

ment their numbers and have not yet tried these means, may I recommend them to you? especially the visits. In our Brockville Circle we appoint each month two visitors who are supplied with the names of absent and sick members, as well as the names of those members of the church or congregation whom we are desirous of inducing to join us. We have found this place decidedly beneficial as the monthly report given in by the visitors shows, as just how we stand with regard to our members.

In addition to this we often ask for volunteers to call for those members who live in their vicinity and who are very likely to be absent from the monthly meeting unless encouraged. More than this, on the approach of any special public meeting our Circle resolves itself into a committee of the whole for the purpose of asking and receiving promises from church members with their "uncles, cousins and aunts," to come to that meeting, the result is, "a large attendance. So much for visiting."

Now, may I be allowed to say three words about the place of meeting, three will suffice.

Have it warm.

If some Circles have the misfortune to meet in a vestry that cannot be well heated, would it not then be better to hold your meetings from house to house? You would be surprised were you to find out how many members are kept away six out of twelve months because of dampness or chilliness in the place of meeting.

Having enumerated the various ways of securing the attendance of members, let us turn to the other problem, how to awaken and hold their interest.

I think it the lesser problem because, if you can manage to gather around you a circle of sisters in Christ and repeat to them the Father's message, that the feast is spread and that He wishes them to issue the invitations broadcast, I believe that they will try to obey His behest, more or less eagerly in proportion to their love for the giver of the feast, and their compassion for the starving crowds outside their Father's House. And as our love and compassion are generally in the lower proportion we have to use every means to keep ourselves active in fulfilling His great commission.

Foremost among these means I think we may place the recital by our returned missionaries of the suffering and heart needs of the people across the great oceans. Therefore, I look for an awakening, or an increase of fervour in our hearts as the result of the presence of Mr. Craig at this convention.

But as that is a privilege rarely afforded the members of our Circles, what is the next best aid? I should imagine it to be the outgoings of a missionary from among the members of each church to which our individual Circles belong, for then the interest in the field to which that missionary goes will be greatly intensified. Do you not bear me out in this? Are not our friends in Kingston far more at home in the station where the Walkers are laboring than in, say, Chicacoole? And will not the work of Mr. and Mrs. Grigg in Burmah be followed with keen interest by their former parishioners in Perth! Oh! if only, in answer to united prayer, a missionary could go from each church represented here, I venture to assert

that the part of the field where that laborer toiled would lack neither sympathy, support nor prayers from the community where he formerly lived.

Well, some of you say as we have neither returned missionaries nor out-going missionaries to stimulate us in our Circles, what have we? We have work! And in its various forms work in Mission Circles is a great stimulant to active interest. Appoint that indifferent member in your Circle a collector and see if that will help matters. Ask that lady of literary tastes to read at some of your meetings. Who knows but the story of her dark sister's desolate, aimless life, as she reads, may touch her, so that heart as well as brain may be engaged in service.

And then for the members who can neither take office nor read in a manner pleasing to the ear there is another form of work, that which none we have found is more attractive. Give them a generous sized box to fill with supplies for some needy Home Missionary.

We have failed to find in our Circle the member who will not respond to the call to supplement the meagre salary of the brother who lives and labors so near our homes. And our largest, most enthusiastic meetings have been those held while the preparation of the box was in progress.

I hope there may have been some helpful or suggestive words in this little paper,

SISTER BECKET'S SOLILOQUY.

"Prof. Christlieb estimated that every missionary sent out to the heathen creates a trade with civilized lands worth fifty thousand dollars a year."

That item pleased Seth wonderfully, and awoke what he thinks is a missionary spirit within him. He was ready to sing "Fly abroad, thou mighty gospel," flattering himself that he was really interested in the heathen, when all the time it was the dollars he wants to have fly. I wish these dollars would fly, and land in our missionary society. I have worried a sight over our debt and what is said in *Helping Hand* about having to say "No" to the real needs of the field and to the overworked sisters when they ask for helpers. They are talking about a self-denial week in our church, to give what they go without seven days. I am going to join in but not tell where the self-denial is to come. Seth says money will be plentiful some day, then he will let me have some to give; but it would have to be wonderful plenty for Seth to give much. I have been hoping and meaning to go to the annual meeting in Albany this year, and was to go this very week to buy a new dress, so's to get it made in season. Most of the sisters look real smart at these gatherings; that's right enough if they can look smart and help lift this debt off too. A woman feels more easy as to her manners if she looks pretty slick. I've found that out from experience. Now, my dyed cashmere is good enough for our village. I really don't need a new dress if I stay at home,—not but what I want one, all the same. But—well—I'm not going to buy one, and I will give the twelve dollars to the cause. Laury Ann lives in Albany, and she offers to pay my fare if I will go to the meetings, so there will be no money out. I wish all who can't go would send to Miss Clarke the cost of tickets. I mean if they can afford to go but lack interest, or something keeps them at home.