

# Canadian Missionary Link.

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## The Circle Constitution.

(Continued.)

The last article of this series on the two Constitutions deals with Article 5 of the Circle Constitution, which reads: "Its (the Circle's) Treasurer shall pay all money over to the Treasurers of the Home and Foreign Women's Central Boards." This is an article which has been violated as much as, if not more than, any other one, and certainly with most disastrous results to our work.

Every Circle when it is formed presumably adopts as its object of organization "to aid the Women's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Societies of Ontario according to the Constitutions of these Societies." Counting on this, the Boards appointed by the representatives of the Circles gathered in Convention, make their estimates for the year according to the income received from the Circles the previous year. When this estimate has been once adopted and word sent out that the Women's Circles are to undertake this or that work, they immediately become responsible for it. When, at the end of the year, they find themselves in debt, or with a deficit, for a larger or smaller amount, it is a very serious matter, both for the work and for themselves as Circles.

Now, one of the chief causes of deficit, and incidentally one of the chief worries of those who are trying to manage the finances of the Circles, is the diverting of part of our legitimate income into other treasuries than our own.

A Circle here or there has had some missionary speaker from Africa, or Japan, or Arabia, has become interested

and enthused in his or her story of the work and the needs, and on the spur of the moment often, a grant of \$5 or \$10 or \$25 is voted. Or, perhaps, in some village or town, a new hospital is being built, or a children's shelter furnished. The object appeals to the women of the Baptist Church as to others, and—they help by the Circle sending money for this object.

Now, this is not written, nor was this article under discussion framed, because these outside objects, these missions in other lands, interdenominational or otherwise, these public charities or even the renovating of one's own church home, are not entirely worthy objects, and deserving, perhaps, of enthusiastic support. But, the Mission Circles are not the ones to give that support. The Circles are formed for one object, and one object only, and that object is, of course, to aid our women's Baptist Mission work. They are not, and never were, formed to aid missions in general. They were formed that the women of our churches might undertake and carry on work for women in India and in Canada. With that understanding, the General Board has given into our hands large responsibilities; with that understanding the Women's Board whom the Circles appoint to attend to the business, make their estimates of the amount of work the Circles can do in any one year, and pass their appropriations accordingly; with that understanding each Circle ought to be formed and carried on.