

Woman's Work.

THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—President, Mrs. S. M. Brown, Wiston; Corresponding Secretary, Miss L. V. Riach, 225 Maria Street, Hamilton; Treas., Mrs. John Campbell, Erie Mills, St. Thomas.

This department is conducted by a committee, composed of Mrs. A. E. Trout, Owen Sound; Mrs. M. Oliphant, 565 King Street, London; and Mrs. George Munro, North Barton Hall, Hamilton.

All contributions for the Woman's Missionary Society are to be sent to Miss L. V. Riach, Cor. Sec., 225 Maria St., Hamilton, Ont.

Thanksgiving.

Now that the harvest is past, the ripe fruit gathered in, and nature in her changed appearance suggests that we too shall soon lay aside our earth-stained garments and await those pure and spotless robes which we shall don in the spring-time of our lives in God's eternal city, it seems to be an especial time for giving thanks. And yet, is it really an especial time? If we at any time allow our minds to dwell upon God's great goodness and His wonderful works to the children of men, we must surely realize our great indebtedness to Him, and feel that our gratitude can only be properly expressed by following the inspired injunction, "To give thanks always, in all things, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to God the Father."

To think is but to know why we should give thanks. Does not the whole creation proclaim the goodness of God to man? Do not blessings, both spiritual and temporal, surround us? Do we not feel an assurance that these blessings will continue, when we remember that all things work together for good to those who love God? Above all this, we have His unspeakable gift, by which He has made it possible for us to enjoy eternal blessings in that land of light and beauty, where sin and all its baneful influences are unknown.

How easy it is to be thankful for those blessings that come just as we want them. But what of those that come disguised almost beyond our recognition? They come wrapped in the sable garb of sorrow and trial, and yet 'tis but the polishing of the jewels for the kingdom.

The sorrowful tears may fall,
And the heart to its depths be riven
With storm and tempest, we need them
all

To render us meet for heaven.

Paul says: "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." Who, then, will not accept such with gratefulness? Surely, as we recount our blessings, we must exclaim with the psalmist, "What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits?"

Dear sisters, shall ours be a mere lip service, or shall it be a living gratitude, that shall manifest itself in more consecrated effort to serve the Master. With our blessings come also responsibilities. The Master said, "Unto whom much is given, of him much will be required." Again He said, "Freely ye have received; freely give." Many are the opportunities that come to us of helping others. It may be that they need our money, our influence, our sympathy, or our prayers. 'Tis ours to heed the call and aid on the Master's work, ever remembering,

"What God has given is only lent,
To Him we answer how 'tis spent."

May the sin of ingratitude not be ours, and may we not rest satisfied with a verbal expression of our thanks, but may we by the right use of those blessings and privileges show our appreciation in a manner that is pleasing to Him who doeth all things well.

B.

Auxiliary Programme for December.

Topic: "Developing a missionary spirit."

1. Hymn—"Hail, thou God of grace and glory."
2. Scripture reading—1 John iv. 7-21; Gal. v. 13-14.
3. Prayer.
4. Minutes, reports, and other business.
5. Hymn—"O Love of God, how strong and true."
6. Discussion of topic.
7. Prayer.
8. Roll-call and collection, responses in appropriate Scripture texts.
9. Benediction.

Developing a Missionary Spirit.

Is it not passing strange that we who believe in the universal Fatherhood of God, the universal brotherhood of man, should yet feel within ourselves the necessity of developing a missionary spirit? I speak not now of the few who have this spirit in overflowing measure, and have gone, or are seeking to go out as devoted laborers in their Master's vineyard, but of the many of us who belong to what are called missionary churches; yes, even to our women's auxiliaries, who contribute regularly to the support of missions, who, it may be, make sacrifices in order to so contribute, and yet possess but little of the true missionary spirit. We know it is right to give towards the spread of the gospel, because of the great commission intrusted to us by our Saviour, and the teaching and example of the apostles who went everywhere

preaching the word. We feel, too, an interest in, and responsibility for the welfare of our missionaries, that they shall be well supported and their work be carried on successfully, and to that end we save and work at home. Who shall say that these motives are not right, if duty to Christ underlie them? But the true missionary spirit is love to Christ and love to our fellow-men, and a longing to help them and make their lives what God would have them to be. "God commendeth his love to us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly." If we have in us this Christ-love, shall not we, too, seek to save and bless the ungodly, the depraved, the sin-darkened souls for whom He died? Let us ask ourselves how many times we think of those for whom we have given our contributions, how many times we pray heartily and earnestly for them, how much we strive to know of their condition and surroundings. Do not some of us, at least, put all our responsibility, so far as the heathen themselves are concerned, into the missionary envelope, or in with our monthly auxiliary payment, and think no more of them until the next occasion of the fund comes round? Our own hearts will tell us this ought not so to be, and if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts.

And so, if we covet earnestly the best gifts, we shall do well to strive for the greatest of all, love. God is love, and to be partakers of the divine nature, we must grow to possess that tender compassion that will have all men to be saved. It may be that our life-work lies within the home circle, that home duties crowd thick upon us, so much so, that we have little time even for private prayer and meditation. But this need not prevent our often thinking of those who are living in sin and degradation, nor our frequent silent prayer that God will hasten the time when they shall be brought into the glorious liberty of the gospel of Christ. When we give our contributions, however small, we can give them with a prayer, that they may be the means of sending the up-lifting knowledge of God's dear Son into some benighted soul. I am persuaded that when we can bring the element of personal love into our work for the unsaved, even though it be the heathen thousands of miles away from us, the blessings that will follow our labor and that of our missionaries, will far exceed that which our brightest hope and strongest faith now look for. "And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

AMY.

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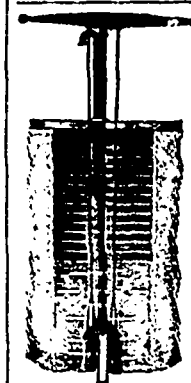
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