought, their lives—nothing is spared.

We say it is grand and noble; but what is our share in it all? Surely, surely, when the price of our safety and comfort is the lives of our soldiers and our sailors, it cannot be our duty to let life flow along in the easy channels of by-gone days—to accomplish our household tasks, to see our friends, to chat over our teacups, even to attend our occasional comfortable Club, Circle or prayer-meeting. Surely, if ~~such~~ conflict is necessary, as we all say it is; if it is entered into to uphold principles of righteousness and liberty, as we all agree it is, surely that great army of women in our land has something to do with it, some definite part to play.

And what is that part? We cannot actually fight; but we can, we should, and we must hold up the hands of those who do. And that task ought to be no easy one, and ought to lift every one of us out of our comfortable, smiling, well-satisfied complacency into the strenuous and toilsome path of duty, which may in some small measure approximate to the life of those who are defending us.

But how? The only task at the front which women can perform is the task of

caring for the wounded, and be it said to the honor of the women who are fitted for that service that they have responded so fully to the need that it is met and satisfied.

The first great service which occurs to us all to render is through the work of our hands, and through the giving of our money. The providing of what we may, either in the way of sewing or knitting, or in the way of money gifts, will, it is true, not save the lives of our men from the devastating fire of the enemy; but it certainly will do a very great deal to save them from the danger, almost as great, perhaps, of the fearful exposure to which they are subjected, and, when illness or wounds befall them, be invaluable and necessary to nurse them back to health. Not only so, but around us on every side, and forcing itself on the most retired and unconcerned of us, is the crying need of those dependents left behind by the soldiers, and of those whom war conditions have robbed of the chance to earn their daily bread. This is a service from which no one of us can excuse ourselves. We may not all give money, but we can give the work of our hands. We may not all give hours for handiwork, but we can give money. Too much of either cannot be given, and surely no one can feel she has done her "bit," as the English say, until she has contributed something to the pressing need.

Then, too, there is the service of prayer. If ever there was a time in our generation, in any generation for that matter, when the women of prayer—and that ought to include us all—had need to pray, had definite petitions to bring, had a call to "wrestle" in prayer, surely it is now. Our hearts are long