

by the Apostle. She eagerly entered the kingdom and was baptized, and her household. She was not content with merely sharing in a passive way the promises of the new Kingdom, but like you, my sisters of the Auxiliary, she wished to become an active member of that Kingdom, and to do what she could for its support and advancement. She besought the Apostles, saying in her fervent zeal, "If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us." And so also another Apostle found the women at Joppa weeping and lamenting over the death of another woman, whose name has become a household word wheresoever this Gospel is preached, for it has become a synonym for good deeds and almsgiving.

If I have read early Church history aright, I would say that women aided largely in the support and extension of the Church by their purity, zeal and good works, insomuch that the exclamation burst forth from the lips of a bitter foe, "See what women these Christians have." Their names are not recorded. They were hidden workers. But when the fires of persecution burst upon the Church, there we find them coming to the front. No tortures could extort from the slave Blandina any other words than, "I am a Christian, there is no wickedness done among us." Nor could imprisonment or insult, or maternal love or family affection make Perpetua swerve from her loyalty to Christ. Now these two Christian heroines are not exceptions, but are rather specimens of the constancy, endurance and tenacity of woman's devotedness to and love of Jesus in the early ages of the Church, when the fiery breath of persecution seemed ready to stifle the faith once delivered to the saints. Woman, with a keen instinct, entirely independent of logical processes, saw the untold advantages the Church would confer upon her. She saw clearly the deliverance from the slavery of licentiousness, bound up with the religious practices and ceremonies of heathenism and the accompanying degradation which these practices and ceremonies drew in their train, which the Kingdom of Christ would achieve. She saw that the practical work of that kingdom would be to raise her from the life of animalism into the glorious liberty of the children of God. And she was right. Her instinctive perceptions, still further illuminated by the Holy Spirit, showed her the way, the path of the Light of the world. One word of caution here. Think not I flatter; nay, rather I am speaking the words of truth and soberness. Think not, that I am unduly exalting the woman and that I am placing her on too high a pedestal, that I am lifting her out of her sphere. That sphere is to be not the slave, nor the master, but the helpmeet of her complement—man. Her ordained function is that she should assist man, aid and cheer him in good work, restrain and check him, when slipping on the downward grade.

And now let me welcome you, the delegates of the Woman's Auxiliary, to our little town on the

banks of the St. Lawrence, and invite you to this Holy Communion, to the presence of the Lord of all, who will impart to the humble and earnest seeker after Him His own divine Life. That communion is at once a pledge of your fidelity to Him, and of your love to one another. Let the prayer of each one of you be, that the Divine Life imparted to you in this Holy Communion by the Holy Ghost, may give the spirit of counsel, wisdom and understanding to your deliberations, and guide your decisions, so that the resultant action may bring forth much fruit to the glory of God, and that in all your work you may be faithful and loyal to the Great King, and to the Church which is His Body.

The afternoon session at 2.30 p. m. in St. John's school commenced with a hymn and prayer by the rector. Receiving the delegates was next in order, and twenty delegates representing twelve parishes, viz., Ottawa, St. George's, St. Paul's, and St. James's Churches, Kingston; Trinity and St. Paul's churches, Brockville; Prescott, Morrisburg, Carleton Place, Rochesterville and Picton, were received.

A cordial address of welcome was then read by Mrs. Lewin, President, Prescott Branch, and warmly acknowledged by Mrs. Buxton Smith, President, Kingston Branch. As the minutes of former meeting had been printed and circulated in the Annual Report they were, on motion of the Recording Secretary, considered as read, and the President's address followed, replete with comfort and encouragement to the workers for Christ, the faithful women whose services it is trusted He will graciously accept.

A letter was read from his Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese, expressing much regret at his inability to be present.

After the election of the Nominating Committee Archdeacon Lauder was invited to address the meeting, and gave the members both praise and counsel, referring to the past, as compared with the present, and in paying a just tribute to the loving zeal of the President, of which the Auxiliary is the happy result, he urged all members to be earnest and persevering. The Report of the Recording-Secretary, giving account of sixteen branches, comprising twenty-two parishes, with an aggregate membership of about seven hundred, was read and adopted. The Report of the Corresponding Secretary, telling of many appeals received, of more than 100 letters written, and other details of work done, read and adopted. The report of the Treasurer was read and adopted with much satisfaction at the clear statement given of the receipts and expenditure of above \$3,000 in money and clothing.

Here the Archdeacon took occasion to remind the ladies of their obligations as members of a missionary society, and the need of confining their labors to the purpose for which they were organized. A visit was received from Mrs. Morrison, Ogdensburg, N. Y., who on behalf of that branch